

Imagine!



November
2012

I imagine I was to say to you “*Before the war...*”. Okay, but which war? It depends on which generation you belong to. We oldies know which war I would have meant, but would our grandchildren? For ‘our war’ finished getting on for 70 years ago. In 1945 the Boer war finished only just over 40 years before, but to me in my young days, it felt like a distant age.

So which war is the *before the war* referring to? Our grandchildren can choose from dozens of wars that have happened since ‘our war’. Since 1945 British troops have been involved in Malaysia, Kenya, Cyprus, Korea, Egypt, Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq. So which war dead shall we remember this month? Should we hang our heads in shame; have we learnt nothing? I am not saying that all war is bad, it’s too complicated to say that, but have we given peace a chance? Perhaps we did in Northern Ireland, but we certainly did not in Iraq.

It is, of course, right to remember with gratitude and sadness those who have given their lives or were injured over so many years and wars, and also their families. But that surely is not enough; we have to gather out of all this pugnacity a determination to find new ways of dealing with human conflict that do not require us to go to war.

Perhaps we should pray along with Susan Durbar: **

Today we weep and mourn for the heritage we have lost and for the ones who died before they had fully lived.

Today we remember the sons and daughters of all humanity whom no guard could protect and who were killed or hurt in war.

Today we recall houses blown to rubble, and cities devastated by fire, nations brought to ruin and peoples destroyed.

Today we remember and let the silence fall....

And tomorrow we will pray that our cities will be guarded in peace, that our houses will be built in freedom, and that all our children will grow old.

And tomorrow we will speak even with our enemies, so that all will flourish and justice may come, and so that God's people will enjoy the rewards of peace, and never again pay the bitter price of war.

Stuart Veitch

** Prayer for 11th November 2012 from the URC Prayer Handbook, reproduced with permission.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 25th November. Please submit articles by Friday 16th 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

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 4th 10.30 am Don McGregor - New Directions
11th 10.50 am Remembrance Day United Service at St John's
18th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion
25th 10.30 am Gordon Doyle

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Mon 5th 7.00 pm Shoe Box Packing in the Hall
Sun 11th 6.30 pm Reflective Remembrance Service at
B Stortford Methodist Church
Mon 12th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sat 17th 10.00 am Safeguarding Training in the Hall
Sun 18th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Tue 20th 7.30 pm The Link AGM - Parish Council Offices
Mon 26th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gdns
6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 62 St John's Road



The next Traidcraft stalls will be after the service on Sundays 18th November and 16th December. I have a very large range of goods suitable for Christmas presents so please come along and have a look. The new catalogues are now available in the foyer and I can order items for you.

If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call.

Brenda 815819
fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Welcome to
The



Free WiFi

Computers

Good Coffee

Soft Lighting

Comfy Seats

Space to Chill Out

Children's Play Corner

**Books to Read
or Borrow**



The Place on the Hill
[@placeonthehill](#)



Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Free Church, Chapel Hill

All Welcome ~ No Charge

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace



Christmas is
a time of giving



SHOE BOX EVENING

in the Free Church Hall

Mon 5th November from 7 pm

*Come for coffee & join in the fun
packing boxes*

*Also gratefully received either
on the night or in advance:*

- ✓ *completed boxes*
- ✓ *items for the boxes ***
- ✓ *empty shoe boxes*
- ✓ *financial contributions*

Everyone welcome ~ hope to see you there!

For details call 813579, 814865 or 812109

**** For suitable items please see leaflets
available in churches & local shops**

*Boxes and items can be left in the vestry or given to
Catherine Dean tel 813579*



With Candlelight, Bells & Sweet Aromas
come and join our

Celebration of Christmas Songs and Readings

with contributions from villagers,
local schools & churches

3 pm Saturday 22nd December
St John's Church

*All are welcome to join the choir
- come along and have some fun!*

*Choir Rehearsals 7.15 - 8 pm
Thursdays 13th & 20th December
in St John's Church*

Retiring collection

Organised by Churches Together in Stansted



Care Time



Please remember the Townsend family; Margaret Silvester, following a fall whilst on holiday; and any of our church family who need our prayers, including those no longer able to attend church. Please pray for *The Place on the Hill* as we open our doors to serve the community.

Arthur is now living at 11 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5PS

Betty

Thank You

We would like to thank our many friends in Stansted for the cards, phone calls and messages of sympathy we have received following the sudden death of our son Stuart while on holiday in Tunisia, and to those who attended his funeral in Braintree. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, especially his wife Pam, his son Ben and daughter Charlotte, his twin brother Andrew and all the family. Please accept this as our only acknowledgement but most sincere thanks at this sad time.

Janet & Brian Townsend

News from Bishop's Stortford YMCA

They have been contracted to provide an additional 910 National Careers Service advice sessions per year. Careers advice is available to everyone - call East Herts YMCA on 838068/9 or go to the National Careers website

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>



Shalom

All Welcome - Meetings are 8 pm

12th Nov

7 Blythwood Gardens

Stuart Veitch leads a Bible study on Luke 15: 1 - 31

Lost and found with a twist

26th Nov At Home - 62 St John's Road

Marion Dyer

Stansted Free Church
Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

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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