

Imagine!



Aug
2019

Imagine if the Bible were a mixture of truths and other things that followed an agenda of a particular scribe. How would we sort out the wheat from the chaff? How would we spot the things that had not actually happened but were there to illustrate a point that a writer wanted to get across? At the U3A philosophy group, our subject was the story of Abraham and Isaac. Two of our members didn't think it actually happened but was a story to present a particular point of view, i.e. the writer knew that Abraham was a man of great faith and suggested a dilemma that would put the patriarch on the spot. It's the dilemma of choosing: either follow God's instruction or alternatively act morally (don't kill Isaac).

I am reminded of a Socrates dialogue in which the concern raised is whether morality is right because God loves it, or whether we follow morality because we love God; and what happens if we face a conflict between our inclination to act morally and our obedience to God? That's an issue I will leave you to ponder. But what about the other issue? Are there things in the Bible that perhaps reflect a situation in times past which are irrelevant today; and other things representing the point of view of a particular writer? C H Dodd's exposition in *Parables of the Kingdom* tries to show that parts of the gospels actually reflect how the early church saw its situation and that words were put in the mouth of Jesus that he didn't actually say.

That's quite a dilemma isn't it? How do you handle this kind of thing? I guess we have to look to what we believe about the fundamental nature of God and Jesus, and maybe test the importance or otherwise of the Biblical text in the light of those fundamental things: grace, love, awe, care for the dispossessed, critique of the pomposity of religion to name but a few. Over to you - what do you think?

Alan Wheeler



Care Time

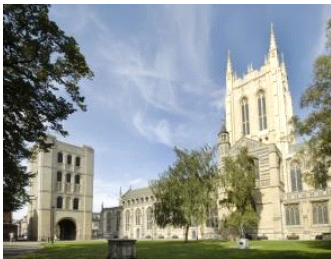


We remember all those who are unwell, going through stressful times, or in pain, especially Valerie; for Sue recovering from surgery on her foot; Mohammed, one of the Syrian refugees, recovering from heart surgery; Arthur still trying to sell his flat; and those who come to *The Place on the Hill*.

For requests to be read during Sunday worship, please use the prayer slips in the foyer or contact Betty

WEBS PASTORATE OUTING to BURY ST EDMUNDS

Saturday 14th September
Meeting at Bury St Edmunds at 10 am



Join an outing to Bury with the other churches in our pastorate. The cost is a maximum of £20 to include a guided tour of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and lunch. We are not booking a coach, but ask everybody to car share. We will visit some local churches and have a tour of the cathedral at 11 am followed by lunch at 1 pm. The afternoon is free for everybody to “do their own thing.”

Places are limited, so please let Betty know asap if you would like to go

The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on 25th August. Please submit articles by Friday 16th August to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to: 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP.

Editors: Alan Wheeler and Mike & Marion Dyer

**Copies of this and previous editions of *Imagine* can be found on our website
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk**

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Worship at Stansted Free Church

4th 10.30 am Richard Lewney - New Directions
11th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler
18th 10.30 am Julie Finbow
25th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Sun 25th 11.30 am Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service



Welcome to
The

OPEN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
(not Bank Holiday Monday)
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

LACE
ON THE HILL
The Place on the Hill
@placeonthehill

WORK ON THE HALL

External decoration of the weather-boarding, selected windows, doors and fascias begins on Monday 19th August and is expected to take 1 - 2 weeks. A small scaffolding tower will be used to reach the south end gable that is above sloping ground. The hall will not be used for external bookings during this time.

Mike



INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING & USED STAMP COLLECTION



Please bring your used ink cartridges and place in the boxes in the foyer and the hall. Most makes except Epson can be recycled, but they must be originals, not re-manufactured. All money raised will go towards the costs of Messy Church, which is organised by Churches Together in Stansted.

Please place any used stamps in the same box; these will go to Water Lane United Reformed Church, Bishop's Stortford, to add to their collection.

Marion

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

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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

