



I imagine this - West End Smoothies on a night out! You can picture the scene. Bright London lights - young kids everywhere, done up in their gaudy best. Imagine our trepidation as we step down the alley towards the house door! Is this going to be like any other night club? The eager faced attendants hand us tonight's programme as we squeeze through the entrance. I squint at it as we enter the auditorium - the thud of rock music envelops me. Just like any other night club the dazzling white sofas are dotted around for the punters to sink into. For those who prefer to squat on the ground there are handy cushions to perch upon. Glowing disco lights lead the way.

Gradually the place starts to bounce and early arrivals are knocking back virtual tennis balls into the massive Wii screen above the stage area. We sip on a smoothie or two and find a suitable spot to perch where we won't be too obtrusive on account of our age, some forty years older than most of our companions tonight. A rat-at-tat-tat on the snare and the thud of the bass bring tonight's proceedings to a rousing start. The opener pounds in our ears - 'Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder..'

No this isn't just another night club but a place called HTB (Holy Trinity Brompton) in West London. After three or four blazing numbers, a worship leader calls on the congregation to participate: "Those on the left you can get praying; those on the right keep on singing - then on verse two we'll swap over!" We are not sure how this works but it seems novel.

Nicky Gumbel comes on and does a hard sell for gift day. We are all invited to sign standing order forms and bring them down to the altar. The music and the raving get louder and more enthusiastic.

You can imagine some of our colleagues from Bishop's Stortford are less than impressed by Nicky's theology (conservative evangelical I think it is called). I think "Well it brings in the young people. They must be doing something right!" Imagine it - light years away conceptually from Chapel Hill's way of worship!

Alan Wheeler

In this issue:	Page
Services and Events	3
Christian Aid	4
Brownies Coffee Morning	4
Shalom	4
Pilots	5
New Directions in Worship	5
David's Sabbatical	6
When they're gone, they're gone!	6
Care Time	6
Worship Leaders' Course	7
Contacts and regular events	Back cover

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 31st May. Please submit articles by Friday 22nd May to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to:

23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP. Thank you.

Editors: Alan Wheeler and Mike & Marion Dyer

Copies of this and previous editions of Imagine can be found on our website www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

What's on in May

Worship at Stansted Free Church

3rd 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe
10th 10.30 am Gordon Doyle
17th 10.30 am Rev John Buxton
Holy Communion
24th 10.30 am Rev Stuart Veitch
New Directions in Worship
31st 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

Sat 2nd 10.30 am Brownies Coffee Morning for Hillmead School
Water Lane URC
Sun 10th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
6.30 pm Christian Aid Service at Friends Meeting Hse
Mon 11th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Christian Aid Quiz
Tue 12th 8.00 pm Church Meeting in the Hall
Wed 20th 7.30 pm Worship Leaders' Course in the Hall

Circuit Quiet Day for Everyone

Organised by Bishop's Stortford Circuit Women's Network



Music, prayers and readings
based on the Woman at the well (John Chapter 4)

Sat 30th May 10 am to 4 pm

Chrishall Methodist Church

led by Brenda and Stuart Veitch



For various reasons, several regular Christian Aid volunteers are unable to help with the envelope collection this year. As charitable giving is likely to suffer because of the economic situation, I would like to find replacement and additional helpers. So

I am appealing to those in the church, who could give some time in the week beginning 10th May to make a difference to the lives of the world's most disadvantaged people. Please let me know if you can help, or if you would like information about Christian Aid. Even if you can only collect from a few houses, or if you could help with distributing envelopes, I would love to hear from you.

Please join us at the Friends Meeting House on Sunday 10th May at 6.30pm for an ecumenical Christian Aid service.

Catherine Dean 813579

christianaid@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

5th Bishop's Stortford Brownies Coffee Morning

to raise money for Hillmead School

Saturday 2nd May 10.30am - 12.30pm

Water Lane URC Church Hall

Cake stall ~ Bric-à-Brac ~ Traidcraft

Books ~ Handmade Jewellery ~ Handmade cards

Water Lane URC are supporting this event to encourage the Brownies to become more involved in the life of the church.



