

Imagine!



May
2014

I imagine you live in constant fear for your life at the hands of a militia group, which will attack your village because it thinks you favour its opponents. Or imagine that because you have seen family and friends killed, the fear for your own life and that of your family has become so great that you flee your home and country to seek refuge in a strange place.

It is these people, including 42 million driven from their homes by conflict, that Christian Aid is putting the spotlight on this year in Christian Aid Week from 11th - 17th May.

What is Christian Aid doing to help? Working through its partner organisations 'on the ground' it gives emergency aid for refugees - providing, for example, malaria nets, cooking pots, and plastic sheeting for shelter. It is helping communities rebuild their villages, constructing reservoirs which are stocked with fish, and encouraging people to grow vegetables and keep animals. It also teaches people how to lobby authorities to provide services such as roads and water supplies.

In some countries which have seen years of conflict, it has set up humanitarian zones, where no one is allowed to bear arms. It offers psychological support for those traumatised by what they have lived through, and practical support to rebuild lives damaged by war.

In Christian Aid week, church members show their compassion for, and their solidarity with, those caught up in conflict by giving generously, both money and time, by acting (being an envelope collector) and by praying. Thank you for your support.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer in whom I take refuge . 2 Samuel 22: v 2-3

Catherine Dean



Care Time



Please pray for: George Lambdon, father-in-law of Alan Wheeler, who is recovering from a mild stroke; Kath Hartnell; family members of Rev'd David Keeble who have been unwell recently; for those whose anniversary of losing loved ones occurs at this time; for the prospective URC minister and his wife as they prepare for their visit to us; 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 25th May. Please submit articles by Friday 16th 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

- 4th 10.30 am Joint Service at Bishop's Stortford URC
11th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion
18th 10.30 am Rev'd Jan Bisschoff
25th 10.30 am Rev'd Jenny Martin

Other Activities

- Fri 2nd, 9th & 16th 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall
Sat 3rd 7.00 pm Social in the Church (see page 4)
Wed 7th 8.00 pm Joint Churches Meeting at B Stortford URC
Sun 11th 6.30 pm Christian Aid Service - Quaker Meeting House
Mon 12th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun 25th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
6.30 pm Circuit Service at B S Methodist (see page 5)



Christian Aid Week 11th - 17th May

Please join the ecumenical service in Stansted on Sunday 11th May 6.30 pm in the Quaker Meeting House. All welcome.

Collectors still needed - please contact me if you can help.

Catherine
catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Synod Retreat Day - Walking in the Light of God

Clare Priory Saturday 17th May 10 am - 4 pm

Led by Rev'd Mary Irish and Rev'd Birgit Ewald and members of the Clare Priory Community. Cost £17 including lunch

For more information visit www.urc-eastern.org.uk/events
or tel 01223 830770



Shalom

8 pm Monday 12th May at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Anthea Lea from Stansted Society of Friends will be talking about Quakerism and Spiritual Healing. This promises to be a very interesting evening. All are welcome - please join us.

Marion

URC Minister Vacancy Update

The Vacancy Committee met with a candidate for the full time post within the West Essex and Bishop's Stortford (WEBS) pastorate, of which we are part, and unanimously invited him to 'preach with a view' on the weekend of 2nd - 4th May. The programme is as follows:

Fri 2nd Social with the minister and his wife at Clavering Christian Centre (former URC) 7 pm with question time at 8 pm

Sat 3rd Social with the minister at Stansted Free Church 7 pm with question time at 8 pm

Sun 4th Two services led by the minister

10.30 am Communion Service at Bishop's Stortford URC

3.30 pm Service at Saffron Walden URC

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

Wed 7th

WEBS joint Church Meeting at Bishop's Stortford URC 8 pm with refreshments from 7.30 pm. Anyone can attend but only Church Members may vote. If you need transport to any of these events please let me know; likewise if you can offer a lift. Thank you.

Betty Francis



The next Traidcraft stalls will be after the service on Sundays 25th May and 22nd June. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. Catalogues are still available in the church foyer.

Brenda 815819

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

RISK THE PATH HE TROD

EASTER OFFERING

2014



Circuit Service and dedication of gifts for the
World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain

6.30 pm Sunday 25th May

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Refreshments will be available after the service

The service, prepared by Methodist Women in Britain (Mwib) invites us to 'Risk the path he trod' taken from Rosemary Wakelin's hymn 'One human family God has made' (Singing the Faith 687) in our own situations and as part of the world Church family

All Welcome

For more information contact Brenda on 815819



Stansted Churches' Lent Appeal for the Village Defibrillator Fund



Our Hunger Lunch was very well attended and raised £149 for the appeal. In addition, contributions during Lent from the congregation amounted to £71, and a donation from the U3A Scotland Trip raised a further £50.

As these were all cash donations, we were able to add Gift Aid, which meant that we sent the grand sum of £337.50 to the appeal.

A very big thank you to all who contributed and to those who organised the lunch.

A full report will appear in the June edition of *The Link*.



first impressions count



A Saturday morning workshop to help us reflect, as a church, on how we might improve our welcome to others in terms of creating a welcoming building, being a welcoming people, and welcoming through inclusion.

Saturday 28th June

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church Hall

Coffee and croissants will be served from 9 am

The workshop is open to all churches in the circuit

THANK YOU ..

To Bishop's Stortford Methodist Circuit for funding a new laptop and printer for *The Place on the Hill*, and a storage cupboard for our Food Bank supplies in the Minister's vestry as part of their funding for mission projects.

Stansted Free Church
Methodist / URC
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Sunday Service

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

Pilots Children's Work

Monday (monthly) 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 81 3433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk