

Imagine!



January
2016

I imagine what it must have been like for Joseph and Mary making the arduous hundred mile journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem each year to celebrate the Passover Festival. No doubt they would have recalled the momentous time when they made the even longer journey to Bethlehem. Then imagine what it must have been like taking their twelve-year old son with them. I am sure Jesus would have been just as impatient to get to their destination as children are today. You can imagine him repeatedly asking "Are we nearly there?".

When the week of celebration was ended, everyone set out to return home. However, on the occasion recorded by Luke (2: 41-51), things didn't go according to plan. Imagine how Joseph and Mary must have felt, when after a day's travel they discovered that their son was not with them. We probably cannot imagine how a child could not be missed for that long, but in those days it would be quite normal for all the children to travel in a group in the care of trusted adults. This would allow parents to have quality time together with the presumption that the children were being safely cared for.

We should not be too quick to criticise Joseph and Mary; can we honestly claim to have Jesus at the forefront of our thinking on every step of life's journey? Are we prepared to turn around and search for Jesus, or do we just hope he will catch up with us sometime? Imagine the joy when Joseph and Mary found their son back in Jerusalem. As we start our journey through a new year, let us testify to the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus is with us every step of the way.

Mike Dyer

RECENT EVENTS



Second Messy Church



There are more pictures on www.stanstedchurches.com

The Place on the Hill Christmas Event



Care Time



We pray for: the Churches Together in Stansted Messy Church on 31st January; Colin Finbow undergoing chemotherapy; Arthur's trip to Australia to see his daughter; William and Sharon's move to Peacehaven.

Many congratulations to Judy Colliver who is eighty years young on 7th January!

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

3rd	10.30 am	Michael Render
10th	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler
17th	10.30 am	Mary Whittle
24th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant & Communion
31st	10.30 am	Jerry Heyhoe

Other Activities & Services

Tue 12th	9.30 am	Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sat 16th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Quiz - St John's Hall
Sun 17th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
	3.00 pm	Celtic Communion at Newport
Wed 20th	7.30 pm	Churches Together AGM & Forum in the Hall
Mon 25th	8.00 pm	Shalom At Home - 62 St John's Road
Sat 30th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun 31st	3.00 pm	Messy Church - St Mary's School



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 31st January 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!** Arranged by Churches Together in Stansted. A very big thank you to all those who have helped or provided food at our previous events. We are again looking for people to help with the activities on the day (please call Marion), and to provide sandwiches and cakes (please call Carol). For general information please call Marion & Mike.



QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 16th January in St John's Church Hall

In aid of Churches Together in Stansted Community Projects

Tickets £8 incl Light Supper from Marion

Bring your own Drink & Glass - All Welcome whether in a team or not

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

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Church Notices

Marion Pretty

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Fairtrade

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 Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Tel Marion & Mike, Catherine & Alan or Fran

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk