

Imagine!



SEP
2017

Imagine a world where all live free of the fear of being hungry. The tits have been very active in our garden this summer, flying backwards and forwards to the nuts and the seeds on our bird feeder. At a previous manse, we had house martins nesting in the eaves, and we would sit in the garden and watch them fly in and out taking insects to their young. Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Over the past weeks, farmers have been gathering in the harvest; the end of a cycle of care that goes back to last autumn. We shall be celebrating our harvest festival, remembering the hard work and concern that goes into producing the food we eat. For some of us, it may be the only time we stop and think about where our food comes from. Do we take our daily food for granted? I guess not, if we have visited a food bank recently, or we live in the famine struck areas of East Africa, or we are part of the food industry. We live in a strange world where some of us worry about whether our food is healthy or not while others continually worry whether they will eat or not. Wouldn't it be good if all could eat without worrying, like the tits coming to our bird feeder? Can we imagine a world like that? Do we not believe that in God's providence and with proper human care, all may freely eat?

When Jesus imagined care-free eating for all, he added a rider: "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Another word for righteousness is justice. Only through ensuring that living wages are paid, social welfare is adequate, trade is fair, and climate change is tackled will we ensure that all will eat without worrying. So let's celebrate the harvest with thankful hearts and a renewed commitment to creating a world where all may live free of the fear of hunger.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Roz".

RECENT EVENTS



Blanca celebrates her 88th birthday



Flower display created by Michelle for the Abbey Lane flower festival

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 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.

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3rd 10.30 am Nicola Grieves - New Directions
10th 10.30 am Rev'd Gill Hulme
17th 10.30 am Karen Quelch - Harvest *Collection for Stansted Foodbank*
24th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

- Wed 6th 8.00 pm LPWT Meeting in the Hall
Sat 9th 9.00 am - 4.00 pm Abbey Lane Open Day and History Exhibition
Sun 10th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Sun 10th 1.00 - 4.00 pm Abbey Lane Open Day and History Exhibition
Wed 13th 2.30 pm WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer
Sat 23rd 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm S Walden Bible Focus at Newport School
Wed 20th 8.00 pm Circuit Meeting in the Hall
Sat 30th 7.30 pm Shoebox Quiz in St Theresa's Parish Centre

HARVEST COLLECTION FOR STANSTED FOODBANK

The following items are needed: small jars coffee; tinned vegetables and potatoes; tinned fruit; cereals; long-life juice



WEBS Bible Studies Autumn 2017

Praying with Scripture led by Rev'd Roy Fowler

Wednesdays: 13th Sept, 11th Oct, 8th Nov in the Foyer
2.30 pm coffee 2.45 - 4 pm Bible Study



Saffron Walden
Bible Focus

Saturday 23 September Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport

Talks 3 - 4.30 pm and 6 - 7.30 pm beginning with a time of Worship
Speaker Jonathan Lamb, Leader of Keswick Ministries
Enquiries please email: swbible.focus@gmail.com



Shoebboxes Quiz Night

30th Sept 7 for 7.30 pm St Theresa's Parish Centre

Tickets £8 payable on the night

Bring your own food, drink and glass

Come on your own or as part of a team of 8-10

Raising funds to cover transportation costs for the shoeboxes

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

Church Secretary

Betty Francis
Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Notices

Marion Pretty

Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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
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