

Imagine!

July
2019



Imagine a glorious summer day. Families enjoying a seaside holiday watch the little boats' sails with the sailors soaking up the sun on deck; gardeners sit back to admire the fruit of their labours. I found a bundle of seed packets this year and sowed them in the hope some might come up. I provided soil, moisture and warmth and everything needed for growth, but the seeds had not been stored properly and failed to sprout. The fact is, a gardener does not actually grow plants; he or she facilitates the growth that is beyond the gardener's direct control. The gardener must work hard, digging and fertilizing, sowing and watering, weeding and pruning then, with the right conditions, the plants will produce a colourful and fruitful display.

Similarly, a sailor cannot produce the necessary wind to move a boat. A sailor practises sailing skills that harness the gift of wind, but there is nothing the sailor can do to make the wind blow (*Into the Silent Land* by Martin Laird). The sailor must work hard to learn the correct rigging and understand how to harness the wind, and then the boat can bring the sailor home.

Jesus tells Nicodemus "the wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3.8)

Our task is to rig our spiritual sails through worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship, so that we are ready to sail where God's Spirit blows; or if you prefer the garden analogy, we must tend our spiritual garden so that it provides the right conditions for the seeds of the Spirit to grow and produce the fruit of God's love. Enjoy the summer! In Christian love,

Caroline



Care Time



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

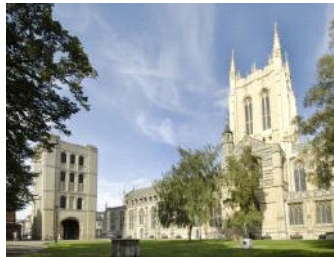
WEBS Bible Study

Please note that the Bible study scheduled for 18th July at Newport has been cancelled due to lack of support.

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 by 14th July if you would like to go

The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on 28th July. Please submit articles by Friday 19th July 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 JULY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

7th	10.30 am	Rev'd Martin Camroux
14th	10.30 am	Rev'd Gill Hulme
21st	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler
28th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Thu	4th	7.30 pm	History Talk at Saffron Walden URC
Sat	6th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Quiz at St Theresa's
Mon	8th	1.00 pm	Shalom Party at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Thu	11th	9.30 am	Church Oversight Group at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun	14th	3.00 pm	Sankey Service at Saffron Walden URC
Sat	20th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun	21st	11.30 am	Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service



QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 6th July in St Theresa's Parish Centre

In aid of Churches Together in Stansted Community Projects

Tickets £7 payable on the night (note: food is not provided)

Bring your own Food, Drink & Glass - All Welcome whether in a team or not

Please call Marion if you would like to be part of the Free Church team

EVENTS AT ABBEY LANE URC, SAFFRON WALDEN

SOME HISTORY by Stephen Rapkin

Thursday 4th July at 7.30 pm

A talk about place and people: their beliefs, disagreements, worship, even their politics.

Starting with our first minister, William Payne, who set up a Dissenting Academy in Walden in the 1690s. Then the charismatic, but possibly womanising, Joseph Gwen-nap who was thrown out but took most of the church with him to form the Baptist Church. Then two 19th century big-hitters - John Player and Joshua Clarke leading through to the early 20th century and issues which hit Congregationalism - Women, War and Politics. Plus something about the little people along the way...

**SACRED
SONGS & SOLOS**



Sunday 14th July at 3 pm

Sankey Service led by Rev'd Stuart Veitch followed by light refreshments

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

Revd Roy Fowler (day off Monday)
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

WEBS Minister

Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Methodist Superintendent

Rev'd Gill Hulme

Church Secretary

Betty Francis
Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer
Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch
Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

