

Imagine!



Oct
2018

I magine sitting inside a stuffy coach inside a metal box on wheels hurtling under the English Channel for half an hour. That's what some of us from Stansted U3A did on a sunny morning in the middle of September. Our destination was the picturesque town of Vianden in Luxembourg close to the border with Germany. Imagine what it would be like if you could leave out the tedious parts of a journey and be transported instantly to your destination. Would we decide to take more holidays? Imagine the chaos with everyone shooting off around the world every time we had a couple of hours to spare!

Life's journey has no short cuts. Imagine what it would be like if we were born as fully mature adults! Not only would it give our mothers a shock, but we would be totally unequipped for living. Fortunately, neither teleportation nor instant adulthood is likely to be available in our lifetimes, so we have time to prepare for the journey. I decided to travel light for the Luxembourg trip, and as we had temperatures in the high 20s and no rain, my decision was vindicated. Imagine how different it would have been if a cold wet front had come our way.

In Vianden many of us decided to visit the Chateau that dominated the town. It could be reached either by walking up the gently winding road or by taking the chairlift. Those of us who took the chairlift enjoyed a glorious view of rooftops and tree tops as the lift slowly hauled us up the rock. However, we soon realised that our journey to the Chateau had only just begun, because the chairlift terminal was about 0.4km (so said the sign!) above our destination! The rocky, zigzag footpath down through the trees was somewhat challenging.

I was reminded of the hymn by Anne Brontë that starts with the lines *Believe not those who say the upward path is smooth*, and was grateful that we were going downward! However, it was definitely not smooth and seemed to be rather longer than 0.4km.

For me the holiday was a reminder that life's journey is full of challenges and surprises, but if we put our trust in our Guide, we will experience the 'realms of joy' that seemed to elude Anne Brontë.

Mike Dyer



Care Time



We pray for the events that are happening during October, particularly Messy Church, *The Place* Harvest Specials and the Village Harvest Supper. We also remember Valerie and Brenda awaiting treatment; 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.



Harvest Events and Shoebox Packing
Mon 22nd, Wed 24th & Fri 26th October
10 am - 11.30 am

Come and join the fun being creative
All Welcome - do come along even if you do not normally attend The Place

The Place is open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

For more details contact Marion & Mike



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 OCTOBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

7th	10.30 am	Karen Quelch - New Directions
14th	10.30 am	Mike Render
21st	10.30 am	Rev'd Caroline Vodden
28th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Wed	3rd	7.30 pm	Churches Together Forum in the Hall
Sun	7th	6.00 pm	Film about St Paul in St John's Church (<i>see October Link</i>)
Sat	6th & 13th	10.00 am	Shoebox Items Collection in the Foyer
Mon	8th	8.00 pm	Shalom 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun	14th	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
Thu	18th	9.30 am	Church Oversight Group 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun	21st	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Mon 22nd, Wed 24th, Fri 26th		10.00 am	<i>The Place</i> Harvest Specials in the Church
Mon	22nd	8.00 pm	Shalom <i>At Home</i> 62 St John's Road
Sun	28th	6.00 pm	Village Harvest Supper in St Theresa's (see below)

WEBS BIBLE STUDIES



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



Village Harvest Supper

6 - 8.30 pm Sun 28th Oct St Theresa's Parish Centre

Fish / Chicken / Veggie & Chips followed by entertainment from the churches

Tickets: Adults £7 Schoolchildren £5 - advance booking essential
from Catherine ~ Bring your own drink & glass ~ All welcome

CHURCH MEETING and AGM Saturday 3rd November at 10 am

This is when we discuss the life and work of our church and re-appoint our office holders and representatives to other meetings and organisations.

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

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