Shalom

Please join us - all welcome

Meetings are 8 pm at 7 Blythwood Gdns

27th April

Harry Goreing: People of Courage and Faith

11th May

Catherine Dean: Christian Aid Quiz

1st June

Col Alan Hart: Street Pastors

Marion Dyer

Pilots

Meetings this term Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm

27th April, 11th May, 1st, 15th and 29th June, 13th July.

Activities for the term include:

Slides, Films and Stories - an evening with our minister Allen Morton

Art, Craft and Music with Arthur, Michelle and Maria Teresa

Games and Picnic on the Recreation Ground

Collectors' Evening.

Awards and Seals will be given for work completed during the term. All are welcome to visit us on any evening. Please support your Pilot Group.

Valerie Trundle 813433

Methodist World Mission Quiz Sheet

Remember to send your quiz sheet back to Betty by 31st May.

New Directions in Worship

From the time that our new church was formed in 2006 we have been varying our style of morning worship on the first Sunday in the month. On the same Sundays we also held afternoon worship in a more traditional style. Since the beginning of this year we have discontinued the afternoon service so that all our Sunday services are now at 10.30am.

We are continuing with our monthly informal worship, called New Directions. These services will be led sometimes by the Worship Team (Alan Wheeler, Mike & Marion Dyer plus others from time to time) and sometimes by one of our ministers or local preachers, which means they will not always be on the first Sunday in the month. Although the style is informal, no-one is 'put on the spot' or asked to contribute unless they wish to do so, and so we hope you will join us.

The Worship Team

David's Sabbatical

David starts his sabbatical on Thursday 14th May, and completes it on Wednesday 26th August. He will be away for some of this time including a family holiday. Part of what he wants to do is to progress his DMin course including the initial stages of a research project he will be undertaking later. Please remember him and his family during this time in your prayers; he may be out of sight, but let's keep him very much in our prayerful minds.

I will be taking over the pastoral responsibility for Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church, and I, together with Rev Jeanette Gosney, will care for Braughing. I will be taking over all superintendent responsibilities, except the production of the Circuit Preaching Plan for September to November, which will be the joint responsibility of Rev Trevor Sands and Mike Render.

Obviously Allen Morton will be your minister at Stansted, and, as part of a LEP, will be able to deal with any Methodist issues except those which need to be done by the superintendent, which I will be covering.

We all hope that this sabbatical will be a great opportunity for David to recharge his spiritual batteries and feel refreshed and renewed on his return.

*Rev Stuart Veitch 815819
sveitch@resource24.net*

When they're gone, they're gone!

Your last chance to buy a souvenir Stansted mug at a real bargain price of just 50 pence. Other souvenir items also available at knock down prices in the church foyer.

These items were originally bought as part of the fundraising efforts for the church re-furbishment. Please help us clear the remaining stocks! Thank you.

Janet Townsend 812593



Care Time



I will be helping Janet with pastoral concerns from now on, and whilst Janet is unwell, please contact me if you or someone you know would like a pastoral visit.

Please remember in your prayers the following members and friends of our church who are unwell or not able to attend church:

Phyllis Little and her family - Phyllis' sister has died and her son-in-law is unwell;

Katherine Cook, whose brother Anthony died suddenly - their grandfather was minister of Stansted Congregational Church from 1900 - 1920;

Judy and Herbert Colliver and family;

Kath Hartnell who is housebound following a fall;

Janet Townsend who is recovering from shingles;

James King, Ivor Thomas, and Mary Heuch.

Please also remember that the prayer slips are available for Sunday morning worship; if you are unable to be at church, please pass your requests to Janet or me and we will make sure the preacher for that Sunday knows.

Betty 813977

info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Worship Leaders' Course

The course continues on Wednesday 29th April, Wednesday 20th May, Thursday 4th June, Thursday 11th June, Thursday 2nd July, and Wednesday 22nd July. Also a reminder that visits (which are open to all) are being arranged to churches with different styles of worship. The next one is on 31st May to a Café Worship at Costa Coffee in Loughton.

Stuart and Brenda Veitch

worshipleadercourse@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

(Telephone numbers are 01279 unless otherwise stated)

Ministers

Rev David Mullins (on sabbatical from 14th May)

Rev Allen Morton

Email for both ministers: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Secretary

Betty Francis

Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings & Church Notices

Janet Townsend

Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer

Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer

Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship

Children's Work

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

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk