

Imagine!

November
2015



Imagine me in my new home some months from now! No longer in the streets with my wheelbarrow, keeping my eye out for a lost wallet or a lost soul, but somewhere far away.



Soon we three will be installed on the south coast; but I can see that the smallest one in the family might have the biggest adjustment to make! "What do you want?" the usual request comes, as I sit in my kitchen minding my own business. "Oh well, show me", I say resignedly. "Cat food?" No...so I have got it wrong.

"Your tail is in a tangle? Jump up on this stool and I will sort it out".

What am I on about? Communication; in this case between a cat and myself, a cat who has lived from a kitten in the company of people. She has learnt that if she shows us what she wants, eg by going to the right location or makes a unique noise to attract our attention, she gets what she wants.

I am reminded of once when I was working in my front garden and I could sense her near me - definitely near me because she was shouting! I reply "Oh, what do you want now?" Another shout..."Oh burrs in your tail, well you will have to wait". Another shout confirmed my intuition - that cat has no patience! There was laughter over my front hedge, and after composing himself, a gentleman spoke: "I have never heard anyone having a conversation with a cat before". Well you see our cat is very much part of our family. People ask why we are moving. I tell them it is because the cat can't climb the stairs any more!

So where is this monologue going I hear you ask? Well, we all need to listen and pay attention. What our fellow being needs, be it an animal or human, is not always obvious. We need to discern, just as Jesus discerned when he saw into the hearts of those who came to him with their cat-like requests for attention.

Imagine, if you listened, really listened, you might be surprised at the result.
William Frogley

In this issue:	Page
Worship & Other Church Activities	3
Bishop's Stortford URC Christmas Bazaar	3
Christmas Events	3
Photographs of Recent Events	4
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes	5
News from WEBS	5
Thank you from YMCA	6
Messy Church	7
Caption Competition	7
Contacts	Back Cover



Wednesdays & Fridays
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on Sunday 29th November. Please submit articles by Friday 20th 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

- 1st 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.50 am Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
15th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall
22nd 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
29th 10.30 am Mike Render

Other Church Activities

- Sat 7th 10.00 am Shoe Box Collection Morning in the Foyer
Mon 9th 8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Thu 12th 7.00 pm Shoe Box Packing in the Hall
Sat 14th 10.00 am Bishop's Stortford URC Christmas Bazaar
Sun 15th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
3.00 pm Celtic Communion at Newport URC
Wed 25th 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm WEBS Bible Study at Newport URC
Mon 23rd 8.00 pm Shalom at Home 49 Recreation Ground

Remembrance Sunday 8th 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 Crafton Green at 10.30 am.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sat 14th Nov 10 - 2 pm Water Lane URC, Bishop's Stortford
in aid of
B Stortford Winter Night Shelter & Red Cross Refugee Appeal
Entry Free ~ Coffee 10 am - noon & Lunches noon - 2 pm

December Christmas Events

- Sat 5th 6.30 pm Churches Together Carols at the Christmas Market
Sun 13th 10.30 am Carols and Gift Service at Stansted Free Church
Sat 19th 3.30 pm Celebration of Christmas at St Teresa's Church
Tue 22nd 6.30 pm Churches Together Carol Singing - Foresthall Park
Wed 23rd 6.30 pm Churches Together Carol Singing - Hargrave Estate

RECENT EVENTS



First Messy Church



CTS Harvest Supper



Christmas is
a time of giving



Want something to do on
12th November?

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

Please join us at the Shoe Box packing evening on Thursday 12th November from 7 pm in the hall. If you are not able to stay and enjoy the fun, then please help by bringing shoe boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and items to fill the boxes, such as school items, hygiene items, small toys, wind up torches, harmonicas, yo-yos, skipping ropes, jewellery sets, hair bands and combs/brushes, wrapped sweets, small soft toys, hats, scarves and gloves. **Not permitted:** used or damaged items, anything war related, chocolate, lotions, glass, knitted stuffed toys, marbles, mirrors or fragile items. If you are not able to help on the evening or supply items for the boxes, then you may consider giving a donation of £3 per shoebox towards transportation costs. Please pass any donations to me asap. Thank you.

Catherine Dean

NEWS from WEBS

Celtic Communion - informal Communion services using worship material from the Celtic tradition both ancient and new

Newport United Reformed Church 3 pm

Sundays 15th November and 17th January

Autumn Bible Studies - The Missionary Journeys of Paul

Led by Caroline at Newport United Reformed Church

Wednesday 25th November

Afternoon 2.30 - 4 pm or Evening 7.30 - 9 pm

Lent Groups and Courses

As it is hoped that there will be Lent groups and courses planned in all the towns and villages, there are no plans to run WEBS Bible Studies in the period between Christmas and Easter next year

WEBS Strategy Group

This is a new group with representatives from each of the churches.
More news next month

The logo consists of the letters 'YMCA' in a light blue, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right. It is positioned on a solid brown rectangular background.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

FOR THE MEMBERS OF

STANSTED FREE CHURCH

for being Outstanding Supporters of the 2015 East Herts YMCA Harvest Festival

Thank you for the donation - it means so much!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Purcell', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Robert Purcell, Chief Executive, East Herts YMCA

CAPTION COMPETITION



Thank you to all those who sent in suggested captions for this picture of Roy and Alan taken at the back of the church shortly after Roy arrived to take the service one Sunday morning.

They were all so good that we couldn't decide which was the best one, so please let the editors know which is **your** favourite ...

- 1 Lost for words
- 2 Wife said she'd be changing the sheets yesterday
- 3 Swap you a Prophet for an Epistle
- 4 It must be somewhere in the Apocrypha
- 5 Seek and ye shall find
- 6 Roy praying that it's the right sermon even if it is in the wrong order
- 7 Who's got page 1?
- 8 I could've sworn there was a sermon here somewhere
- 9 Here it is Alan - the ad about the hair replacement tonic I used with great success!
- 10 And finally God, could you send us a new table?



Although this is a Churches Together in Stansted initiative, our church has been fully involved in setting it up. The first Messy Church exceeded all expectations, with 89 people attending, representing 27 families, over a third of whom have no known church connection - see photos on page 4. Amazingly there was enough food! Some of the people attending were known to us through The Place on the Hill. The next two dates are 6th December and 31st January. Offers of food would be gratefully received; nearer the time Carol will be asking people, and there will be a sign-up sheet available after church. More helpers are needed on the day – please contact Marion if you can help with craft activities or food.

Stansted Free Church (Methodist / URC)

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Part of the WEBS (West Essex & Bishop's Stortford) URC Pastorate
and the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Circuit

Contacts

Minister

Revd Roy Fowler (day off Monday)

Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

WEBS Minister

Revd Caroline Vodden

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

Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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 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

Tel Marion & Mike, Catherine & Alan or Fran

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk