

Imagine!



Oct
2017

Imagine the aroma of the Michaelmas daisies dancing in the gentle rain outside my window! The seasons have moved on from the warm summer as I endlessly chase late payers of Link adverts. Rather ironic as this Friday was the feast of St Michael and All Angels, a day on which debts are to be paid. Epstein's sculpture outside Coventry Cathedral vividly depicts St Michael slaying the devil, but in our evil times the devil seems far from being slain.

In a dark mood at Pentecost, Dr Giles Fraser, Parish Priest at St Mary's, Newington questioned whether he had really received the Holy Spirit (BBC radio 4 recently). Southwark had just been terrorised, his daughter just escaping involvement, he had suffered a massive heart attack and from his hospital bed had watched the smoke of a tower block billowing. A fellow minister brought him words from 2 Corinthians "We have this treasure in clay jars." 'How can this help me?' thought Fraser 'We are so vulnerable, easily broken, damaged or destroyed. What can I take from this?' As he pondered, he thought maybe he had received the Holy Spirit after all, but in a way that revealed to him that all he had belongs to God and not to him.

As Fraser says "We can despair, or we can take advice from Paul's wisdom. There is a way to place our heart beyond the reach of destruction; by shifting the centre of gravity in our lives to outside of ourselves we can find liberation from the fear of death, from self-absorption, from despair". As Paul reminds us *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed.*" Let us take encouragement from Paul this Michaelmas and believe the devil will be overcome and that like Paul we should not fret or worry. If courage and confidence in God's victory is enough for Paul so can it be for Giles Fraser and us.

Alan Wheeler



Care Time



We pray for the events that are happening during October, particularly Messy Church, the Church AGM and the Village Harvest Supper. We remember those who are unwell, awaiting surgery, recovering from accidents or operations, or undergoing treatment: Mike and Marion, Melvin, Desiree, Brenda, Valerie, Julie, and Trish. We also think of the Syrian Family, and those who come to The Place on the Hill and Messy Church.

Tony and Margaret Trigg would like to thank everyone for their good wishes on the occasion of their **Diamond Wedding Anniversary** and for the card which everyone signed, which was much appreciated.

Church Deacon Vacancy

We have six deacons, representing the church members, who have been 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, this is an opportunity to draw someone new into this very important role in our church life. Under our new constitution (which is to be adopted at the AGM), future deacons will only be elected for a term of three years. 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 issues concerning the running of the church, finance, pastoral concerns, etc, and if appropriate, bring proposals to the Church Meeting. This year Brenda Veitch will be stepping down and does not wish to be re-elected. We ask church members to prayerfully consider whether they should take on this role.

To know more about what is involved, please speak to Brenda or one of the other deacons: Catherine, Betty, Valerie, Marion Pretty and Judy. Anyone wishing to be considered must be nominated by another church member. Please hand nominations to Betty by 21st October.

THE BUNDLE An Asylum Seeker's Story

Sunday 15th October 3 - 5.30pm Quaker Meeting House

Follow one woman's journey from Chechnya to Britain, and her struggle to get refugee status. The play lasts 65 minutes, followed by refreshments and discussion with the performers and local refugee, migrant and asylum seeker activists. Entry free, retiring collection for organisations working with asylum seekers and refugees.

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	Mary Whittle
8th	10.30 am	John Banks
15th	11.00 am	Joint Service at B Stortford URC (<i>note time</i>)
22nd	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
29th	10.30 am	Denis Walker

Other Activities

Sun	8th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
		3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
Mon	9th	8.00 pm	Shalom 7 Blythwood Gardens
Wed	11th	2.30 pm	WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer
Sun	15th	2.00 pm	Reformation Talk in Water Lane URC Hall
		3.00 pm	<i>The Bundle</i> in the Quaker Meeting House
Wed	18th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Forum in the Hall
Mon	23rd	8.00 pm	Shalom <i>At Home</i> 62 St John's Road
Sat	28th	10.00 am	Annual Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun	29th	5.00 pm	Village Harvest supper in St John's Hall

WEBS SERVICE Sunday 15th October 11 am at Water Lane URC

with Rev'd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary, Churches Together in England
followed by a bring and share lunch and a talk at 2 pm entitled
REFORMATIONS - What happened and why it is important
Historical and Ecumenical perspectives



WEBS Bible Studies Autumn 2017

Praying with Scripture led by Rev'd Roy Fowler

Weds 11th Oct and 8th Nov in the Foyer 2.30 pm coffee 2.45 - 4 pm Bible Study

CHURCH MEETING and AGM Saturday 28th October at 10 am

This is when we discuss the life and work of our church and re-appoint our office holders and representatives to other meetings and organisations. We are also hoping to adopt our new constitution. Please come if you can.



Village Harvest Supper

5 - 7.30 pm Sun 29th 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 or Catherine ~ Bring your own drink & glass

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)
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WEBS Minister

Revd Caroline Vodden

Church Secretary

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Church Notices

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Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer
Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch
Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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