

Imagine!



March
2016

Imagine you are a Roman soldier shipped in to Jerusalem like thousands of others to cover the festival of Passover. Millions of Jews from all over the world descend on the city and it is a major issue for the authorities. Here you are, given one of the worst jobs overseeing a crucifixion, and a political one at that. The high-ups are nervous about this one; he has followers and there was conflict between him and the priests, and that is never good news. The execution will be visited no doubt by some of the religious leaders, to see you have done your job properly and to jeer at their enemy.

However it has been pretty quiet; you have nailed him up so the riskiest stage is over, and now it is just a matter of waiting. You toss for his cloak - you win. What the hell will you do with it? You drink; that's expected, and you wait. The prisoner looks at you and says "Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing". What rot - you certainly do; done millions of them. You have to finish them all off, go back to Barracks, and sleep it off. You wake and notice the cloak, pick it up, and then it hits you. You have crucified an innocent man - maybe worse than that. You have a breakdown, get sent home, struggle for months, then come across that *** cloak again. You rush to pick it up to tear it to shreds, and stop. Incredibly, you feel forgiven. Peace. You are not to blame!! Peace like you have never felt before.

Such might have been the impact on a Roman soldier. The impact on the disciples is even more remarkable; silly, stupid, gutless men turned into bold, authoritative apostles by one act of God.

Can we experience for ourselves the incredible events of Easter? We ought to give it a go, for it does seem to completely change peoples' hearts and lives.

Stuart Veitch



Care Time



We remember the Finbow family following the death of Colin; Messy Church on 13th March; the special events during Lent and Easter; Roy as he prepares for his sabbatical; and those in our wider church family who need our prayers.

RUNNING FOR ST ELIZABETH'S

My granddaughter Rachel works at St Elizabeth's Centre which I am sure you all know about. This year Rachel is running in the London Marathon for St Elizabeth's. She is not asking any of you to sponsor her, but if you have the odd £1 coin in your purse or pocket, she would be very grateful, as £1 coins soon add up! Any coins can be given to me and I will see they get to the right place. Thank you.

Marion Pretty

In this issue:	Page
Running for St Elizabeth's	2
Worship & Other Church Activities	3
Easter Services	3
Stainer's Crucifixion	4
Lent Groups	4
Women's World Day of Prayer	5
Fairtrade Fortnight Big Brew	5
Messy Church	5
Another Century - but not one to celebrate	6
The Place on the Hill Easter Event	7
Can you help?	7
Development of Newport URC	7
Contacts	Back Cover

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Easter Sunday 27th March. Please submit articles by Friday 18th March 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 MARCH

Worship at Stansted Free Church

6th	10.30 am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Fairtrade Service
13th	10.30 am	Rev'd Charles Martin
20th	10.30 am	Mike Render - Palm Sunday
25th	10.30 am	Worship Leaders - Good Friday Service
27th	10.45 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Easter Communion

Other Activities

Wed 2nd	8.00 pm	Lent Group in the Hall
	8.00 pm	LPWL Meeting at B S Methodist Church
Fri 4th	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer in the Church
Sun 6th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Wed 9th	10.30 am	Fairtrade Stalls in the Church (<i>see p 5</i>)
	8.00 pm	Lent Group in the Hall
Thu 10th	10.30 am	Big Brew and Fairtrade Stalls in the Church (<i>see p 5</i>)
Sun 13th	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
Wed 16th	8.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at B S Methodist Church
Wed 23rd	10.00 am	The Place Easter Special (<i>see p 7</i>)
Thu 24th	7.30 pm	Tenebrae Service and Light Supper at B S URC
	8.00 pm	Tenebrae Service at B S Methodist Church
Fri 25th	2.00 pm	Stainer's Crucifixion at Abbey Lane URC (<i>see p 4</i>)
Thu 31st	9.30 am	Church Oversight Group at 7 Blythwood Gardens

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 24th March

Tenebrae Service (incl light supper) 7.30 pm Bishop's Stortford URC Hall. For catering purposes, call Sarah 755610 Email: office@waterlaneurc.org.uk

Tenebrae Service 8.00 pm Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Good Friday 25th March

Reflective Service 10.30 am led by the Worship Leaders

Stainer's Crucifixion 2 pm Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden (*see p 4*)

Easter Day 27th March

Communion service 10.45 am led by Rev'd Roy Fowler **Note time**



COME AND SING

The Crucifixion - J Stainer

2 - 3 pm Good Friday 25th March

Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden

All welcome - singers and listeners

Soloist Steve Cass ~ Conductor Stephen Rapkin

Bring your own music

or see Marion Dyer if you would like to borrow a copy

This is an act of worship for two solo voices and chorus interspersed with congregational hymns - it is not a concert

