



**I**magine the joy a young woman feels when she is going to have a baby. But imagine that same young woman is full of apprehension, even fear, because her first baby was born in a village with no health centre nor trained nurse. She nearly died and her sickly baby died aged three months.

This young woman is called Tenneh, and fortunately nurse Judith has been trained by Christian Aid's partner in Sierra Leone to deliver her second baby safely.

This Christian Aid Week, the need for more trained midwives like Judith and better health facilities in Sierra Leone, where every day ten women die in childbirth, is being highlighted.

Imagine Tenneh's joy this time as she cradles a healthy baby in her arms.

Please give generously in Christian Aid week, 12th -16th May, so that other mums in Sierra Leone and around the world can see their babies grow and enjoy fullness of life.

Nurse Judith says "I know that for women here, thanks to Christian Aid, our situation is going to change".

We can be a part of that change.

There will be donation envelopes in church for your gifts.

Thank you.

*Catherine*



## Care Time



We remember all those who are unwell, going through stressful times, or in pain; Marilyn, mourning the loss of her brother; Arthur still trying to sell his flat; and those who come to *The Place on the Hill*.

We pray for the Swedish young people we met in February, who are preparing for their Confirmation Service on 12th May (see page 5).

### INK CARTRIDGE AND POSTAGE STAMP RECYCLING

We are very pleased that Water Lane URC are collecting ink cartridges for recycling on our behalf. We are now also collecting used stamps, which we will pass on to Water Lane to add to their collection. Please put any used stamps in the recycling boxes in the hall and the foyer (with the ink cartridges). Thank you.

Marion

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The next edition of ***Imagine*** will be available on 26th May. Please submit articles by Friday 17th May to: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk). Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to: 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP.

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**Copies of this and previous editions of *Imagine* can be found on our website**  
**[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th	10.30 am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - New Directions
12th	10.30 am	Rev'd Charles Martin
19th	10.30 am	Rev'd Gill Hulme
26th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Holy Communion

### Other Activities

Sat	11th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun	12th	11.30 am	Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service
Mon	13th	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens ( <i>see below</i> )
Thu	16th	7.30 pm	WEBS Bible Study at Newport URC ( <i>see below</i> )
Sun	19th	3.30 pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School ( <i>see page 7</i> )



## Follow Me!

Come and join friends from across the WEBS pastorate  
and explore together what it means to

### Follow Christ

**Thursdays 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

Newport United Reformed Church

16<sup>th</sup> May

Following Jesus in the Gospels

20<sup>th</sup> June

What we already know about following Christ

18<sup>th</sup> July

Help to follow Christ



SHALOM

Our next meeting is on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens, when Margaret Silvester will be playing some more of Phyllis Harrison's memoirs which she recorded for the History Society. Phyllis was a very active member of Shalom until recent years. All are very welcome.

Marion

Our congregation doubled in size one Sunday morning when we were joined by a group of 17 young people and seven adults from a large lively church in Hono, a small Swedish island to the west of Gothenburg. They were on a one-night stopover in Stansted.



Roy led the service which included Holy Communion.

Their leader had made contact via our website to let us know they were coming, which gave us time to prepare a bi-lingual order of service, thanks to *Google Translate!*



One of the Swedish leaders, Anton, read part of St Luke's gospel in Swedish, which was followed by Judy reading the same passage in English.

After the service, the group had their own session in the church, followed by a light lunch and short walk to some of the 'sights' of Stansted - namely the Windmill and the Recreation Ground! At 3.00pm we waved farewell at the station, where they boarded the train back to the airport for their flight.



Their church is part of the Equestrian Church (Uniting Church in Sweden), formed in 2011 by the joining of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden, the Baptist Union of Sweden and the United Methodist Church of Sweden.



As part of their preparation for Confirmation, the group were on their way to Gran Canaria to join a Swedish Christian sailing boat called *Elida*.

Their Confirmation service is on Sunday 12th May at 11 am (10 am our time).

*We all had a wonderful day and are keeping in touch.*

## Decorating the Cross on Easter Sunday





## ***Easter Craft Special Events Mon 15th and Wed 17th April***

We were very busy on our two Easter special days. Lots of people joined the fun decorating paper plates and crosses, and making bookmarks and Easter baskets.

We then watched a children's video of the Easter story, which was followed by a short talk and prayer.



There are lots more photos on our website - follow the link alongside *The Place* logo on the homepage to *Christmas, Easter and Harvest Special Events*

**The Place on the Hill is open every week**

**INCLUDING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
(not Bank Holidays)**

**9.30 am - 12.30 pm Free Church Foyer**

**Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge**

***Please note that we are not open on Mondays 6th and 27th May***



St John's Church Hall was out of use this year so we were pleased to host the Good Friday session.

Craft activities took place in the hall, followed by the worship celebration in the church.



Then it was back to the hall for hot cross buns and cakes.

A good time was had by all!

### Our next Merry Church is on

Sunday 19th May 3.30 - 5 pm at St Mary's School

You can see photographs of our previous Merry Church events at [www.stanstedchurches.com/merrychurch](http://www.stanstedchurches.com/merrychurch). A very big thank you to all those who have helped or provided food. Sue will be looking for people to provide sandwiches and cakes (please contact Sue email on [sue@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:sue@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk) if you can help).

For general information call Marion and Mike.

# **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**

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Rev'd Caroline Vodden

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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

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