

Imagine!

October
2016

Stansted Free Church



I imagine you were watching a child solving a jigsaw puzzle and to your surprise, a Damascus Road experience seized your mind. It might not happen at the Place on the Hill but, as I found out, it really did happen, and my own enlightenment started with a trip to Chelmsford Cathedral. Imagine a touring series of tableaux from the Quaker Tapestry displayed in an aisle; incredible works of art created by over 4,000 hands and showing wonderful consistency of design, colouring and construction in reworking the story of the Quaker's tireless quest for peace and social justice.

Photographs were discouraged at the exhibition but I managed to persuade the curator to capture my face by a tableau celebrating

Daniel Wheeler! Having fraudulently claimed him as my ancestor I began to research his real history. The tableau shows wonderfully sewn Russian Onion Church domes suggested by a summons from Tsar Alexander 1, eager to bring a Quaker engineer to the imperial capital to reclaim the marshlands.



Daniel had known he would be called to St Petersburg the moment he came across his son piecing together a jigsaw puzzle of that city. Imagine what a strange way to get a vision!

Daniel carried out his work and discussed Quakerism with a very receptive Tsar. The bonds of friendship were set between engineer and emperor lasting until the Tsars death in 1825. Many Quakers from George Fox onwards have felt a burning in their hearts to take the gospel and its social demands to Russia. Contacts made with Peter the Great by earlier Quakers continued with Catherine the

Great and then of course with Alexander 1. Even today, Quakers in Moscow strive for peace and social justice but probably not with Putin's interest. It is good to know that Christian counter-cultural forces are working for good in the very dark Russia of today. You can read more on the website of the Moscow Friends' Meeting House www.friendshousemoscow.org including a historical survey of the Friends involvement in Russia from 1656 to the present century.

Alan Wheeler



Harvest Events
Mon 17th & Wed 19th October
10 am - 11.30 am

Come and join the fun being creative
All Welcome - do come along even if you do not normally attend The Place

The Place is open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

For more details contact Marion & Mike

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 30th October. Please submit articles by Friday 21st October 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 OCTOBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd	10.30 am	Nicola Grieves - New Directions
9th	10.30 am	Jerry Heyhoe
16th	10.30 am	Rev'd Caroline Vodden - Harvest (gifts for Stansted Foodbank)
23rd	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
30th	10.30 am	Rev'd David Mullins

Other Activities

Sun 2nd	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Thu 6th	9.30 am	Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Mon 10th	8.00 pm	Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Wed 12th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Forum - Quaker Meeting Hse
Sat 15th	9.30 am	WEBS Get Together for COG - Newport URC
	7.00pm	Water Lane URC Bishop's Stortford Quiz (p7)
Sun 16th	6.00 pm	Village Harvest Supper - St John's Hall
Mon 17th/Wed 19th	10.00 am	The Place on the Hill Harvest Events (p2)
Sat 22nd/Sat 29th	10.00 am	Shoobox Items Collections Mornings (p7)
Sat 22nd	7.30 pm	Shooboxes Quiz - St Theresa's Parish Centre (p6)
Mon 24th	8.00 pm	Shalom At Home - 49 Recreation Ground
Wed 26th	2.30 pm	WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer
Sat 29th	10.00 am	Annual Church Meeting in the Hall



WEBS Bible Studies Autumn 2016 Sing New Psalms led by Rev'd Roy Fowler

Wednesday 26th October

Psalms of Confession

Wednesday 23rd November

Psalms of Trust

2.30 - 4 pm at Stansted Free Church or 7.30 - 9 pm at Abbey Lane URC



Village Harvest Supper

6 - 8.30 pm Sun 16th Oct St John's Church Hall

Fish / Chicken / Veggie & Chips followed by entertainment from the churches

Tickets: Adults £7 Schoolchildren £5 - advance booking essential
from Marion ~ Bring your own drink & glass ~ All welcome

WEBS OUTING TO CONSTABLE COUNTRY

Although the weather looked a bit bleak after the recent summer days, the sky started to brighten up as our WEBS outing reached Constable country.



We arrived in Dedham just in time for coffee, which the Stansted contingent enjoyed as a spontaneous group along with Caroline and Paul in the Dedham Craft Centre.



After coffee and delicious scones we had a chance to look at some beautiful landscapes, animal paintings and other interesting crafts. We could imagine John Constable being captivated by the beautiful Suffolk woods and pastures by the river.

We had booked lunch at the Marlborough Head Inn so there was plenty of time beforehand to walk around Dedham including along a nice footpath that led to Dedham Lock on the River Stour.

Then just time for a quick look Dedham Church before lunch, which provided a good opportunity to get to know people from the other WEBS churches.



After lunch some of us tried to take a boat trip to Flatford but unfortunately the boatyard had closed for the day. Then after an unplanned incident, we joined the coach to Flatford. This was the most famous Constable location where he painted his Hay Wain. Some of us walked along the river to spot Willie Lott's cottage, the actual site of the painting. Suffice to say that it doesn't look anything like it did in Constable's day and the scene he painted is now obscured by a lot of undergrowth and foliage.



Nevertheless the riverside aspect was pleasingly atmospheric with many families out enjoying the last of the summer weather with their dogs and young children. All too soon it was time to take the coach back to Stansted and we look forward to the next occasion when WEBS folk can get together.



Let's hope Ted has enough material for a few paintings!

Alan Wheeler and Marion Pretty

Photos by Roy Fowler



SHOE BOXES QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22nd October 7 for 7.30 pm

St Theresa's Parish Centre

Raising funds to cover transportation costs for the shoeboxes

Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's from Catherine

Bring your own drink & glass - All Welcome

Church Deacon Vacancy

We have six deacons who represent the church members, and are elected for an initial term of six years. At the Annual Church Meeting, one of the deacons steps down, and although he or she could be re-elected for a further six years, this is an opportunity to draw someone new into this very important role in our church life. The Church Oversight Group (or COG as it is affectionately known) comprises the six deacons, joint treasurers, secretary (who may or may not also be a deacon), property secretary and the minister.

We meet every two months to discuss any issues concerning the running of the church, finance, pastoral concerns, etc, and if appropriate, bring proposals to the Church Meeting. This year Valerie Trundle will be stepping down and we would ask all church members to prayerfully consider whether they should take on this role. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to Valerie or one of the other deacons: Catherine, Betty, Brenda, Marion Pretty and Judy. Anyone wishing to be considered must be nominated by another church member. Please hand any nominations to Betty by 22nd October.

Christmas is
a time of giving



SHOE BOX ITEMS COLLECTION MORNINGS

in the Free Church Foyer
Sat 22nd Oct and Sat 29th Oct
10 am - noon

We would be pleased to receive

- ✓ *completed boxes*
- ✓ *items for the boxes ***
- ✓ *financial contributions*

**PLEASE NOTE empty shoe boxes are not
required this year**

**** For suitable items please see leaflets in the
churches or contact us as above**

Shoe Box Packing is on

Wed 9th November 7 pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre

See separate notices for details



WATER LANE URC QUIZ NIGHT

led by Alan & Lizzy Gardiner

Saturday 15 October 7.00 pm in the Church Hall

Tickets £6 including Ploughman's Supper (bring your own drinks)

Tel Church Office

Proceeds to Water Lane Church Funds

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

Revd Caroline Vodden

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