

Imagine!



Oct
2019

Imagine what it must have been like to be a monk in one of the monasteries that dominated so many medieval towns. Imagine getting up at 2 am in order to attend Matins and then three hours later for Lauds and Prime.

Last month some of us from Stansted and Abbey Lane chose a more agreeable time for the WEBS outing to Bury St Edmund's. Sadly we were nearly 500 years too late to join the Benedictine monks for any of their daily offices in the Abbey Church. By way of contrast, before exploring the Abbey legacy, we visited the Grade 1 listed Unitarian Meeting House complete with its box pews and central pulpit. Its roots go back to the Act of Uniformity in 1662, when many worshippers rejected the new Book of Common Prayer. The present building was completed in 1711, and over 300 years later it is still used for worship and as a community resource. Imagine what it must have been like in those early days sitting through long sermons on those hard wooden pews without any heating!! However, it must have been even more uncomfortable for the Benedictines in the Abbey 200 years earlier. Thanks to Henry VIIIth the Abbey Church is in ruins, but we were able to visit two other magnificent churches that survive within the grounds of the Abbey; one of them became the cathedral and the other, St Mary's, claims to be the largest parish church in England. Its hammer beam 'angel' roof is truly awesome, and a modest slab marks the grave of Mary Tudor, Henry's sister.

This visit was a reminder that church buildings are the result of our instinctive desire to have a place to worship God. However, in some churches, the form of that worship has changed, and some buildings no longer exist. Is that a cause for concern? No, God is far bigger than any church building, and our relationship with him is not dependent on architecture. As we sit in our comfortable chairs on a Sunday morning, let us reflect and give thanks for what that relationship means to us.

Mike Dyer



Care Time



We continue to remember all those who are unwell, going through stressful times, or in pain, especially Valerie, Roy with his broken arm and chest infection, 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



Harvest Events and Shoebox Packing
Mon 28th Oct , Wed 30th Oct & Fri 1st Nov
10 am - 11.30 am

Come and join the fun being creative

All Welcome - do come along on either or all three days even if you do not normally attend The Place

The Place is open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

For more details contact Marion & Mike

INK CARTRIDGES, STAMPS AND DENTAL PRODUCTS RECYCLING

Please bring your used ink cartridges and place in the boxes in the foyer and the hall. All makes (now including Epson) can be recycled, but they must be originals, not re-manufactured. Any money we receive goes towards the costs of Messy Church.

We are also collecting used postage stamps on behalf of Bishop's Stortford URC, and they can be placed in the box with the ink cartridges.

Betty is collecting used toothbrushes, toothbrush heads, toothpaste tubes and pumps for recycling on behalf of an organisation in Elsenham. There is a separate box for these items near the ink cartridge box. Thank you.

Marion

Please submit articles for the next edition of *Imagine* by Friday 18th October
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 OCTOBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 6th 11.00 am WEBS service at Saffron Walden URC (*Note time*)
13th 10.30 am Faith Paulding
20th 10.30 am Mike Dyer - Harvest *Collecting for Whitechapel see below*
27th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

- Wed 2nd 8.00 pm Circuit Meeting in the Hall
Wed 9th 8.00 pm Churches Together Forum at St Theresa's
Sat 12th/19th 10.00am Shoebox Collection Mornings in the Foyer
Thu 17th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun 20th 6.30 pm Village Harvest Supper at St John's *see below*
Sat 26th 10.00 am Annual Church Meeting in the Hall *see below*
Sun 27th 11.30 am Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service
Mon 28th/Wed 30th/Fri 1st The Place Harvest Specials *see opposite*



Harvest Service 10.30 am Sunday 20th October

We will be collecting for the Whitechapel Mission.

Items urgently needed are:

Food: baked beans, plum tomatoes (not chopped), sugar, coffee, honey, biscuits, instant hot chocolate, ketchup, tinned tuna and other fish

Toiletries: body lotion, body wash, ladies make-up, shaving foam

Clothes etc: men's pants, men's trainers and shoes, jeans waist 28-36", trousers waist 28-34", ladies' pants and bras, rucksacks, carrier bags, 35mm film canisters (to distribute shampoo), blankets, sleeping bags

*If you are not able to be at the service, donations may be left in the **kitchen** but please label for Whitechapel. Thank you.*



Village Harvest Supper

6.30 pm Sunday 20th October in St John's Hall

Fish / Chicken / Sausage / Veggie & Chips followed by entertainment from the churches

Tickets: Adults £7.50 Schoolchildren £5 - advance booking essential
from Catherine ~ Bring your own drink & glass ~ All welcome

CHURCH MEETING and AGM Saturday 26th October at 10 am

This is when we discuss the life and work of our church and re-appoint our office holders and representatives to other meetings and organisations. Please come!

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

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch
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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

