

# Imagine!



July  
2015

**I** imagine the pleasure of attending a wedding in the beautiful parish church of Lode close to the National Trust's Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge. In June we were part of such a wedding when my niece Sarah, a nurse, married Nick, a doctor. Sarah was keen for all the family to be involved with the wedding in one way or another; so Marion, as well as carrying out various dressmaking duties, was persuaded to play some piano duets with one of my nephews during the signing of the registers.

Imagine my nervousness when asked to read a couple of paragraphs from C S Lewis' famous treatise 'The Four Loves'. The four loves explored by Lewis are named by him as Affection, Friendship, Eros and Charity. The corresponding Greek words behind these are storge, philia, eros and agape. A happy and successful marriage surely has a measure of all four, but the passage I was asked to read was a gentle warning that the emotion of being in love (eros) is transitory. It should be seen as the starting point for an ongoing love (storge) that can survive all the ups and downs of life's journey. The latter are well summarised in the familiar wedding vows: 'for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health'. The love (agape) referred to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 puts the other three loves into the shade. Agape comes from God. It is unconditional. It is permanent. The book of Lamentations has this to say of it: 'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end'. (Lam 3:22). With God's vow of love to us, we can depend on him to support us 'in sickness and in health'.

In their particular vocations Sarah and Nick can provide healthcare for each other; but undoubtedly there will be times when God's love provides answers that do not appear in any medical textbook!

*Mike Dyer*



Welcome to  
The

**Wednesdays & Fridays**  
**9.30 am - 12.30 pm**  
**Free Church, Chapel Hill**  
**Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge**  
**[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace)**

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### Minister's Holiday

Roy will be on holiday 6th - 19th July. Please contact Betty if you need assistance during this time (contact details on back cover)

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th July. Please submit articles by Friday 17th July to: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**

## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe - New Directions  
12th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion  
19th 10.30 am Andrew Brown  
26th 10.30 am Penny Flynn

### Other Church Activities

Tue 7th 7.30 pm Churches Together Forum at Day Centre  
Sun 12th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
Mon 13th 8.00 pm Shalom Party - 7 Blythwood Gardens  
Sat 25th 10.00 am Church Meeting in the Church

## CHURCH MEETING

At our Church Meeting on Saturday 25th July at 10 am, we shall begin looking at the 'furniture' in the church, so the meeting will be held in the church not the hall. We hope many of you will be able to attend the meeting and give your opinions.

### OPEN DAY at the Manse

**Christine and Roy invite you to**

8 Birchalls, High Lane, Stansted, CM24 8LQ

**Saturday 8th August**

10 am - noon and 2 - 4 pm

This invitation is extended to all the WEBS churches

## CHURCH APPEALS

Thank you to everyone who gave to the recent appeal for the Nepal Earthquake, which raised £200 (including Gift Aid). A letter from DEC is on page 6.

At our service on 31st May, we had a speaker from Tearfund. A collection was taken which raised £215 (including Gift Aid), and the sale of crafts raised a further £202.60. Seven people completed enquiry cards to receive news updates. A letter from Tearfund is on page 7.

## RECENT CHURCH EVENTS

### New Member

Blanca Stevenson has been worshipping regularly with us for some time, and the church was delighted to welcome her into membership on 14th June. It was good to have some of Blanca's friends and family with us to share the occasion.



### Saffron Walden URC Flower Festival

Michelle King created this lovely display on behalf of our church for the Abbey Lane Flower Festival which celebrated 350 years of witness in Saffron Walden.



## **NEWS from WEBS**

Our church is part of the WEBS (West Essex & Bishop's Stortford) pastorate and we are encouraged to join the following events:

### **Induction of Revd Caroline Vodden**

Water Lane United Reformed Church, Bishop's Stortford  
**Saturday** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.30 pm

### **Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden 350th Anniversary Service**

**Sunday** 13<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 am

**Preacher** Mr John Ellis (Moderator of the General Assembly)  
There will be no service at our church on that day

### **Autumn Bible Studies - The Missionary Journeys of Paul**

Led by Caroline at Newport United Reformed Church  
**Wednesdays** 30th September, 21st October, 25th November  
Afternoon 2.30 - 4 pm & Evening 7.30 - 9 pm

### **Celtic Communion**

Newport United Reformed Church 3 pm

**Sundays** 26th July, 23rd August, 20th September, 18th October,

## **CHURCH DEACON VACANCY**

We have six deacons: Valerie, Catherine, Brenda, Betty, Judy, and Marion (Pretty) who represent the church members, and are elected for six years. At the Annual Church Meeting, one deacon steps down, and although he or she could be re-elected, this is an opportunity to draw someone new into this very important role in our church life. The Church Oversight Group (COG) comprises the deacons, treasurers, property secretary, church secretary and the minister. We meet every two months to discuss issues concerning the running of the church, finance, pastoral concerns, etc, and if appropriate, bring proposals to the Church Meeting. This year Judy will be stepping down and we would ask all church members to prayerfully consider whether they should take on this role. For more information, please speak to one of the present deacons. Anyone wishing to stand must be nominated by another church member.

Please submit nominations to Betty by 31st July



01 June 2015

DEC Supporter  
Stansted Free Church (methodist/Urc)  
7 Blythwood Gardens  
Stansted  
Essex  
CM24 8HG

Disasters Emergency Committee  
Ground Floor, 43 Chalton Street  
London NW1 1DU

T +44 (0) 20 7387 0200  
F +44 (0) 20 7387 2050  
E [info@dec.org.uk](mailto:info@dec.org.uk)  
[dec.org.uk](http://dec.org.uk)

**DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal**

Your DEC Contact Number: V0651917  
£200.00 on 15/05/2015

This letter may also act as a receipt

Dear Supporter,

We wanted to write to you today for many reasons, but most importantly to say thank you, on behalf of everyone who has been affected by the earthquake that hit in Nepal on the 25th April.

Despite the terrifying level of devastation the 7.8-magnitude earthquake caused, your donation means people are already receiving aid and support. DEC member agencies are on the ground right now using funds provided by you, to ensure families have warm tents, clean water and vital food supplies, helping to keep them safe.

In this desperate situation it is no small thing to say that when you donated, you may well have changed someone's life, even saved it. Just having that tent to stay warm in over the cold night, or enough food to feed your family, keeping them healthy, this is what matters.

Without your support the DEC and our member agencies simply could not provide these things and while there is still so much more to do now, thanks to your donation, there is hope. Many people may have lost everything but together we can help them rebuild their lives.

Even if you are someone who feels your generosity does not need thanking, we want to say it anyway, because anyone who is now safe because of you, would want to thank you themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Saleh Saeed  
Chief Executive

**PS.** If you are a **UK taxpayer**, the value of your gift can be increased by 25% under the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to you. This means a donation of **£10**, for example, could be worth an extra **£2.50** to us. Please do make sure you meet the qualifying conditions before returning the completed form to us.

Together We're Stronger

ActionAid  
Age International  
British Red Cross  
CAFOD  
CARE International UK  
Christian Aid  
Concern Worldwide  
Islamic Relief  
Oxfam  
Plan UK  
Save the Children  
Tearfund  
World Vision

9 June 2015

Supporter No: 2817964/czb

Stansted Free Church  
c/o Mrs Marion Dyer  
7 Blythwood Gardens  
STANSTED  
CM24 8HG

Dear Friends

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Thank you so much for your generous donation of £215 - this will change lives.

It will help us support more people like Qurban from Afghanistan. He and his family returned to their village in Jawzjan province with little money or food after being driven out by fighting.

Life was unravelling until we gave Qurban's wife a spinning wheel and the training to use it, and she now earns a healthy living making carpets. The family is even building up their savings.

But thanks to donations like yours, our help for the family didn't stop there.

Clean water is an urgent need for 2.3 million people in Afghanistan and many die every year from preventable water-borne illnesses. So we supplied the family with a biosand filter which gives them a clean water supply.

Qurban has also received six kinds of vegetable seed and tools for home gardening. The family is not only enjoying the nutritional benefits but earning money from surplus produce.

Qurban is profoundly grateful for the change Tearfund's work has brought to his life. 'I can definitely say that all the training was very useful and the help I received made us very happy,' he says. 'Thanks Tearfund.'

We're so grateful that you've chosen to support us and stand up for Qurban and many like him who are struggling in poverty around the world.

We're determined to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, and your generous donation will enable us to do that. Thank you.

Yours in Christ



Chris Blizzard  
Donor Care Team

FOLLOWING JESUS WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

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**Stansted Free Church**  
**Methodist / URC**  
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**Fairtrade**

Brenda Veitch

Email: [fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Sunday Service**

10.30 am Morning Worship.

1st Sunday of each month - New Directions (Informal)

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

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)