



I imagine you are one of the original disciples of Jesus. You have had a roller coaster ride during the past few weeks. You have experienced the adulation of Palm Sunday, the horror of the trials and subsequent crucifixion. Imagine how you would have reacted to the news of the empty tomb and the Emmaus Road incident and then Jesus appearing in a locked room; how can it be? How would your mind have reacted to all that? Yet there are more appearances by Jesus, and then the final one as he ascends to heaven having left instructions to his followers to:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:19-20.

Imagine your emotions on that day: sad, exhilarated, scared stiff, a mixture of all those and more? Imagine how you would feel as you look to the future; what did it hold; what real hope was there without Jesus physically alongside you?

Then came those amazing experiences on the day of Pentecost as lives were changed for ever by the Holy Spirit. Imagine what it must have been like in that room, and indeed in the whole of the city, as Jesus' followers were empowered by the Holy Spirit to move forward and follow Jesus' instructions. We have that same Holy Spirit living inside each one of us. We have all the gifts and all the strength we need to be Jesus' modern day disciples; remember he has promised to be with us until the end of the age.

Let us be open to the power and moving of the Holy Spirit in all that we do and say. Let us learn from the past, but not be captive to it. Let us move forward in vision and love inspired by the Holy Spirit.

David



Care Time



Please pray for: Doris and George Lambdon, and George Wheeler, parents-in-law and uncle of Alan Wheeler; Kath Hartnell as she settles into her new home at Stanley Wilson Lodge in Saffron Walden: the family of Katharine Giles, who was killed in a cycling accident; Rev'd David Mullins, whose mother died recently; for others in our wider church family who need our prayers; and those no longer able to attend church.

We have received prayer requests from some of those who attend the Place on the Hill. We are remembering these requests during our Sunday worship. Please use the prayer slips which are available in the foyer.

Betty

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th May. Please submit articles by Friday 17th May to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to: 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP.

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

- 5th 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions
Bite Back at Hunger
- 12th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion
- 19th 10.30 am Denis Walker
- 26th 10.30 am Rev'd Nigel Uden - Interim Moderator

Services are followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Sat 11th 10.00 am Church Meeting in the Foyer
- Sun 12th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Christian Aid Week begins
- Mon 13th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
- 8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens (see page 7)
- Thu 16th 9.30 am The Place on the Hill Meeting in the Foyer
- Mon 20th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gardens
- 8.00 pm Meeting with Rev Lee Batson, Chelmsford
Diocesan Ecumenical Advisor in the Foyer

Christian Aid Week 12th - 19th May



There will be no ecumenical service in Stansted this year, but we shall be using some of the worship materials during our New Directions service on 5th May.

Catherine

Church Meeting 10 am Sat 11th May in the Foyer

This is an important meeting as we will be discussing the Area Partnership's proposal for the revision of the URC pastorates, as well as other key matters, including whether the pulpit should be removed.

Please note that the meeting will be held in the Foyer

Pilots

Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm: 13th May, 10th June, 8th July

This term we are meeting once a month instead of alternate weeks. The Pilots are producing a design of their own to be printed on their white T shirts, and later in the year hopefully to be printed on warm sweatshirts for the Autumn. They are practising carrying their flag, so that they will be able to take part again in the service at St John's on Remembrance Sunday. The flag pole, complete with flag, looks good in the Church in its new position. Thank you Arthur, once again!

We do hope that our Pilot group will continue for some time to come, as the children we now have are very keen to keep it going, as are the parents. For this to happen we do need some younger people to help us any volunteers?? To keep the children interested over the Summer and to raise funds, we may hold a coffee morning, as we have just paid our annual subscription to Pilots in London; for this we do get some freebies!

Valerie and Peter and all the Pilot team
Tel: 813433

Churches Together in Stansted Food Bank

The CTS food bank scheme has slowly been gathering pace. The Free Church has donated around 10 boxes of food to local people through the Spangles Children's Centre in Lower Street. Other churches have done the same. We are waiting to see if demand picks up following the involvement of the CAB, which has contact with people who are not users of Spangles, such as single people in need and couples without children.

Contributions of non-perishable food continue to be needed. Supplies of long-life milk, breakfast cereals and fruit juice are low. Items should not be near their 'sell by' date. Donations may be left in the vestry on a Sunday or Wednesday morning. We are now able to buy fresh food using money that came from the district councillors' grant scheme. If you would like to know more about the food bank please contact me. Thank you.

Alan Dean 813579
Coordinator for our Church

Stansted Free Church
Attn: Revd David Keeble
Chapel Hill,
Stansted
Herts, CM24 8AG

25 March 2013

Dear David

2012 Harvest Donations

Firstly I would like to offer our apologies that this Thank You letter has taken so long. As you may, or may not, have been aware we have had a number of key personnel leave which meant many important tasks were delayed. Your donations are very important to us and we trust that you will understand and continue to support us this and forthcoming years.

This letter is in acknowledgment and thanks for the wonderful donations which you gave to the Harlow Foodbank. Altogether you collected 34.82 kg of food.

Your donations enable us to continue to provide food to local families and individuals in crisis. From April 2009 to March 2013 we have supplied three days' worth of nutritionally balanced food to 6,918 people. In this financial year alone the figure is 2,101 (1,456 adults and 645 children).

Without your support we would not be able to continue this important service to people in need in Harlow.

Thank you again and if you would like to learn more about the Harlow Foodbank please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Liz Hay
MRCT Administrator

Choir for a Day

Saturday 8th June

Open to all singers aged 11 plus
Cost £6



Start 10:30 am ~ Lunch 1 pm ~ Afternoon session 2 pm to 5 pm
Evening Concert 7.30 - 9.30 pm Tickets £6
All proceeds will be donated to WaterAid

Music will include items by John Rutter, Gilbert & Sullivan, Gary Barlow & Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stainer and others. There will be the opportunity to attend some rehearsals before the day if you wish to do so (dates to follow).

The last Choir for a day, held in November 2011, was extremely enjoyable, and a number of singers from Stansted have already signed up. If you are interested in attending as part of the choir, or would like tickets for the evening concert, please contact me by 20th May.

Marion



Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Free Church, Chapel Hill

All Welcome ~ No Charge

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1.4 BILLION REASONS

There are 1.4 billion people
in the world living in extreme
poverty

That's 1.4 billion people
living on less than £1 a day

The Global Poverty Project has developed a multi-media presentation, *1.4 Billion Reasons*, that is travelling the globe engaging and inspiring audiences to understand and get involved in the movement to end extreme poverty.

The presentation addresses the questions

What is extreme poverty?

Can we do anything about it?

What are the barriers to ending extreme poverty?

Why should we care?

What can I do?

1.4 Billion Reasons has been tailored to specific audience groups and delivered by a Global Poverty Ambassador for between 45 and 90 minutes in workplaces, schools, universities, faith groups, community groups and at conferences to audiences of 100+

**GLOBAL POVERTY
AMBASSADORS**
in partnership with
The **co-operative**



www.globalpovertyproject.com



Shalom

Sister Gillian Price, from St Elizabeth's, who is a Global Poverty Ambassador is delivering this presentation to the Shalom Group

8 pm Monday 13th May at 7 Blythwood Gardens

This promises to be a very interesting evening
All are welcome - please join us.

Marion

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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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

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

Every Wednesday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk