

Imagine!

Feb
2018



Imagine your imagination. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 14th February. It is customary during Lent to consider our spirituality and our discipleship of Christ. Andrew Roberts in his book *Holy Habits*, in a chapter entitled *The Adventure of Discipleship*, invites us to follow Christ in our imagination. So here are a few thoughts on following Christ imaginatively.

We can read the Gospels with imagination

Ignatius of Loyola created a whole school of spirituality based on thinking ourselves into gospel scenes. He suggests that we try to picture ourselves in a story of Jesus, and, imaginatively using all our senses, allowing our exploration of the scene to feed our devotion and our following of Christ.

We can pray with imagination

As we bring to mind people and situations that need our prayer, we can try to imagine what it is like for them to be as they are; and then in our heightened awareness seek a deeper awareness of what God may be desiring to bring to them.

We can relate to others with imagination

Walking a mile in another person's shoes comes to mind here. We try to see them as they see themselves so we may be more sympathetic towards them and maybe offer help that is more useful. This is particularly important when people react to a situation differently to how we would react.

Imagination is not fantasy; we follow Christ in Lent on his journey to the cross. Christ engages with the real world: its suffering, its sin, its evil; and then Christ invites us to imagine what God's love can do when invited into our world and experience.

God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rev." followed by a stylized name.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

4th	10.30 am	Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
11th	10.30 am	Julie Finbow
18th	10.30 am	Rev'd Charles Martin
25th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Mon	12th	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Tue	13th	7.00 pm	Pancake Evening in the Hall (<i>see below</i>)
Sat	17th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall
Mon	19th	8.00 pm	Circuit Finance Meeting in the Hall
Tue	20th	7.30 pm	Lent Group at St Theresa's Parish Centre (<i>see opposite</i>)
Mon	26th	8.00 pm	Shalom At Home 62 St John's Road
Tue	27th	7.30 pm	Lent Group at St Theresa's Parish Centre (<i>see opposite</i>)

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our **Christmas Day Offering** for South Sudan which raised **£290**.

Pancakes and Prayer



Shrove Tuesday 13th February

Stansted Free Church Hall



Please come and join people from the other WEBS churches for a pre-Lent feast of pancakes

Pancakes and coffee will be served from 7pm followed by a short time of prayer and reflection at 8 pm

Everyone Welcome

For catering purposes it would be helpful (but not essential) if you can let Betty know you are coming

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 25th February. Please email articles by Friday 16th February to news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk or pass to one of the editors: Alan and Mike & Marion



What The Place on The Hill means to me

The place to meet a friendly face and relax and listen to children play
while Arthur teaches us how to paint and draw.
As I think who's that friendly face coming through the door?
Great coffee is made and what a treat
while we think who we will meet and greet while Martin gives us a tune.
On Wednesdays we greet the family from Orford House
As we think of all the special times we've had at The Place.
O what an amazing space
Let us give God the thanks and grace for this special place.

Written by Marilyn, one of our regular visitors



Care Time



We pray for: Desiree; Mike undergoing radiotherapy; Arthur, that he will find a buyer for his flat; the two Syrian families in Stansted; all those who are 'sleeping rough' during the cold weather; those who come to The Place on the Hill; and any others known to us.



LENT GROUPS 2018 Feast or Famine

This course considers the practical issues of economic austerity versus plenty in modern Britain and beyond. How can we understand the inequalities of today in the light of core Gospel themes, and how can Christians respond? There is a book accompanying the course; please contact Mike before 9th Feb to order one. Each session will be led by a member of one of the Stansted churches.

Tuesdays 7.30 - 9 pm (coffee served from 7.15 pm)

all at St Teresa's Parish Centre, High Lane

Feb 20th Spending or Saving? **27th** Hunger or Satisfaction?

Mar 6th Health or Wealth **13th** Security or Insecurity **20th** Cutting or Investing?

Everyone is most welcome. Please join us.

All welcome. You do not have to attend every week. Come when you can!

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

Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Methodist Superintendent

Rev'd Gill Hulme

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