

# Imagine!



March  
2015

**I** imagine being in the wilderness for forty days and nights. What would be the most difficult part to cope with? Perhaps it would be the shortage of food or the lack of shelter. Perhaps it would be the fear of being attacked by wild animals. I suspect that loneliness would also be quite high up on the list. Imagine being alone without any means of communication; mobile phones do not work in the wilderness! Most of us will never be in that situation, but Jesus was.

Imagine the rapid chain of events leading up to his time in the wilderness. First there was his baptism by John in the River Jordan. Then the Holy Spirit descended from heaven in the form of a dove. This was the physical sign of God's approval and affirmation. Next there was a voice from heaven giving verbal affirmation "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

Then it all appears to have gone wrong. Some translations say Jesus was led, but others are more dramatic, and say he was driven or even hurled by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Why did God put his Son through such a traumatic experience? It is for the same reason that Jesus was later nailed to a cross. The road to Calvary began on the day that a baby was born in Bethlehem. Jesus became a man in order to bear the brunt of our sinfulness and suffering.

During Lent it is traditional and often helpful to make token sacrifices, but imagine what it would be like to give one's whole life as a sacrifice. Jesus did just that. We no longer need to hunger and thirst or fear loneliness in the wilderness that so often envelopes us. Like Jesus we will be subject to the wiles of the Tempter, but like Jesus we have God on our side.

*Mike Dyer*

## Preach with a View Weekend

**Fri 27th Feb** from 7.30 pm social at Stansted Free Church with bring and share supper, including question and answer session

**Sat 28th Feb** from 3.30 pm social at Clavering Christian Centre with tea, including question and answer session

**Sun 1st Mar** Two services led by the prospective minister:

10.30 am Communion service at Saffron Walden URC

3.00 pm All age service at Bishop's Stortford URC

You are welcome to attend either or both socials and services.

### Wed 4th March

WEBS joint Church Meeting at Bishop's Stortford URC 7.45 pm to decide if a call should be issued. Anyone can attend but only Church Members may vote. If anyone needs a lift, or can offer lifts to any of these events, please speak to me.

Betty



## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT BIG BREW

Fairtrade COFFEE/tea & Sale OF FAIRTRADE GOODS

***PLUS Bring & Buy Books and Bric-à-Brac***

10.30 am - 12.30 pm Thur 5th Mar in the Church & Foyer

*All money raised will be **doubled** under the Government's UK Aid Scheme*

*All are warmly invited~ Come and browse!*

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2 pm Friday 6th March St John's Church



**Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?"**

*Prepared by the women of the Bahamas*

The theme of the service is taken from St John's Gospel, chapter 13 verses 1-17: Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?" and it challenges us to demonstrate the same radical, unconditional love for others that Jesus showed when he washed the feet of his disciples. The service is followed by refreshments and a Fairtrade stall. All welcome – men and women.

Brenda

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 1st 10.30 am Joint Service at Abbey Lane URC Saffron Walden  
3.00 pm Joint Service at Water Lane URC Bishop's Stortford
- 8th 10.30 am Mike Render
- 15th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion
- 22nd 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler
- 29th 10.30 am Mark Hayes

### Other Activities

- Mon 2nd 8.00 pm LPWT Meeting in the Hall
- Tue 3rd 7.30 pm Lent Group in St John's Church - Rest
- Wed 4th 7.45 pm WEBS Church Meeting at Water Lane URC
- Thu 5th 10.30 am Big Brew in the Foyer
- Fri 6th 2.00 pm Women's Day of Prayer - St John's Church
- Mon 9th 8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
- Tue 10th 7.30 pm Lent Group in St John's Church - Respect
- Sun 15th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
- Tue 17th 7.30 pm Lent Group in St John's Church - Righteousness
- Mon 23rd 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 62 St John's Road  
8.00 pm Circuit Meeting at B S Methodist Church
- Tue 24th 7.30 pm Lent Group in St John's Church - Responsibility
- Thu 26th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gdns
- Fri 27th 10.00 am The Place on the Hill Easter Event



Welcome to

The

### ***Easter Event***

***Friday 27th March 10 am - 11.30 am***

***Come and join the fun decorating  
eggs and crosses***

***All Welcome - do come along even if  
you do not normally attend The Place***

**The Place** is open Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm  
**but we will be closed on Good Friday 3rd April**

For more details contact Marion & Mike

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

**Stansted Free Church**  
**Methodist / URC**  
**[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**

**Contacts**

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

**Minister**

Revd Roy Fowler

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

**Church Secretary**

Betty Francis

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

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Marion Pretty

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Brenda Veitch

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**Sunday Service**

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

**Pilots Children's Work**

**Monday (monthly - term time)** 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18

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

**The Place on the Hill Drop-In (Everyone Welcome)**

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm