

Imagine!



SEP
2018

I imagine a road stretching out in front of you as far as the eye can see and beyond. It is the road you have to walk, but you are not concerned. Your focus is on your immediate surroundings, the present moment and the next step.

After 1,000 km (650 miles) of walking, 40 days and 40 nights of sunshine and rain, town and countryside, mountain and plain, silence and conversation, laughter and tears, I finally reached my destination at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

I left home on Sunday 13th May, travelling by train and coach to St-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the French Pyrenees, from where I set out on foot the next morning towards the monastery of Roncevalles. Here I met some French and Canadian pilgrims whose paths would cross with mine many times along the way.

A pilgrimage is not just about the sacred destination, but also about the journey itself. For me it was about learning to be fully present in each moment, to have ears for the sounds and the silence, to have eyes for the wide panoramas and the tiny iridescent beetles, and to be alert to opportunities for encounter with fellow pilgrims. It was about quieting the noise of my mind and being open to the still, small voice of the God of Love who waits to be found within us and around us.

After Santiago, I walked on to Fisterra, the western-most tip of the European mainland, to watch the sun disappear in a golden glow beyond the horizon. It marked the end of my sabbatical journey and the beginning of a new stage in my life and ministry as I turned towards home.

We may not all be able to walk to a sacred destination, but these words from a sculpture outside the town of Carrión de los Condes may fire our imagination:

EN LA VIDA
ERES UN PEREGRINO
A LA ETERNIDAD
DE DIOS

In life you are a pilgrim to the eternity of God

As we journey on together, may we trust the One who surrounds us with love and guides our steps to eternity.

Blessings
Caroline



Care Time



We were all saddened by the death of [Desiree Conroy](#), cousin of Peter Trundle, who attended our church for several years before moving into a care home in Saffron Walden recently. Desiree was a lovely, compassionate lady. Most of us only knew her in recent years but she had led a very full and active life as a nurse, and later as a carer for family members. She will be very much missed by her family and friends.

We pray for: Desiree's family; 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. As we celebrate our [Church Anniversary](#) on 2nd September, we give thanks for all that has happened at our Church over the past 12 years.



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 SEPTEMBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd	10.30 am	Rev'd Gill Hulme - Church Anniversary
9th	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler
16th	10.30 am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion
23rd	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Harvest (<i>see below</i>)
30th	10.30 am	Faith Paulding

Other Activities

Wed	5th	2.30 pm	WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer (<i>see below</i>)
Thu	13th	8.00pm	LPWT Meeting in the Church
Thu	27th	8.00pm	Circuit Meeting in the Hall
Sun	30th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service

Harvest Service 23rd September

We will be collecting items for the Whitechapel Mission which provides thousands of breakfasts to homeless people each year, and has the largest clothing store in London for the homeless. Items urgently needed are:

Food: baked beans, plum tomatoes (not chopped), sugar, coffee, honey, biscuits, instant hot chocolate

Toiletries: toothbrushes, razors

Clothes etc: men's underwear, socks, men's trainers and shoes, jeans waist 28-36", trousers waist 28-34", rucksacks, carrier bags, 35mm film canisters (used to distribute shampoo), blankets

If you are not able to be at the service, donations may be left in the vestry, but please label for Whitechapel. Thank you.

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

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

