



Imagine living in a tent. Imagine one night someone deliberately sets fire to your tent, destroying most of your possessions. Imagine where this might be - Africa, India? No - this is what happened to Graham, who lives in Harlow!

Now imagine if you were suddenly to lose most of your possessions. Imagine how you would feel. Cheated? Unhappy? Angry? Were these the feelings of those people in our own country whose homes were flooded recently - some for the second time in a year? Some people feel very upset when they lose their luggage. Why do we feel like this?

During our Harvest Service, we were reminded of Mother Teresa's words 'Suffering today is because people are hoarding, not giving'. The word 'hoarding' tends to make us think of food, such as when there is likely to be a shortage of a particular product. However, I believe that it can also mean being possessive about what we have, and placing too much importance on it. I'm sure many of us can remember occasions when we have lent something which we consider very precious, only to find that it is never returned because it has been lost or damaged.

When I met Graham in Harlow Library to talk to him about getting back into work, he had all his possessions in a couple of carrier bags, which he pushes round Harlow in a supermarket trolley. He spends most of the day and evening in the Library (complete with trolley!), after visiting 'Streets 2 Homes',

Harlow's answer to 'Whitechapel Mission'; yet he was cheerful and friendly, and certainly not asking for a 'handout'.

I felt very humbled, as I do when I read the stories of the recipients of the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

The next time we are asked to share or give away something which is precious to us, maybe we will imagine Graham and his trolley

Marion Dyer

Prayer Requests

In the August edition we mentioned the idea of prayer slips for intercessions. It was agreed at the last Church Meeting that we would try this out during the last Sunday in October, when David Mullins is leading our worship. Slips will be available as you enter the church, and they will be collected up during the offering.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th October. Please submit articles by Friday 17th October 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 October

Sunday Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th	10.30 am	Michael Dyer Baptism of Hamish Herbert Paxton
12th	10.30 am	Michael Render
19th	10.30 am	Maureen Kendall
26th	10.30 am	Rev David Mullins - Holy Communion

Morning worship is followed by coffee. Please join us!

Other Activities

Mon 6th	8.00 pm	Shalom in the Hall Mione Goldspink - volunteering in India
Tue 7th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Forum in the Church
Sun 12th	6.00 pm	CTS Harvest Supper in St John's Hall
Mon 13th	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
Sun 19th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 20th	2.30 pm	Monday Club in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens Pat Simpson - The YMCA
Thu 23rd	9.30 am	Church Oversight group in the Foyer

Baptism

Our service on 5th October will include the baptism of Hamish, son of Craig and Joanne Paxton (née Colliver) and the latest grandchild of Judy and Herbert Colliver. We give all the family a most warm welcome. Please join us!



Village Harvest Supper (proceeds to Whitechapel Mission)

Hot Supper followed by Entertainment

6 - 8.30 pm Sun 12th Oct ~ St John's Church Hall

Tickets: Adults £5 schoolchildren free
from 814059, 814865 or St John's Church Office
Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome

LET'S JOIN HANDS FOR HARVEST



Around 36 people attended a most stimulating service, full of activity, based around the theme of Harvest Hope. We brought gifts for Whitechapel Mission

Talking about volunteering at the



Placing envelopes for Self Help Africa on the

LET'S JOIN HANDS FOR HARVEST

There was a Powerpoint presentation with photographs, images, prayers, and stories of Self Help Africa
Sylvia and Henry presented us with our Pilot Plaque



Our new minister's hidden talents!

Plenty of time for chatting



Christmas is
a time of giving



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2008

Please come to our shoebox packing evening on 12th November. Everyone is invited to the hall from 7pm to have a cup of coffee and join in the fun of packing the boxes at the same time. Items to be included in the boxes are always very welcome: small toys, balls, cars, dolls and cuddly toys, colouring books, pens, pencils, rubbers, pencil cases, jewellery, make up, hats, gloves, scarves and of course toiletries, the list is endless but please do NOT include:

Glass containers or fragile items

Liquid, blow bubbles, shampoos, bubble bath

Biscuits

Chocolate - but small packets of sweets not containing chocolate are allowed

As we all know, fuel costs have escalated in the last few months and the recommended donation this year towards transportation costs is £2.50 per box, the first increase since 1996. [Did you notice my 'deliberate' mistake last month when I said 1966? As OCC did not begin until the 90s that would have been difficult!] If you would like to help and put a smile on a child's face this Christmas, but are not able to fill a shoebox or provide items to be included, a donation of money is just as important.

For leaflets and more details speak to me or visit the Samaritan's Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com where you can also find a pattern for a hand puppet which can be used as a mitten or a 'friend', and these are always very popular. Completed boxes, items to be included, and empty shoe boxes [please not boot boxes] can be left at 58 Chapel Hill at any time. Thank you.

Janet

Pilots

Meetings for this term Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm in the Hall.

29th Sep Shoe Boxes with Sue and John Bree & Janet Townsend

13th Oct Elephants with Ken Larman - Powerpoint and Art

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 to any of these evenings - please come along and support your pilot group

Valerie 813433



I shall be selling Traidcraft goods after the church service on Sunday 19th October. The new Traidcraft catalogue (with order form attached) is now available in the foyer. Please take a copy to browse through. Brenda is away during October but if you would like to pass me your order I will make sure it gets to Brenda as soon as she is back. The next stall after that will be on 23rd November.

Marion

Meetings of the CTS Forum continue to be well attended and are very positive. We are hosting the next forum (chaired by Catherine Dean) on Tuesday 7th October at 7.30 pm in the Church - please try to come along and make sure our church is well represented.



Tickets are still available for the village Harvest Supper and entertainment on Sunday 12th October. See page 3 for details.

The Windmill Players (includes some of our church members) are performing 'The Ghost Train' in Ugley Village Hall on 21st - 23rd November. Tickets are available now from Marion & Mike. Adults £6, Concessions £4, Family £12. Proceeds to CTS.

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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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