

Imagine!

Jan
2019



Imagine what it would have been like looking up at the brightest star you had ever seen. Would you have alerted your friends, nipped into a gift shop and rushed to mount your camel? In his book, Matthew tells us about some rather important people called Magi, who knew how to read the stars. For them that bright star was a sign that a king was to be born. Imagine how their families and friends must have ridiculed them for setting out on such a dangerous journey. Today we are able to travel to almost anywhere in the world without fearing for our safety, but when it comes to seeking Jesus we are reluctant to move out of our comfort zone. We might use the excuse that things are different now. We do not need to travel to Bethlehem in order to find Jesus. Surely as believers we have already found him anyway, so we can relax.

Imagine you are a collector of fine art and there is a particular painting that you are desperate to own. You know it exists, because it has been mentioned in old books. Would you then just keep a close watch on all the paintings that come up for auction at Sworder's sale room down the road? No, you would widen your search to sale rooms across the country or indeed the world. Imagine you manage to acquire that object of your desire. Would you hide it away in a cupboard, or hang it on the wall for others to enjoy? I am sure that the wise men told everyone about Jesus once they had returned to the East (perhaps the Yemen).

Let's make our new year's resolution not to keep Jesus to ourselves, but to help others find him too.

Mike Dyer



Care Time



We pray for the events that are happening during January, particularly Messy Church and the Alpha Course. We also remember Brenda, recovering from surgery; Arthur and Judy visiting family in Australia; those who come to *The Place on the Hill* and are going through difficult times; and any others known to us.



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 27th Jan 3.30 - 5 pm
St Mary's School, Foresthall Park



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 at our previous events. Sue has now taken over the organisation of the food and will be looking for people to provide sandwiches and cakes for 27th January (please call Sue if you can help). For general information call Marion & Mike.

THANK YOU ..

... to everyone who brought items to our Gift Service for **Whitechapel Mission** and to those who contributed to the Christmas Day collection for the **Bishop's Stortford Night Shelter** that raised £200, including gift aid.



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. Please note that we can no longer recycle mobile phones.

Marion

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

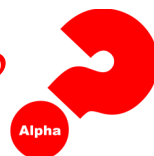
Worship at Stansted Free Church

6th	10.30 am	The Worship Team - New Directions
13th	10.30 am	Rev'd Charles Martin
20th	10.30 am	Rev'd Jan Atkins-Snow
27th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant Service and Communion

Other Activities

Wed	23rd	7.3pm	Churches Together AGM and Forum at St John's Church
Sun	27th	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
Mon	28th	7.30 pm	Alpha Course taster at the Day Centre
Wed	30th	12.30 pm	Alpha Course taster at the Day Centre

ALPHA COURSE IN STANSTED



An Alpha course is being held in Stansted. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk focuses on a different question and is designed to encourage a conversation where people of any faith or none can express their own views and listen to others' points of view. It is aimed at those who attend church but would like to understand more and ask questions, as well as those who have no church connection. It is an opportunity to cut through negative headlines and stereotypes, and to find out what the Christian faith is really about and how it helps people in their everyday lives.

Two identical **Taster Sessions** (including a meal, a 15-minute film and discussion) are planned for **Monday 28th January** 7.30 - 9.00 pm and **Wednesday 30th January** 12.30 - 2.00 pm at the Day Centre. There will be an opportunity to find out more about the course content, and to put forward any questions you would like to hear answered during the course. The Alpha Course (Part 1) will be continuing over the following five weeks (either daytime or evening). There will be an opportunity to do Part 2 later for those who are interested.

For catering purposes, it would be helpful if you could let me know if you are planning to attend.

Mike

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

