

Imagine!



May
2016

I imagine it is 6 pm, looking a bit like rain, and it is cool. You put on your coat, head out and start door-knocking. One in three households is out, maybe still at work, so you make a note to come back a bit later on another day. If you are lucky your bag fills up with envelopes containing donations, and (a result!) with the tax declaration completed. Eventually you return home weary, ready for a warm drink.

This is what thousands of people will be doing all over the country in the week beginning 15th May. Why do they do it?

Well, they do it because in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Malawi people are going hungry due to the drought caused by the El Nino weather system; because women in Brazil who are suffering domestic violence need a safe refuge; because in South America the Zika virus is spreading and people need to be taught how to prevent it and to mitigate the impact; because refugees in Lebanon who have fled the conflict in Syria need support, and displaced Iraqis need food, blankets and fuel; because a year after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, people need advice on building earthquake resistant homes and to have their broken water supplies fixed; and because people in Bangladesh need help in moving their homes beyond the reach of flood water which inundates their houses several times a year.

I could go on! All these are situations in which Christian Aid is working through its partners to bring much-needed aid; and there are many, many more examples.

That is why an army of Christian Aid supporters will be leaving the comfort of their armchairs to collect money, generously given by communities. It is putting into action Jesus' call to love our neighbours - and imagine - maybe this year the sun will shine!

Catherine Dean



Care Time



We pray for: Messy Church on 22nd May; those who come to The Place and are going through difficult times; Phyllis Harrison, Valerie Trundle, Blanca Stevenson and Ruth Rawlinson who have been in hospital; those in our wider church family who need our prayers; 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! Tel Kathy for more information

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

Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	Julie Finbow - New Directions
8th	10.30 am	Christine Heyhoe
15th	10.30 am	Faith Paulding
22nd	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler - Communion
29th	10.30 am	Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Other Activities

Sun 8th	6.30 pm	Easter Offering Service - B Stortford Meth (<i>see p4</i>)
Mon 9th	8.00 pm	Shalom Bible Study (Stuart) - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sat 14th	11.30 am	Open Meeting - Newport URC (<i>see below</i>)
Sun 15th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
	6.30 pm	Christian Aid Service - Quaker Meeting House
Sun 22nd	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
Mon 23rd	8.00 pm	Shalom At Home - 13 Blackbushe, B Stortford
Wed 25th	7.30 pm	WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer

WEBS MEETINGS

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

DEVELOPMENT OF NEWPORT URC

There will be an open meeting on Saturday 14th May 11.30 am - 1.30 pm, to begin exploring the future development and use of the Newport URC building and grounds as a resource for the WEBS Pastorate. Bring a packed lunch - drinks provided.

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.

Rev'd Caroline Vodden

EASTER OFFERING 2016



Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches overseas.

"Child, get up!"



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

The Methodist Church

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Photo by Linda Crossley, Vice-President, Methodist Women in Britain, showing Dalit girls at a community education project, run by the Church of North India's Hindup College, for rag pickers in the city of Nagpur.

Sunday 8th May 6.30 pm
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church
All Welcome



Christian Aid Week 16th - 20th May

Please join the ecumenical service in Stansted on Sunday 15th May 6.30 pm in the Quaker Meeting House. All welcome. House to house collectors are still needed - please contact me if you can help.

Catherine
catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

RECENT SERVICES

Easter Sunday



Women's World Day of Prayer



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH
Sunday 22nd May 3.30 - 5 pm
St Mary's School, Foresthall Park



An **exciting** and **informal** style of church for families, with activities, celebration and food (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.

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

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 know not why God's wondrous grace
I've found a friend	Shall we gather at the river?
I am thine, O Lord	I hear thy welcome voice
Jesus loves me!	Wonderful words of Life
Bringing in the sheaves!	Tell me the old, old story
To God be the Glory	There's a land that is fairer than day
Hold the Fort	I will sing the wondrous story
When peace like a river	There shall be showers of blessing
All Hail the Power!	God be with you
Praise Him, Praise Him	Hold thou my hand
Standing on the Promises	Rescue the perishing
Beneath the cross of Jesus	When the trumpet of the Lord
Will your anchor hold?	Sound the battle cry!
When He cometh	We're marching to Zion
Beautiful valley of Eden	Standing by a purpose true
Low in the grave He lay	

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

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

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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