

Imagine!

June
2016



Imagine summer never arrived. Every year we seem to hear complaints when we get to September that we haven't really had a summer.

Our weather is so peculiar isn't it? In 1816, people living in the Northern Hemisphere did not have to imagine it – there are stories of children actually going out on their sledges in the snow of June 1816! This was due to a volcanic eruption in Indonesia which pushed a massive plume of sulphurous gas into the atmosphere that circled the earth at the equator in a matter of weeks before drifting towards the pole, causing havoc with the world's major weather systems for almost three years. After that our weather returned to its equilibrium - we should remember that when we imagine our poor weather is a permanent fixture due to global warming! Weather has had many strange episodes over the centuries.

Isn't it strange how we yearn for summer days though? What does our desire for those lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer tell us about us as human beings? What about our sense of sadness as the days shorten again and autumn mists start to appear? Of course it is linked to the shortness of a human life and our own failing faculties; but isn't summer a little bit of a foretaste of what life in heaven will be like when we enjoy the presence of God for eternity? The returning sharpness of cold mornings at the end of summer reminds us that there is still work to be done; God is ever on the move and the Spirit must drive us like the wind to new things and new ways in which God is revealed to the people of our world.

As we relax this summer may it make us ready for the next stage of the work God will do in us and through us.

Alan Wheeler



Care Time



We pray for: Phyllis Harrison settling back home; Blanca Stevenson; Mary Warnett recovering at home after major surgery; those who come to The Place and are going through difficult times; and Roy, on sabbatical, that he may find a time of refreshment and renewal. We ask for God's blessing on the new *Coffee Pot* venture organised by St John's Church.



The Coffee Pot

Coffee for one is not much fun

If you fancy a change, come and join us for coffee, cake and company

St John's Church Thursdays 10.30 - noon

No charge - please come!

In this issue:	Page
Worship and Other Church Activities	3
U3A Singers Concert for Christian Aid	3
WEBS Bible Studies	3
Newport Quiet Day	4
WEBS Summer Picnic	4
Methodist Women in Britain Afternoon Tea for HFT	5
Sankey Service	6
Stort Interfaith Quiz	7
WEBS Autumn Outing	7
Contacts	Back Cover

The next edition of ***Imagine*** will be available on Sunday 26th June. Please submit articles by Friday 17th June 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 JUNE

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 5th 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions
12th 10.30 am Rev'd John Buxton - Communion
19th 10.30 am Andrew Brown
26th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch

Services are followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Sat 4th 11.00 am Quiet Day - Newport URC (p4)
7.15 pm U3A Singers Concert - St Theresa's Parish Centre
Sun 12th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
1.00 pm WEBS Summer Picnic (p4)
Mon 13th 8.00 pm Shalom - 49 Recreation Ground (note venue)
Thu 16th 3.00 pm Afternoon Tea for HFT - 6 Wetherfield (p5)
Wed 22nd 8.00 pm LPWT Meeting - B S Methodist Church
Sat 25th 7.30 pm Stort Interfaith Quiz - St Theresa's Parish Centre (p7)
Sun 26th 3.00 pm Sankey Service - Abbey Lane URC (p6)
Mon 27th 8.00 pm Shalom Party - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Wed 29th 7.30 pm WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer



Stansted U3A Singers Concert Sat 4th June 7.15 pm

A light-hearted summer concert starting lasting about 40 minutes,
followed by **free** refreshments.

Tickets £5 available from me. All proceeds to Christian Aid

Catherine

catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

WEBS BIBLE STUDIES

Tell me the Stories of Jesus - *how well do we really know them?*

Led by Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Wednesdays 27th April, 25th May and 29th June

2.30 - 4 pm Newport United Reformed Church or

7.30 pm coffee for 7.45 pm start - 9 pm Stansted Free Church Foyer

NEWPORT QUIET DAY

SPREADING THE WORD

The Holy Spirit in the World

A day of prayer, song and reflection led by Grace Baldock

Saturday 4th June 11.00 am - 4.00 pm
NEWPORT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Please bring a packed lunch - tea and coffee provided
Come for the whole day or just the morning or afternoon
There is no charge but you are invited to make a donation on the day towards the upkeep of the church

For details email: colinrbaldock@btinternet.com

WEBS SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday 12th June 1 pm onwards

SOUTHERN COUNTRY PARK, BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Bring your own picnic and enjoy a time of friendship and fun

The park covers an area of 23 hectares and has won the prestigious Green Flag Award. It consists of woodland, grassland, wild flower areas, informal play areas (including a zip wire), a dog training area, streams and a lake. Nearby is the Norman and Early English style St James the Great church. Next to the church is St Barnabas Barn, a 16th century barn which was fully restored in 1996 for church and community use.

Directions

Take the Bishop's Stortford bypass. Go across six roundabouts, passing Tesco, Bishop's Park and St Michael's Mead. At the 7th roundabout turn left into Obrey Way (there is a sign for the park just before this). Take first left into Thorley Lane East, and in 200 metres the entrance to the car park is on the left. You should see a group of happy people on the field!

For more information contact Maggie Groves

Come for

Afternoon Tea

3 - 5 pm Thursday 16th June

6 Wetherfield

Proceeds to a

Sensory Garden

for the HFT home at Ugley

*Hosted by Brenda & Stuart Veitch
for Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist Women in Britain*



Every day we help people with learning disabilities get more out of life.

SACRED Songs & Solos

COME TO A 'SANKEY SERVICE'
ABBAY LANE URC, SAFFRON WALDEN

SUNDAY 26TH JUNE 3 PM

LED BY REV'D STUART VEITCH
WITH THE ABBAY LANE SINGERS

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

Help us choose what to sing from:

Blessed Assurance
I've found a friend
I am thine, O Lord
Jesus loves me!
Bringing in the sheaves!
To God be the Glory
Hold the Fort
When peace like a river
All Hail the Power!
Praise Him, Praise Him
Standing on the Promises
Beneath the cross of Jesus
Will your anchor hold?
When He cometh
Beautiful valley of Eden
Low in the grave He lay

I know not why God's wondrous grace
Shall we gather at the river?
I hear thy welcome voice
Wonderful words of Life
Tell me the old, old story
There's a land that is fairer than day
I will sing the wondrous story
There shall be showers of blessing
God be with you
Hold thou my hand
Rescue the perishing
When the trumpet of the Lord
Sound the battle cry!
We're marching to Zion
Standing by a purpose true

Please let me know your choices (up to ten) from the list above or any other suggestions by 4th June and I will pass them on.

Marion
marion@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Quiz Night at St Theresa's Parish Centre

Sat 25th June 7 for 7.30 pm

Tickets £10 (incl Fish & Chip Supper) available from me
Bring your own Drink & Glass - Quizmaster David Morson
Proceeds to Stort Interfaith Group - All Welcome

Catherine
catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

WEBS AUTUMN OUTING

Saturday 17th September

VISIT TO CONSTABLE COUNTRY

Morning: Dedham

Afternoon: Flatford Mill (National Trust)

Coach leaves Swan Meadow, Saffron Walden 9 am returning 6 pm

Lunch at Marlborough Head Inn, High Street, Dedham
www.marlborough-head.co.uk

Cost £15 (not including lunch etc)

Please book by end of July

Val Email: v.bowtle@btinternet.com

Margaret Email: masnowdon@btinternet.com

All Welcome

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)
On sabbatical 4th April - 4th July - please contact the secretary

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