

Imagine!

July
2017



I imagine a 23rd Psalm for today!

My church is the Lord's shepherd, so I will never want for anything (really anything!).

You give me a warm place to come and feel at home.

You offer me a lake of quiet, away from the torrents (torrents not torments!!) and whirlpools of life.

You remind me that I have a soul.

Your great delight is to teach me more about my Lord God and His son Jesus and what they would have me do.

Even though I walk through the shadow of death (dark moments at A&E trying to comfort a dying loved one who cannot bear more speech!) peering into the shadow of death by wars, floods, starvation....moving towards death, I will still try to fear neither neglect nor 'over-caring' nor what is to come. You are standing by me; you will prod some of your 'staff' to comfort me!

You prepare all sorts of pleasant things for me; that table laid regularly for Communion; the Christmas, Harvest and Anniversary celebrations where even non-believers come and enjoy the place and company you offer. You pray with me when I'm ill and remember me with gifts and cards for shared occasions - not the World Cup but a full beaker!

Surely all your goodness and mercy will continue to shine for all around you - and I will continue to enjoy it in the 'house of many mansions'.

This message, written by Phyllis Harrison, first appeared in the July 2010 issue of Imagine - how relevant it still is for us today!

Memories of Phyllis

Phyllis was gifted in many ways. She often entertained us with her poetry about events relating to life in Stansted. The poem below was part of our church's contribution to the entertainment at the Village Harvest Supper in 2009.

**What is this life if, full of care,
We have no zest for harvest fare?**

No thrill beholding, crisp n' dry,
The re-recurring shepherd's pie?
(hopefully lamb from
good New Zealand stock,
Not from some Bethlehem
shepherds' flock)

Girls with "Jerusalem and Jam"
May demonstrate
"New ways with lamb"
While groovier folk prefer their grub
In some up-market, French-style pub

O for a taste of crumble upon plum
All just as good as "made by Mum".
Dull would he be of sense
who could pass by
The sight of Stansted's harvest bakery!

On with the crumble! – and of course
Lashings of cream
and gold custard sauce!
What is this life if full of pie,
We cannot choose our way to die?

I've loved these harvest "Salad Days"
Tomorrow?? -
- to fresh fads and takeaways?

Written and read by Phyllis Harrison



Keeping up with the Latest Events



The last photograph we have of Phyllis at church was taken at our 10th Church Anniversary celebrations in September 2016.

Phyllis always took a keen interest in what was happening and enjoyed chatting to everyone. Here she is catching up on the news with Rev'd David Simpson, one of our former URC ministers.

A reminder that there will be a Memorial Service for Phyllis at 1 pm on Friday 30th June in St John's Church, followed by refreshments in Ugley Village Hall

Pulpit Exchange



On 11th June we were delighted to welcome Rev'd Paul Wilkin from St John's Church as the preacher. The service was led by Roy, and student minister Dan also assisted with the service. Earlier that morning, Roy had preached at the service led by Paul in St John's Church.

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 2nd 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
9th 10.30 am Rev'd Charles Martin - Communion
16th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
23rd 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins Farewell Circuit Service at B S Meth
No service at our church
30th 10.30 am Mike Render

Other Activities

- Sun 2nd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Tue 4th 7.30 pm WEBS Bible Study at Newport URC
Sat 15th 10.00 am Flower Festival and Exhibition at Abbey Lane URC
Sun 16th 1.00 pm Flower Festival and Exhibition at Abbey Lane URC
Thu 20th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Tue 25th 7.30 pm Duo Kyiv at Abbey Lane URC, S Walden
Sat 29th 10.00 am Church Meeting in the Hall

August Special Events

- Sat 5th 10 am - noon and 2 - 4 pm Roy and Christine Open House
Sun 6th 10.30 am New Directions service with speaker from **Bible Society**

Special July Events at Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden

Saturday 15th 10 am - 5 pm and **Sunday 16th** 1 - 5 pm **Glories of Grace**
Flower festival and History Exhibition celebrating 500 years since the Reformation

Tuesday 25th 7.30 pm Concert by Ukranian Accordion **Duo Kyiv**. Includes works by Bach, Faure, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. **Admission free.**

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

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship
Some months we hold New Directions which is an informal service

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