

Imagine!

October
2011



Imagine the perfect day, what would it be like, what would make your perfect day? Would it be the hazy, lazy day of autumn with mellow mists and tranquil air? Would it be a hot summer's day, lying back in a chair reading your favourite book with a glass to hand? Perhaps it would be a cold, crisp, snowy day when you could make footsteps in the virgin snow where no-one had stepped before; but whatever it might be, just for a moment imagine that perfect day for you and hold that thought in your mind.

The Apostle Paul, writing to a very dysfunctional Corinthian church about love, noted that *"when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears."* 1 Corinthians 13:10. So imagine if you can, what it might be like when Jesus, Perfection, returns; and rather than having heaven on earth, it becomes earth in heaven.

In some ways I find it hard to imagine what heaven might be like. Having watched scenes of grief in Wales following the loss of four miners, and seeing vivid images of flood waters as far as the eye can see devastating the lives of millions in Pakistan, heaven seems but words in the pages of a book. In the light of our broken world, imagine then what the outworking of the imperfect disappearing might be.

We read in the last book of the Bible: *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away"..... "the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."* Revelation 21: 1-4

Imagine that. No tears, no death, no pain as Perfection comes and the imperfect disappears.

Every blessing

David Keeble



Care Time



Please remember any of our church family who need our prayers, including Allen Morton, our URC minister, who is on long term sick leave, and his wife Daphne; Edna Goreing and family, following the death of Harry; Rita Morson; Brenda Scarr, undergoing chemotherapy; Ivor Thomas, Chris Coetzee and those no longer able to attend church.

Many congratulations to Arthur Law who will be 80 on 7th October.

Betty

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

Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe - New Directions
9th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion
16th 10.30 am Julie Finbow
23rd 10.30 am John Banks
30th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins - Holy Communion

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

Sun 2nd	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
	7.00 pm	Café Worship - B Stortford Methodist
Mon 3rd	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
Thu 6th	2.30 pm	Bible Study in the Foyer (see below)
Mon 10th	8.00 pm	Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun 16th	6.00 pm	Village Harvest Supper - St John's Hall
Mon 17th	10.00 am	Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gdns
	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
Sat 22nd	10.00 am	Shoe box items collection in the Foyer
	10.30 am	Annual Church Meeting in the Hall
Mon 24th	8.00 pm	Shalom At Home - 62 St John's Road
Thu 27th	2.30 pm	Bible Study in the Foyer
Mon 31st	8.00 pm	Churches Together Forum in the Hall

What does the Bible say about Food?

A Bible Study from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund

Led by Stuart and Brenda Veitch

In the Foyer Thursdays 2.30 - 3.30 pm followed by tea

6 th	October	The Temptations of Abundance
27 th	October	Needs and Wants
10 th	November	Food and Culture
24 th	November	Miracles, Big and Small
8 th	December	Hospitality and Communion

All Welcome

5th Church Anniversary



Over 50 people, including 13 from Bishop's Stortford URC, attended our 5th Anniversary celebrations on 11th September. We saw pictures of church events over the last five years.



Photos by Judy Colliver & Mike Dyer

5th Church Anniversary



The service was led by Rev David Simpson, who was the URC minister when the two churches joined. It was great to see old friends, including Janet and Brian Townsend.



Photos by Judy Colliver & Mike Dyer



Village Harvest Supper (proceeds to Disasters Emergency Committee)

6 - 8.30 pm Sunday 16th October
St John's Church Hall

*Fish / Chicken / Veggie & Chips and hot pudding
followed by entertainment from the churches*

Tickets: Adults £6 Schoolchildren free - advance booking essential
Contact Marion
Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome

Sponsor a Chair

As mentioned last month, we have recently purchased some more comfortable chairs for the hall. Some of the cost has already been covered by donations, but if anyone would like to make a contribution, the treasurers would be pleased to hear from them! Each chair costs £35 but you do not need to sponsor a complete chair - any donations would be welcome! Thank you.

Marion Dyer



The next **Traidcraft** stall will be after the service on Sundays 2nd and 30th October. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call - don't forget that I have a wide range of Traidcraft goods suitable for Christmas presents, and the new catalogues are now in the foyer.

Brenda
fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Shalom *All Welcome - Meetings are 8 pm*

9th Oct 7 Blythwood Gardens - Phil Gneiting talks about his church community in America
24th Oct At Home - 62 St John's Road

Marion Dyer

Choir for a Day

Saturday 12th November

Led by Hilary Eves & Mark Wiffen



Open to all singers aged 11 plus

In memory of loved ones no longer with us.
Surplus funds raised will be donated to Help for Heroes

Music will include:

Look at the World ~ Holy Spirit Truth Divine
For the Fallen ~ The Lord bless you and keep you
Band of Brothers ~ Deep River
And the Glory of the Lord from Handel's Messiah

There will be a group going from our church.
If you would like to join us please call
Marion Dyer

Tickets for the evening concert will be available later

Christmas is
a time of giving



Collection morning for shoe
box items

Sat 22nd Oct 10 am to noon

The foyer of the Free Church will be open to receive shoe boxes, wrapping paper and items for the boxes - see leaflets in the church for suitable items or contact me. The shoe box packing is on Thursday 3rd November in the hall.

Catherine Dean

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Church Notices

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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