

Imagine!

Apr
2019



I Imagine the darkest moment in your life. What did it feel like for you? All of us have some dark places we have experienced or carry within us. I know I do. Can we imagine them too?

The Christian journey takes us this month ever closer to Easter Day on Sunday 21st. Before we get to Easter Sunday, we have to embrace Good Friday. As some of the Gospel writers tell the story of Jesus' death on the cross, the last hours of Jesus' life are accompanied by darkness. Jesus is being portrayed as experiencing with us the shadowy side of our lives. Can we imagine Jesus being with us in that darkness?

Where is the meaning in Jesus experience of the darkness with us? The 15th century mystic known as Julian of Norwich is perhaps one of the most helpful guides for us. Around the age of 30, she was very ill and even expected to die. She was visited by a priest, who offered her a crucifix to hold. In that moment, she had a revelation of the love of God being present with her. Fortunately for us, she survived her illness and was able to record her revelation of Divine love. She went on to have further revelations of that love. Can we, in our darkest moments and places, imagine the crucified Christ with us bringing the love of God to us?

And then can we imagine the wonder and the joy of Easter Day, when we realise that there is nothing that can overcome the love of God?

May the presence and the joy of the crucified and risen Christ be with you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "Roz".

Welcome to
The



Easter Craft Special Events
Mon 15th & Wed 17th April
10 am - 11 am

Come and join the fun decorating
eggs & crosses
and making Easter baskets

All Welcome - even if you do not normally attend The Place

The Place on the Hill is open
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
including the school holidays

For more details contact Marion & Mike
email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Come and Sing (or just listen)

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

2 - 3 pm Good Friday 19th April

Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden

There are no rehearsals for the choir - just come and sing on the day

Followed by light refreshments

For more information contact Stephen



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

Good Friday 19th April 3.30 - 5 pm
Free Church Hall (note different venue)



You can see photographs of our previous Messy Church events at www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch. A very big thank you to all those who have helped or provided food. Sue will be looking for people to provide hot cross buns and cakes (please call Sue or email her on sue@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk if you can help).

For general information call Marion & Mike

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Worship at Stansted Free Church

7th	10.30 am	The Worship Team - New Directions
14th	10.30 am	Mark Hayes
19th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Good Friday
21st	11.00 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Easter Communion (<i>note time</i>)
28th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler

Other Activities

Wed 3rd/10th/17th	7 pm	CTS Lent Groups in St John's Church (<i>see below</i>)
Sun 14th	11.30 am	Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service
Mon 15th	10.00 am	The Place on the Hill Easter Special (<i>see opposite</i>)
Wed 17th	10.00 am	The Place on the Hill Easter Special
Fri 19th	2.00 pm	Stainer's Crucifixion at Abbey Lane URC (<i>see opposite</i>)
	3.30 pm	Messy Church in the Hall (<i>see opposite</i>)
Thu 24th	3.30 pm	Church Oversight Group 7 Blythwood Gardens

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 18th April

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7.30 pm (incl light supper) led by Roy Bishop's Stortford URC Hall. For catering purposes, contact Betty if you are planning to come

Circuit Service 8.00 pm led by Gill Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Good Friday 19th April

Reflective Service 10.30 am led by Roy

Stainer's Crucifixion 2 pm Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden

Messy Church 3.30 pm in the Hall

Easter Day 21st April

Communion service 11 am led by Roy (*note time*)



LENT GROUPS 2019 LEARN TO MEDITATE

Led by Rev'd Helen Flack, assistant curate of St John's, on **Wednesdays 3rd, 10th & 17th April 7.00 - 7.45pm** in St John's Church. This is meditation taught from a Christian perspective, but anyone of any faith (or none) who has an open mind is welcome. **Please join us.**

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

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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

