

# Imagine!

MAR  
2019



**I** imagine the King! You have an audience with him. He has power over you and the slightest wrong word on your part could seal your destiny. Courtiers line the red carpet as you step warily towards the throne. They await the word that will surely crush you. The word that will show to all how small are you, who dares to stand before his presence.

As you approach, it seems he is reading some item of important business. Imagine your embarrassment when he turns and sees you there; how inappropriate that you should interrupt him at this time! The King looks up. His eyes rise slowly to meet yours. Who is this who comes to him at this time? You feel as if you are a small bewildered child and you suddenly remember you have brought nothing to give him that will honour his great majesty. You meet his eyes. Does a fierce anger dwell there? Now you really begin to see his eyes. They are not like sharp swords; rather, they are pools of water, for there are tears in his eyes.

You want to kneel, but instead he bows towards you and gently kisses your brow. His hands touch your arms and it is now that you notice deep cuts in his hands. He lifts them, takes off his crown and gently places it on your head. He turns you around to face his waiting courtiers. Now you see their faces - worn and weary. You notice they are standing in rags, and the King begins to tell you a story: "The Kingdom of God is like..." and then another story that begins the same way. It starts to turn upside down everything you ever thought about power, worthiness, and what is important in life. "I come to bring good news to the poor" he says "but my path leads me via the Cross".

*Alan Wheeler*



## Care Time



We remember Brenda, still improving after recent surgery; Jill and Russell, relatives of Iris; Arthur adjusting after his long visit to family in Australia; and those who come to *The Place on the Hill*.



### Pancakes and Prayer Shrove Tuesday 5th March Stansted Free Church



Please come and join people from the other WEBS Churches for a pre-Lent feast of pancakes  
For catering please call Betty if you are planning to come

**Pancakes and coffee will be served from 7pm followed by a short time of prayer and reflection at 8 pm**



### STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 10th Mar 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](http://www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch). A very big thank you to all those who have helped or provided food at our previous events. Sue will be looking for people to provide sandwiches and cakes (please contact Sue if you can help).

For general information call Marion & Mike



### LENT GROUPS 2019 LEARN TO MEDITATE

Instead of the usual Churches Together Lent meetings, there is to be a meditation group, led by Rev'd Helen Flack, assistant curate of St John's, on **Wednesdays 13<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April 7.00 - 7.45pm** in St John's Church. We will learn and practise the technique of silent prayer. 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.**

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

|      |          |                                 |
|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 3rd  | 10.30 am | Nicola Grieves - New Directions |
| 10th | 10.30 am | Rev'd Jan Atkins-Snow           |
| 17th | 10.30 am | Rev'd Stuart Veitch             |
| 24th | 10.30 am | Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion    |
| 31st | 10.30 am | Rev'd Christine Fowler          |

### Other Activities

|     |                    |          |   |
|-----|--------------------|----------|---|
| Sat | 2nd                | 10.00 am | Church Meeting in the Hall                                  |
| Tue | 5th                | 7.00 pm  | Pancakes and Prayer in the Church ( <i>see opposite</i> )   |
| Sun | 10th               | 11.30 am | Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service                   |
|     |                    | 3.30 pm  | Messy Church at St Mary's School ( <i>see opposite</i> )    |
| Wed | 13th / 20th / 27th |          | CTS Lent Groups in St John's Church ( <i>see opposite</i> ) |
| Thu | 14th               | 8.00 pm  | Circuit Meeting at B S Methodist Church                     |
| Sun | 17th               | 3.00 pm  | <i>The Story</i> at Newport URC ( <i>see below</i> )        |
| Thu | 21st               | 8.00 pm  | LPWT Meeting at B S Methodist Church                        |
| Tue | 26th               | 10.00 am | Fairtrade Big Brew in the Church ( <i>see below</i> )       |



### TRAIDCRAFT BIG BREW

Tuesday 26th March 10 am - noon

Stansted Free Church

Entry free - donations to Fairtrade welcome

**Join us for tea, coffee and cake and browse the Books and Bric-à-Brac**  
*Items for stalls also wanted - please call Brenda*

THE STORY  
THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUOUS STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE



### JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE ....

**Sunday 17th March at 3 pm**

*The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation.

The stories, poems and teachings of the Bible read like a novel; and like any good novel *The Story* is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption ... and this story is true!

**Join us for tea, cake and a good story at Newport URC**

# Stansted Free Church (Methodist / URC)

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer  
Email: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer  
Email: [treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch  
Email: [fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

