

Imagine!



Dec
2016

Imagine you were a poet; could you ever compose something as beautiful as this, as Advent approaches?

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us,
O long-sought with-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness,
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

The composer of this sonnet is Malcolm Guite and is included in his book: *Sounding the Seasons* (© 2013 Malcolm Guite Canterbury Press)

Advent is really beyond the bounds of our ability to understand. How could our immense creator God be an egg in Mary's womb?

It is beyond our imagining.; yet it was so. In Advent reflect on the immense privilege of living in a place visited by God Almighty himself, starting as an egg in a woman's womb, and who goes further and calls each one of us to become his child, created in his image.

Happy Reflective Advent and a Happy Christmas.

Stuart Veitch



Care Time



We pray for all those who are grieving at this time, and for those who will be spending their first Christmas alone, or without loved ones; for the Churches Together in Stansted Messy Church on 4th December and the other Christmas events; for Alexis as she is received into membership; for Arthur and Desiree, recovering from hip surgery; for the Syrian family as they settle in Stansted; for The Place on the Hill Christmas Events; and for others in our wider church family who need our prayers.

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The next edition of ***Imagine*** will be available on Christmas Day. Please submit articles by Friday 16th December 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 DECEMBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

4th	10.30 am	Rev'd Charles Martin
11th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion and Gift Service (see below)
18th	10.30 am	Carol Service (see below)
25th	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler - Christmas Day Family Service

Other Activities

Sun 4th	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
	6.00 pm	Advent Remembrance Service at S Walden URC (p 5)
Wed 7th	8.00 pm	LPWL Meeting in the Hall
Sun 11th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Mon 12th	10.00 am	The Place on the Hill Christmas Event (p 4)
	8.00 pm	Shalom Party at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Wed 14th	10.00 am	The Place on the Hill Christmas Event (p 4)
Fri 16th	10.00 am	The Place on the Hill Christmas Event (p 4)
Sat 17th	3.00 pm	Celebration of Christmas at St Theresa's Church (p 6)
Thu 22nd	7.00 pm	Carol Singing (p 7)
Fri 23rd	7.00 pm	Carol Singing (p 7)

Gift Service 11th December

We will be collecting items for the Whitechapel Mission which provides thousands of breakfasts to homeless people each year, and has the largest clothing store in London for the homeless. Items urgently needed are:

Food: Baked Beans, Sugar, Coffee, Squash, Honey, Ketchup, Breakfast Cereal, Biscuits, Plum tomatoes (not chopped), Instant Hot Chocolate

Toiletries: toothbrushes, razors, shampoo, deodorant, soap

Clothes etc: men's underwear, socks, men's trainers and shoes, jeans waist 28-36", trousers waist 28-34", rucksacks, hand towels, bath towels

If you are not able to be at the service, donations may be left in the vestry, but please label for Whitechapel. Thank you.

Carol Service 18th December

Betty is arranging our carol service and would like suggestions of carols and readings to be included - please let her know by 11th December.



STANSTED CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH



Sunday 4th December 3.30 - 5 pm
St Mary's School, Foresthall Park

An **exciting** and **informal** style of church for families, with activities, celebration and food (all based on a Christian theme), and an emphasis on **FUN!** Although the event is arranged by Churches Together in Stansted, our church is very involved. A very big thank you to those who have donated food in the past and will be doing so this time. For more information please call Marion & Mike.



 The Place on the Hill
 @placeonthehill

Christmas Events
Mon 12th, Wed 14th and Fri 16th Dec
10 am - 11.30 am

**Come and join the fun making
Christingles followed by a visit from
Father Christmas**

**There will also be a video of the
Christmas Story
which is suitable for all ages**

**All Welcome - do come along on any or all of the days, even if
you do not normally attend The Place**

**The Place is open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
but we will be closed on Mondays 26th December & 2nd January**

For more details contact Marion & Mike
email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

A Service of Remembrance for Advent



6 pm Sunday 4th December
Abbey Lane United Reformed Church
Saffron Walden

You are warmly invited to join us for this special service on the second Sunday in Advent, which will include an Act of Remembrance and the dedication of a lighted Christmas tree in memory of those we have loved.

Christmas is a time of joy and hope, but it is touched with sadness as we remember family and friends who will not be with us to share the celebrations this year.

We thank God for his gift of love in Jesus Christ and pray that all may know his comfort and peace this Christmas.

The service will be followed by light refreshments



STANSTED FOODBANK

The foodbank is well stocked and does not require any items at the present time. Thank you to all those who have donated. We will probably start collecting again early in the new year.

Catherine



Celebration of Christmas Carols and Readings

with contributions from villagers,
local schools & churches

3 pm Saturday 17th December
St Theresa's Church, High Lane

Followed by mulled wine & soft drinks

*All are welcome to join the choir
- come along and have some fun!*

Choir Rehearsals in St Theresa's Church
7.30 pm Thurs 1st, 8th & 15th Dec
1.00 pm Sat 17th Dec

Collection for Christian Aid *Light the way* Christmas Appeal
which is helping people fleeing from violence

Organised by Churches Together in Stansted
www.stanstedchurches.com



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

www.stanstedchurches.com



CAROL SINGING

in aid of

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

Light the Way

which is helping people fleeing from violence

ALL WELCOME

Meet at 7.00 pm each evening

*Come & join the fun singing your
favourite carols in Stansted*

Collectors also needed each night

Thursday
22 December

Meet Junction Church Rd/Mountfitchet Rd
Finish at West Road

Friday
23 December

Meet Mountfitchet House, Coltsfield
Finish at Birchalls

*Followed by seasonal refreshments
around 8.30 pm*

For information Tel: 814059



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

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Brenda Veitch
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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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Tel Marion & Mike, Catherine & Alan or Fran
Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk