

Imagine!

November
2014



I imagine you were whisked back 96 years to the day that war was declared; a war to end all wars apparently. Sadly the very seeds for the next war were sown in the settlement at the end of the first. Even that war has not brought universal peace. True, things have been quiet in western Europe, but not in eastern Europe, the middle east, the far east and south America. Far from it, for this year the world faces huge conflict issues all over again. It would be so easy to be despondent.

So we look to Christ, the man of peace. But was he? Certainly he loved, but remember; his love caused havoc amongst the Jewish leaders and in the temple. He did say “*My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you*” but what sort of peace did he have in mind? Not the peace that allows injustice, greed, or oppression to hold sway. Our craving for peace is natural and understandable, but is it realistic to believe that humanity, that has been given the gift of free choice, will ever live in peaceful coexistence? Let’s face it, religion itself has been a major cause of many a war ever since. Perhaps we need to learn that Christ’s peace was not a “conflict free existence”, but a delight in doing God’s will, even when that meant coping with situations of conflict and war.

Perhaps humanity will never live in peace for long; it is an unrealistic hope. Instead we are called upon to champion the approach of love in all conflict situations, and address our conflicts in a God given way. Perhaps we will learn something more about our weakness, and our dependence on God for our strength. So as we stop and remember yet again those who gave their lives; let us commit ourselves to the eternal task of seeking God’s kingdom on earth, through whatever befalls us, with confidence and joy.

Stuart Veitch



Care Time



Please pray for: George Lambdon, father-in-law of Alan Wheeler, now home recovering from heart surgery; Roy and Christine Fowler as they begin their ministry with us; Mary Warnett, recently diagnosed with cancer; 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

Contacting the minister

Roy's detail are on the back cover. His day off is Monday, so please try to avoid contacting Roy and Christine on Mondays unless it is an emergency.

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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.

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

- 2nd 10.30 am Don McGregor - New Directions
9th 10.50 am United Service at War Memorial (see below)
16th 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
23rd 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
30th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall

Services are followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Mon 10th 8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Thu 13th 7.30 pm Shoe Box Packing in the Hall
Sun 16th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 17th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
Tue 18th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group 7 Blythwood Gdns
Sat 22nd 10.00 am Annual Church Meeting in the Hall
Mon 24th 8.00 pm Shalom At Home 62 St John's Road

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

There will be no service at our church on this date, but we invite everyone to join the Stansted Churches Act of Worship round the War Memorial at 10.50 am. This is preceded by the procession from Craffon Green at 10.30 am.

Annual Church Meeting

10 am Saturday 22nd November in the Hall

The Annual Church Meeting is when we have an opportunity to look back over the past year, and think about the future. Important decisions are often made at church meetings and this is your chance to have a voice, so please attend if you can.

Tea and coffee will be served from 9.45 am so that we can start promptly at 10 am.

The Induction of our minister Revd Roy Fowler



The four churches in the West Essex and Bishop's Stortford (WEBS) Pastorate joined together in Saffron Walden URC for the induction of Roy as the full-time minister to the pastorate.

Betty welcomed Roy on behalf of our church.



Four members of our church participated in the joint choir, who performed two anthems: *All over the World* and *Non Nobis Domine*.

Synod Retreat Day

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th November at Clare Priory
led by Revd Birgit Ewald and Revd Mary Irish

A time to find stillness through prayer and quiet reflection as
Advent approaches. More details from Sue Drane
URC Eastern Synod Office 01223 830770 email: admin@urceastern

Prayer Requests



Our Christian ethos underpins all we offer to vulnerable young men and women, and we seek to be an inspirational and accountable organisation. We provide supported housing, an emergency crash pad facility and one-to-one career and educational information, advice and guidance. Please pray for those affected by:

- ❑ Feelings of exclusion from their families, friends and the local community - which has led to a sense of worthlessness
- ❑ Seeing challenges / lack of success as a negative measure of their worth and not as a chance for a new start
- ❑ Physical, sexual and mental abuse which had led to fear and a feeling of hopelessness.

Many thanks for your prayer support which is so valuable to us and a real source of encouragement. Robert Purcell tel 838068

For more information about East Herts YMCA please contact Stuart Veitch



Shalom

On Mon 10th November at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Ros and Howard Page from Stansted Family Church are leading a talk and discussion on 'Our Father'.

Our 'At Home' is on Monday 24th November at 62 St John's Road. All are welcome - please join us. Both meetings begin at 8.00 pm.

Marion

Christmas is
a time of giving



SHOE BOX PACKING

in the Free Church Hall

Thurs 13th November 7.30 - 9 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**



Wednesdays & Fridays

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Free Church, Chapel Hill

Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace



***We are hoping to have a special Christmas Event
at the Place on Wednesday 10th December.***

See next month's Imagine for more details. All Welcome.

More occasional helpers are always needed.

If you can help please contact Marion

Thank you

Facilities at D C Poulton Funeral Director

We have received a letter from the Parish Council advising us of the facilities now available at Poulton, Chapel Hill:

Firstly, they offer a free bereavement counselling service which is available to anyone.

Secondly, they have a small meeting room with Wi-fi and refreshments which can be booked day-time or evening by arrangement.

For further details please contact Laura Halsey on 813219.

The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 16th November and 14th December. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. Catalogues are available in the church foyer.



Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

Minister

Revd Roy Fowler
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Secretary

Betty Francis
Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Notices

Marion Pretty

Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer
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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. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

Pilots Children's Work

Monday (monthly - term time) 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18
Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm