



Imagine the pride of a successful investment banker putting his foot down to the floor in his new Porsche. Imagine how his thoughts were on the credit crunch as he eased off the accelerator for a moment passing through a notorious housing estate. He clicked the car locks down just in case of trouble. He knew these streets all too well and he had half an eye out for yobbos darting out from the parked cars. He thought he spotted something in the corner of his eye. False alarm though! No kids darted into the road. Then suddenly his heart sank as a brick crashed into the passenger door.

Imagine his rage as he slammed on the brakes and reversed the car back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. Shouting, he jumped out of the car and grabbed the nearest boy, pushing him up against the car shouting "I've a mind to break every bone in your body. Do you know how much these cars cost? What do you think you're doing?"

The lad looked up at him apologetically. "Please Mister...please. I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do" he pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop". Tears streamed down his face as he pointed to a spot beyond a parked car. "It's my brother" he said. "He rolled off the kerb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up. Would you please help me get him back in the wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me".

The driver, visibly moved, tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He carefully lifted the young boy back into his wheelchair, then took out his handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts, and checked that everything was okay. "Thank you and God bless you", the grateful child told the stranger as he pushed

the wheelchair back down the pavement towards his home. Thoughtfully he slowly walked back to his Porsche. The damage was very noticeable, but he resigned himself to never repairing the damaged door. For months he left the dent there to remind him of this message: “Don’t go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!” God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don’t have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us! A real credit crunch!

Alan Wheeler
adapted from Beltinge Baptist Church Magazine



Care Time



We were all saddened to learn of the death of Mary Ecclestone, who had been a member of the Methodist Church for many years. We will miss this much-loved village character. Evelyn Tame is making a good recovery after her recent stroke. She is now in Hargrave House and would welcome visitors. Please also remember James King and Mary Heuch in your prayers.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 30th November. Please submit articles by Friday 21st November 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 November

Sunday Worship at Stansted Free Church

2 nd	10.30 am	New Directions in Worship - 2.30 pm Gillian Taylor
9 th	10.45 am	United Service at St John's - Remembrance Day
16 th	10.30 am	Rev Allen Morton - Holy Communion
23 rd	10.30 am	Gordon Doyle
30 th	10.30 am	Rev Allen Morton

Morning worship is followed by coffee except the first Sunday in the month, when tea is usually served following the afternoon service.

Other Activities

Mon 3 rd	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens Margaret Cramphorn – World Faiths
Wed 12 th	7.00 pm	Shoe Box packing in the Hall
Sat 15 th	10.00 am	Water Lane URC Christmas Bazaar
Mon 17 th	2.30 pm	Monday Club in the Hall
	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom in the Hall Catherine Dean – John Wesley
Tue 18 th	8.00 pm	Link AGM in the Hall – all welcome
Fri 21 st	7.30 pm	The Ghost Train at Ugley Village Hall
Sat 22 nd	7.30 pm	The Ghost Train at Ugley Village Hall
Sun 23 rd	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
	3.00 pm	The Ghost Train at Ugley Village Hall
Tue 25 th	8.00 pm	Church Meeting in the Hall Note change of date

The Windmill Players (including Mike Dyer, Fran & Juliette Richards) present



The Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley Ugley Village Hall



7.30 pm **Fri 21st Nov** ~ 7.30 pm **Sat 22nd Nov** ~ 3 pm **Sun 23rd Nov**

Tickets: Adults £6, Concessions £4, Family £12 from 814059

All Welcome ~ Proceeds to Churches Together in Stansted

Baptism of Hamish Herbert Paxton



The adults were just as interested as the children when it came to pictures of babies - ranging from Maggie Simpson to Moses!

The worship was enhanced by 'Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord' beautifully sung by Valerie and Peter Trundle



Dear Michael & the Church Members

Thank you all for such a special day on Sunday for Hamish and our family - we really appreciated the effort you put into it.

With many thanks from Craig, Joanna, Katie and Hamish

5th October 2008

Time for the traditional Baptismal walkabout amongst the congregation - which Hamish just took in his stride!!



“Now what was that you were reading??”

Grandad is left holding Tigger!



The Baptism candle is a sign that Hamish belongs to light and not darkness



Christmas is
a time of giving



Want something to do on
12th November?

Then come along to the hall from 7pm, bring your neighbours and friends with you to join in the fun, help pack shoe boxes, have a cup of coffee, and put a smile on a child's face this Christmas in some of the war-torn areas of the world. Any items for the shoe boxes can be left at 58 Chapel Hill before 11th November, but please don't forget that the boxes must **not** contain chocolate in any form. It is also nice to add a greetings card or a photo of yourself in a completed box, and donations of money towards transportation costs are also very welcome. Completed boxes can be brought to the hall on 12th or left at 58 Chapel Hill anytime before then. Empty shoe boxes are needed but **not** boot boxes. For leaflets and more details ring me or visit www.samaritanaspurse.uk.com where you will find interesting stories about the children and also a pattern for a hand puppet which can be used as a mitten or a 'friend'.

Everyone Welcome

Janet 812593

Water Lane United Reformed Church, Bishop's Stortford

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 15th November 10 am - 2 pm

Cakes ~ Bric-à-Brac ~ Gifts ~ Books ~ Handicrafts ~ Decorations & more !

Coffee served 10 am - noon ~ Lunches served noon - 2 pm

All Welcome



The next Traidcraft stall will be after the service on Sunday 23rd November. Copies of the Traidcraft catalogue are still available in the foyer. Please take a copy to browse through. The next stall after that will be on 14th December. If you would like any fairtrade goods at other times, just give me call, but note that I am on holiday until 14th November.

Brenda

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Pilots

Shoe Box Evening

On 29th September Pilots had a visit from Sue Bree, the local co-ordinator from Harlow for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal. Sue described how the shoe boxes were filled, packed and distributed to children in parts of the world where the only Christmas present they will receive is a Shoe Box. Sue told us how much these disadvantaged children appreciated their presents and what joy they experienced on opening the boxes. She also showed a DVD which illustrated all that Sue had been saying. The Pilots took part in some Shoe Box activities, and Janet demonstrated how to wrap a shoe box and explained which items could be included. This most enjoyable evening ended with some special refreshments provided by our 'party cooks' Cherry and Michelle. Hopefully, some of our Pilots will be able to attend the Shoe Box evening on Wednesday 12th November and help to pack the gifts.

The Elephants of Burma with Ken Larman

On 13th October, Ken Larman from Bishop's Stortford URC told the Pilots about the working elephants of Burma. Ken explained how the elephants were used to collect the teak logs and drag them through the jungle areas, where they were eventually floated down the river. We saw pictures of this on a Powerpoint presentation, assisted by



Marion who kindly brought along her projector. Our thanks also go to Luke Thomas, a former Pilot, who provided the necessary origination. Thanks again to Ken, whose continued support of our Pilot Group in Stansted is very much appreciated.

Meetings for the remainder of this term Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm

3rd Nov Fun and Games plus Simon Wilson and his trumpet

17th Nov A musical evening with David Law

1st Dec Victorian Evening rehearsal

15th Dec Victorian Christmas Entertainment with refreshments.

All are welcome - please come along and support your Pilot Group.

Valerie 813433

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

Ministers

Rev David Mullins

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

Pilots

Valerie Trundle

Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Services

1st Sunday in each month

10.30 am New Directions in Worship

An informal, participative service for all ages

2.30 pm Afternoon Worship

followed by outreach tea

All other Sundays

10.30 am Morning Worship

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays

6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years. Tel 813433