

Imagine!



Jan
2020

Imagine you were convinced that our leaders knew that the truest, fairest, kindness, wisest of all possible leaders was born and would replace all of them? What would our leaders choose to do? Would they rejoice that their true hopes were to be fulfilled if the child grows to adulthood and, therefore, rush to find him and protect him so that a supreme regime of justice and peace would one day exist? Or would they seek to eliminate a great threat to their own power and devise methods of controlling the child for their own ends? Or even murder the child to maintain the current order they oversee?

How would all of us respond? Would we be willing to give up our ideas of how society should be shaped, especially those ideas that make us special, deserving or righteous? Would we prepare our lives, our family, our friends for this radical new order? Or would we deny it? Might we hedge our choices, in case this incredible new order might not arrive?

The arrival of Jesus Christ, our incarnate God, raises all these questions. We see all sorts of positive and negative reactions among leaders and ordinary people. We even see reactions changing over time, with a person like Nicodemus whose discipleship matured over three episodes in John's Gospel.

In this new year, we can and should hope for our own discipleship to mature, allowing our Lord's kingdom to come closer in ways that we might not see or understand or even want just yet. We are all called to pray into our uncertainty, to bring our fears, angers, reservations, resistances to our Lord, to allow the Holy Spirit to help us resolve our purposes into the purpose of God, the Father.

Kurt Roeloffs



Care Time



We pray for those who are or have been unwell, going through stressful times, or in pain, including Valerie, Martin, Lorraine, Marion, Caroline and Paul; and for those who are mourning loved ones. We remember those who are separated from loved ones at Christmas and New Year, especially the Syrian refugee families in Stansted.



**Christmas Special Events held on
Mon 9th, Wed 11th and Fri 13th Dec**



**The Place is open throughout January Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
EXCEPT Wednesday 1st January**

Contact Marion & Mike email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Please email articles for **Imagine** to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Editors: Alan Wheeler, 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 JANUARY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions

12th 10.30 am Janet Bottoms

19th 10.30 am Kurt Roeloffs

26th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant and Communion

Other Activities

Sun 19th 11.30 am Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service

Wed 29th 7.30 pm Churches Together AGM & Forum at Meeting House



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

held on

Sunday 1st December



As you can see from the photographs below, everyone had a great time!



The next Messy Church is on **Sunday 2nd February**

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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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

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