

# Imagine!

March  
2013



**I** imagine you found a little devil on your shoulder, with all the features of forked tail, and evil eyes. What a shock? He has a name: Wormwood. He is the nephew of the master devil, Screwtape, and, according to C S Lewis, he is learning his trade, and you are his subject. His task is temptations, and he is getting to be quite good at it! It is the forty days of Jesus' temptations that give us the period for Lent, so what about your temptations, your sinning? I know little about them but Wormwood does. Do you believe in devils? Do you believe in angels? Jesus seems to have believed in both, for the devil himself apparently came to him in person to tempt him; no sending a junior probationary devil to the Son of God! But then Angels ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Have we lost something in our disposal of these "beings"? Has sin become a mechanical rather than a relationship issue? So I think it may help a bit to personalise both the dark and the lighter side of life. I can fight a foe with a name, especially if it's Wormwood - thank you C S Lewis!

The picture of Jesus being tempted is an amazing reminder of his dual humanity and divinity. Here is God Almighty, in the person of Jesus, facing just the same sort of issues that you and I face every day. What does that say to us about how important we all are to him? Why would such a God want to spend any of his precious time with lowly creatures in his enormous creation, unless they were so important to him that he was willing to give so much of himself, even to be rejected and executed by people of his own creation, unless they were terribly important to him. So, imagine, here I am in Lent, with a devil on my back, but whistling a confident song about *dancing in the morning* (thank you Sydney Carter), because, however successful my devil may think he is, I know that Jesus Christ is my victory. He loves me too much to leave me to the tender ministrations of the Wormwoods and Screwtapes. So in Lent let us praise the Lord; for Lent closes with the triumphant celebration of Easter, God the victor, we the winners.

Stuart Veitch

# What's on in March

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3rd 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions  
10th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion  
17th 10.30 am Ruth Parker  
24th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall  
29th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Good Friday  
31st 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Sunday Communion

## Other Activities

- Fri 1st 2.00 pm Women's World Day of Prayer - Meeting House  
Sun 3rd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
Sat 9th 10.00 am Church Meeting in the Hall  
Tue 5th 10.30 am Big Brew Coffee Morning in the Foyer  
8.00 pm Lent Group - St John's Church  
Mon 11th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall  
8.00 pm Circuit Finance Meeting in the Hall  
Tue 12th 8.00 pm Lent Group - St John's Church  
Tue 19th 8.00 pm Lent Group - St John's Church  
8.00 pm Circuit Meeting - B S Methodist Church  
Sun 24th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
Mon 25th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall  
8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 49 Recreation Ground  
Fri 29th 4.15 pm Walk of Witness from St Teresa's to St John's

## CHURCH LETTINGS

Please note that Marion & Mike Dyer are away from 6th - 22nd March, so church lettings will be managed by Catherine Dean 813579 and Alan Wheeler 813745 (evenings). The lettings email address will be monitored.

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 31st March. Please submit articles by Friday 22nd March to: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk). Or call Alan Wheeler 813745

**Copies of this and previous editions of Imagine can be found on our website [www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**



**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
(International and Interdenominational)



**I was a stranger and you welcomed me**  
Prepared by the women of France

**2 pm Friday 1st March Quaker Meeting House**  
**Everyone Welcome**



**LENT GROUPS**

Life Attitudes ~ Exploring the Beatitudes  
A course by Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield

Meet on Tuesdays 8 - 9 pm in St John's Church:

<b>19th Feb</b>	<b>Living well</b>	Introduction
<b>26th Feb</b>	<b>Living openly</b>	Matthew 5.3-4
<b>5th Mar</b>	<b>Living purposefully</b>	Matthew 5.5-6
<b>12th Mar</b>	<b>Living lovingly</b>	Matthew 5.7-8
<b>19th Mar</b>	<b>Living differently</b>	Matthew 5.9-10

All welcome. You do not have to attend every week. Come when you can!

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 25th Feb – 10th Mar**

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is supporting smallholder farmers to grow more and provide enough food for their families and communities. We will be holding our usual event as below:



**BIG BREW**

**FAIRTRADE COFFEE/TEA & SALE OF FAIRTRADE GOODS**  
including food, cards, jewellery & gifts

**10.30 am - 12.30 pm Tuesday 5th March**  
**Stansted Free Church Foyer**

*All are warmly invited ~ Come and browse!*

# Stansted Free Church

## Methodist / URC

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Contacts

#### **Minister**

Rev David Keeble

Email: [minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Church Secretary**

Betty Francis

Email: [info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Church Notices**

Marion Pretty

#### **Lettings**

Mike & Marion Dyer

Catherine Dean 813579 (6th - 22nd March only)

Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Newsletter Editors**

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer

Email: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Treasurers**

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer

Email: [treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Fairtrade**

Brenda Veitch

Email: [fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

### Pilots Children's Work

**Alternate Mondays** 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: [pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### The Place on the Hill Drop-In (All Welcome)

Every Wednesday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)