

Imagine!

NOV
2018



I imagine the loss to Stansted of those butcher's boys and farmhands who didn't return to take up life again in our village in 1918. In a week or so we will hear the names of those whose lives will never be known to us, announced once again around the War Memorial. When I hear Thomas and George Ecclestone named, I wonder what impact the bitter news of their loss had on their sister Mary. She worshipped with us for many years and we remember her fondly (even for her energy in barn-dancing right up to advanced years!). Imagine how she might have felt as she twirled around the dance floor in our own times, maybe reflecting how different it would have been if the two boys could have been swung across the floor towards her.

The Great War didn't turn out to be the war that ends wars. There are so many continuing conflicts right at this moment; South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to name two that are not constantly in the headlines. It is easy to despair, but Jesus says:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14 v 27

Do the words ring hollow when we survey the current world scene? The world does not seem to be able to give any kind of peace. Perhaps that is the irony of Jesus' words. If we expect the world to change, prison camps to disappear, state sponsored murders to stop, or safe zones to remain safe, we are under an illusion. *Let it begin with me*, the well known song says. Yes of course, but only as we individually (and collectively) keep alert for the peace that Jesus alone leaves with us and gives us. That peace passes all understanding but we must still be ready to accept it, make it ours, and through us take it to our world.

Alan Wheeler



Care Time



We pray for the events that are happening during November, particularly Messy Church and the Annual Church Meeting. We also remember Brenda, recovering from surgery; 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.

Congratulations to Arthur who was 87 in early October and to Lillian Bowman who celebrates her 90th birthday on 30th October.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our collection for the [Indonesia Earthquake Appeal](#) which raised £200, including gift aid.



SHOEBOX PACKING



St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane

Thursday 8th November 7 - 9 pm

Gratefully received in advance or on the night:

***Completed boxes, empty shoeboxes,
items for the boxes and financial contributions***

Come and join in the fun - everyone welcome

A Service of Remembrance for Advent

**Saturday 1st December 5.30 pm
Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden**

You are warmly invited to join us for this special service on the Saturday before Advent, which will include an Act of Remembrance and the dedication of a lighted Christmas tree in memory of those we have loved.

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

4th	10.30 am	The Worship Team - New Directions
11th	10.15 am	at St John's (no service at our church)
		note time
18th	10.30 am	Maureen Kendall
25th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Sat	3rd	10.00 am	Annual Church Meeting in the Hall
Thu	8th	7.00 pm	Shoebox packing at St Theresa's (<i>see previous page</i>)
Mon	12th	8.00 pm	Shalom 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun	18th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Wed	21st	2.30 pm	Bible Study in the Foyer (<i>see below</i>)
Sun	25th	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
Mon	26th	8.00 pm	Shalom <i>At Home</i> 49 Recreation Ground
Thu	29th	7.15 pm	Celebration of Christmas rehearsal at St John's (<i>see below</i>)

WEBS BIBLE STUDIES



Pilgrimage and The Bible Led by Rev'd Caroline Vodden
Wednesdays **21st Nov** and **5th December** in the Foyer
2.30 pm refreshments 2.45 - 4 pm Bible Study



Celebration of Christmas

3 pm Saturday 22nd December St John's Church

Choir Rehearsals in St John's Church

7.15 - 8 pm

Thurs 29th Nov, 6th & 13th Dec

All are welcome to join the choir - come and have some fun!

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

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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

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