

Imagine!



October
2012

I imagine you have never been involved in church. Your only perception of church comes from what you have seen portrayed on television in Emmerdale, Rev or the Vicar of Dibley.

Imagine what it might take to persuade you that church is a good place to be. What special thing could church do to encourage you to break the habit of a lifetime of not going to church?

Imagine it is 2000 years ago and you are among a group of people called The Way. There aren't that many of you, but your numbers are growing daily.

What's so special about your group particularly when what it stands for is so 'counter-cultural'?

Acts 2:42-47 gives us an insight, a flavour of why the early church took off:

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

The Message

Imagine meeting together EVERY DAY in Church (Temple Courts) to study God's word and to share your testimonies; but more than that to share all your possessions as well.

But it doesn't end there. Imagine meeting in each other's homes and sharing meals, doing so with glad and sincere hearts. All the people in the surrounding community realise there is something different about all of you and they want to be part of it.

The challenge for us? Imagining how we can bring that sense of exuberant and joyful Christian living into our 21st Century lives, shining a light for Jesus into Stansted.

Every blessing

David Keeble

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 28th October. Please submit articles by Friday 19th 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

- 7th 10.30 am The Worship Team - Harvest
Please bring breakfast goods for Harlow Food Bank
- 14th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion
- 21st 10.30 am Julie Finbow
- 28th 10.30 am Janet Bottoms

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Sun 7th 6.00 pm Village Harvest Supper - St John's Hall
- Mon 8th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gdns
8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
- Mon 15th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
- Sat 20th 10.00 am Annual Church Meeting in the Hall
- Mon 22nd 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 13 Blackbushe, B S
- Sat 27th 10.00 am Shoe box items collection in the Foyer
- Sun 28th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
7.00 pm Taizé Service at B Stortford Methodist Church
- Mon 29th 8.00 pm Churches Together Forum in the Hall
- Wed 31st 9.30 am The Place on the Hill opens in the Foyer

Annual Church Meeting

10 am Saturday 20th October 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. Attendance has been quite low at the last few church meetings, so we would invite you to attend if possible. Important decisions are often made at church meetings and this is your chance to have a voice.



Harvest Supper



St John's Church Hall
Sunday 7th October 2012
6 - 8.30 pm

*Fish, Chicken or Veggie Burger & Chips
followed by entertainment*

A great evening out for all the family

Tickets £6 ~ Schoolchildren £4

Proceeds to Samaritan's Purse for Shoebox transportation

**Tickets must be purchased in advance
please tel 813579, 814865, 814059
or St John's Church Office 815243
(Mon, Wed & Fri 9 am - noon)**

Bring your own drink & glass - All Welcome

Christmas is
a time of giving



SHOE BOX ITEMS COLLECTION MORNING

in the Free Church Foyer

Sat 27th October 10 am - noon

We would be pleased to receive

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

Everyone welcome ~ hope to see you there!

For details call 813579, 814865 or 812109

**** For suitable items please see article in
the Stansted Link magazine or leaflets
available in the churches and local shops**

Welcome to
The



Free WiFi

Comfy Seats

Good Coffee

Soft Lighting

Space to Chill Out

Cool Music

Children's Play Corner

**Books to Read
or Borrow**

Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Free Church, Chapel Hill

All Welcome ~ No Charge ~ Opens 31st October

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace



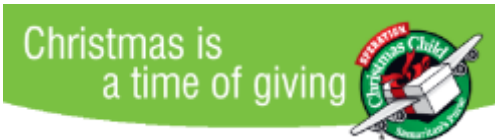
Care Time



Please remember the Townsend family, following the very sudden death of Stuart; and any of our church family who need our prayers, including those no longer able to attend church. We pray for Arthur Law as he prepares to move to Bishop's Stortford.

Many congratulations to Marion and Ted Pretty who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary recently.

Betty



Collection morning for shoe box items

Sat 27th Oct 10 am to noon

The foyer of the church will be open to receive shoe boxes, wrapping paper and items for the boxes - for suitable items see notice on page 5, leaflets in the church or contact me. The shoe box packing is on Monday 5th November in the hall.

Catherine Dean 813579



The next Traidcraft stall will be after the service on Sundays 28th October and 18th November. 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 815819

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Shalom

All Welcome - Meetings are 8 pm

8th Oct 7 Blythwood Gardens - Roger Harrison (Phyllis' son) talks about his family history

22nd Oct At Home - 13 Blackbushe, Bishop's Stortford

Marion Dyer

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

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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