

# Imagine!



Jan  
2018

**I** imagine that in 2018 we will be faced by loads of possibilities. Fun or fearful? Not everyone wants new possibilities, - "They are dangerous and we've faced enough of those." Jesus told a story of a man who bought a field because it contained a pearl, and to him, it was so precious it was worth all he had. He bought it, but what did he do then? Did he hide the pearl away from any further risks? No more change for the pearl?

No more change for us? We have found salvation and that's it. There's another Jesus story about a man who hid his one talent, whilst his mates speculated with theirs; they exposed their talents to risk. They gained their master's praise, whilst the one with one talent who would take no risks was condemned. It seems Jesus was saying that taking risks is what the Kingdom is about. Change is risky but if the Kingdom Way for our church and for ourselves means taking risks we are called to do just that.

So what changes should there be for us in 2018? Us as in *church* and us as in *ourselves*. We can be pretty sure that one thing is certain - not expecting and welcoming change is not the Kingdom Way. The fact that so many people in our country have turned away from Christianity demonstrates that something is wrong, either with the message, or with the messenger. God's values, his way of truth and love are always relevant to every generation; they don't need changing. The need for change is amongst the messengers. So what are the possibilities for change in 2018 for us to become relevant messengers for our desperate world?

Let's welcome 2018 and all it could bring for us in our task of sharing the Good News of God's love.

My very best wishes.

Stuart Veitch

## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

7th	10.30 am	Karen Quelch
14th	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler
21st	10.30 am	Janet Bottoms
28th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant Service

### Other Activities

Sat	20th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Quiz at St Theresa's ( <i>see below</i> )
Sun	21st	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Wed	24th	7.30 pm	Churches Together AGM at St Theresa's
Thu	25th	9.45 am	Church Oversight Group at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun	28th	3.30 pm	Stansted Messy Church at St Mary's School

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our **Gift Service** with goods for Whitechapel Mission, and the **Churches Together Celebration of Christmas and Carol Singing** which raised £1012.31 which has been sent to the Christian Aid Rohingya Appeal. Our **Christmas Day Offering** for South Sudan will remain open for a few weeks and donations may be placed in the box in the foyer.



Care Time



We pray for: Judy visiting her family in Australia; Desiree as she settles into her new home; Mike hoping to begin radiotherapy soon; Arthur, that his house move will go through smoothly; the two Syrian families in Stansted; Messy Church on 28th January; all those who are 'sleeping rough' during the cold weather; Julie and Marilyn, and others who come to the Place on the Hill.



## QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 20th January in St Theresa's Parish Centre

*In aid of Churches Together in Stansted Community Projects*

**Tickets £8 payable on the night (note: food is not provided)**

*Bring your own Food, Drink & Glass - All Welcome whether in a team or not*

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 28th January. Please email articles by Friday 19th January to [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk) or pass to one of the editors: Alan, Mike & Marion



## ***The Place Christmas Events*** ***Mon 18th, Wed 20th and Fri 22nd Dec***

***A record 42 adults and 24 children  
attended over the three days***

***Christingles, Carols & Father Christmas ...  
... a great time was had by all!***



***See [www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk) for more photos***

# **Stansted Free Church** (Methodist / URC)

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

Part of the WEBS (West Essex & Bishop's Stortford) URC Pastorate  
and the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Circuit

## **Contacts**

### **Minister**

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### **WEBS Minister**

Rev'd Caroline Vodden

### **Methodist Superintendent**

Rev'd Gill Hulme

### **Church Secretary**

Betty Francis  
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Marion Pretty

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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](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)