

Imagine!



Aug
2018

I imagine three teenage scouts creating the first *fake news*. Our mission, intended to earn us an important Scout badge, was to scale the Scottish mountain Ben More. One of the three scamps, a handy photographer, had the bright idea of standing the other two on a rock and by crouching low enough in the heather, he could falsely portray my brother Dennis and me on the summit of the mountain. Of course it didn't wash with the scoutmaster back in the scout hall and we didn't get our badges.

We had given up the climb when the going got rough, and got downhearted when the first false peak turned out to be nowhere near the top. Perhaps August is a bit like that, if we think of a year being for each of us a mountain to be climbed. August might be the part of the mountain that is particularly gruelling, a very tough part of the climb. There are no spectacular views, no awesome drops over cliff edges that spur the mountaineer on. The special feasts of the Christian year seem remote right now.

Last week, in the Bible notes I am using, the reading told of a small company of elders and leaders who accompany Moses' climb up the mountain. At a certain point they behold a mystic vision of God and their leader Moses bids them stay while he forges ahead to meet God in the cloud shrouding the peak.

In his commentary Rev'd Dr George Bailey recalls his own climbing experience of reaching the summit only to share the discovery of so many climbers that the summit is just a false one.

As Scouts we gave up at the first hurdle; but for Bailey the false peak opens up an exhilarating and enlarged understanding “of the size and height of the mountain, of realising that your first vision was too small to take it in. Yet, whilst you were struggling up the path, fixing your eyes on what you thought was the summit, that goal had actually been immensely helpful in motivating you to push ahead”.

Bailey quotes Gregory of Nyssa’s insight; Moses and the elders do indeed see something of God, but never all of Him, for “the divine is by its very nature infinite, enclosed by no boundary”. Whether we are on the nursery slopes or venturing fearlessly up into the cloud, let us be cheered by the immensity of God, and that this immense unfathomable God is interested in each one of us - even if we don’t deserve our badges!

Alan Wheeler



Care Time



We pray for: Desiree, Noel and Lillian and others who can no longer attend church; Valerie and Brenda awaiting treatment; Dave who is gradually improving; Margaret T that her cataract operation will be successful; Arthur, that his house move will go through soon; those who come to The Place on the Hill and are going through difficult times; and any others known to us.



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH
INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING



Please bring your used ink cartridges and place in the boxes in the foyer and the hall. All makes except Epson can be recycled, but they must be originals, not re-manufactured. We receive £1 for every cartridge which will go towards the costs of Messy Church.

Marion

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions
12th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler
19th 10.30 am Julie Finbow
26th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Sun 26th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after the service



OPEN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(not Bank Holiday Monday)

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Free Church, Chapel Hill

Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

BUILDING WORK IN THE HALL

Work begins on Monday 13th August to replace the ceiling in the hall and hall kitchen and is expected to take 2 - 3 weeks. The hall will be out of use during this time. An email will be circulated when the work is completed.

Mike

WEBS BIBLE STUDIES



Pilgrimage and The Bible

Led by Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Wednesdays: **5th Sept, 10th Oct, 21st Nov** in the Foyer

2.30 pm refreshments 2.45 - 4 pm Bible Study

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

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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)

Monday, Wednesday and Friday (not Bank Holidays)

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Tel Marion & Mike , Catherine or Fran

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