There are no rehearsals for the choir

Just come and sing on the day

We warmly invite friends from WEBS to join us

For more information contact Stephen

Email: stephen@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

LENT GROUPS 2016 - HOPE ACTUALLY



A course by the Church Urban Fund with video, discussion and bible study

Each session will be led by a different church

Remaining sessions Wednesday 8 - 9.30 pm (*coffee from 7.45 pm*) in the Hall

2nd Mar The **challenge** of the Gospel John 2.13-22

9th Mar The **power** of the Gospel John 12.20-33

All welcome. You do not have to attend every week. Come when you can!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2 pm Friday 4th March Stansted Free Church



Receive Children - Receive Me

Prepared by the women of Cuba

The theme reflects Mark chapter 10 verses 13-16, which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect. The service is followed by refreshments. Fairtrade stall. All welcome – men and women.

Brenda



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT BIG BREW

Fairtrade COFFEE / tea & Sale OF FAIRTRADE GOODS

PLUS Bring & Buy Books and Bric-à-Brac

10.30 am - noon Thur 10th Mar in the Church & Foyer

The stalls will also be available on Wed 9th Mar
at The Place on the Hill

All are warmly invited~ come and browse!

Contact Brenda for more information



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 13th March 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 on 814059), and to provide sandwiches and cakes (please call Carol). For general information please call Marion & Mike.

ANOTHER CENTENARY - BUT NOT ONE TO CELEBRATE

On 24th March 1916, my grandfather Private Harry Trigg of The Essex Regiment was killed in France aged 32, and his grave is in the British Military Cemetery in the village of Vermelles in Northern France. As I did not know the whereabouts of his grave, I rang the War Graves Commission and within a couple of minutes they told me exactly where his grave was situated and how to find the cemetery. I decided that the next time we were in France we would visit the grave, as apparently nobody in our family had ever seen it. However, we still did not get round to it until a few years later when we decided more or less on the spur of the moment to go. We booked the ferry and a room at the Campanile Hotel at Lens in northern France.

On arrival at the cemetery we followed the directions we had been given and there in the right-hand corner close to the road in plot 2, row C, grave No 17, was the headstone engraved with the words: 16852 Private Harry Trigg, Essex Regiment, 24th March 1916. I cannot describe the feeling when I read my family name on a headstone in a foreign country, and as I stood looking at my grandfather's grave, it was all the more poignant for me as my father's name was also Harry. I then recalled the words of Rupert Brooke: "If I should die think only this of me, there is a corner of some foreign field that is forever England."



There are 2123 graves in this cemetery of young British soldiers, some as young as 18, very few older than early 30s. "They will grow not old, At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them." There were also a few German graves. My grandfather's name is on the war memorial in Manuden churchyard together with that of his younger brother Sergeant Leonard Trigg of the Bedfordshire Regiment, who was killed just 3 months later on 4th June 1916 aged 30. He has no known grave, although his name is on the memorial in the British cemetery in Arras. My Great Grandparents, William and Ellen Trigg of Manuden had seven sons, all of whom served in one or other of the armed services: Royal Engineers, Bedfordshire Regiment, Essex Regiment, Royal Navy, and Cameron Highlanders. Of the seven, Arthur, Harry and Leonard never returned.

Tony Trigg



Easter Event
Wednesday 23rd March
10 am - 11.30 am

Come and join the fun decorating
eggs & crosses
and making Easter baskets

**All Welcome - do come along even if
you do not normally attend The Place**

The Place is open Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
including the school holidays

but we will be closed on Good Friday 25th March

For more details contact Marion & Mike

email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

Does anyone have any spare plastic biscuit 'tins' for The Place on the Hill? The tins we use to store cakes and biscuits are getting a bit 'grotty'. Plastic ones are easier to keep clean. Please contact me if you can help. Thank you.

Betty
betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

DEVELOPMENT OF NEWPORT URC

Following discussion with the Church Secretaries at Abbey Lane, Water Lane and Stansted, and consultation with the Newport Elders, there will be an open meeting on Saturday 14th May 10 am - noon, to begin exploring the future development and use of the Newport URC building and grounds as a resource for the WEBS Pastorate.

The purpose of the meeting is to enable an open discussion for any interested members of the WEBS churches to express their hopes, ideas and concerns, with the intention of establishing a working group to explore things further and formulate some proposals. Further information will be circulated nearer the date.

Rev'd Caroline Vodden

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

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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 Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Tel Marion & Mike, Catherine & Alan or Fran

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk