

Imagine!



MAR
2020

I magine Jesus had given in to temptation. Luke's Gospel tells how, after being led into the wilderness following his baptism, Jesus was tempted by the devil three times: firstly, to turn stones into bread to satisfy his burning hunger; secondly, to seize for himself in an instant all worldly power and glory; thirdly to throw himself off a high place to prove the truth of God's word.

If Jesus had divinely satisfied his hunger, he would not have been fully human, God-with-us, and we would not have the assurance that God has shared and understands our suffering and pain. There would be no true incarnation or gospel (good news) for the poor.

If Jesus had ruled with human power and authority, he would not be the Servant King. He would have entered Jerusalem on a warrior's steed, not a humble donkey and there would be no Palm Sunday or Maundy Thursday to turn the world's expectations upside down.

If Jesus had leaped into the void to prove God would save him from death, he might have been saved, but he would not have wrought salvation for all people through his faithful obedience to death on a cross. There would be no Good Friday and no crucifixion.

Praise God that Jesus did not give in to temptation. He depended on the word of God; he trusted in God the Father to feed him and provide for all his needs; he gave God alone the glory and power; and he willingly gave his own life that we might live. Through Jesus we have faith and hope and resurrection.

*We thank you, Lord, for showing us our Saviour;
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.*

God bless you as you journey through Lent towards Easter.

In Christian love, *Caroline*



LENT GROUPS 2020

This year's groups cover different aspects of Lent from the viewpoint of the various churches. Why not join us? They are all on Wednesdays 8.00-9.00pm:

- 4th Mar** Stansted Free Church: a talk and discussion on *Grace in the Wilderness*
- 11th Mar** Quaker Meeting House: a guided discussion entitled *Quaker Testimonies, the Bible and our Lives*
- 18th Mar** St John's Church: *Compline and Cocoa* - a reflective service of Night Prayer (Compline) with silence and music for reflection
- 25th Mar** St Theresa's Church: a meditation on *The Stations of the Cross*

You do not have to attend every week - come when you can!

Church Meeting - all welcome

Saturday 7th March 10.00 am in the Hall. See you there!



COME AND SING (or just listen!)

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

2 - 3 pm Saturday 28th March

Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden

All welcome - singers and listeners

This is an act of worship for two solo voices and chorus interspersed with congregational hymns - it is not a concert

There are no rehearsals for the choir - just come and sing on the day

Bring your own music or see Marion Dyer if you would like to borrow a copy

Followed by light refreshments

We warmly invite friends from WEBS to join us

For more information contact Stephen

Email: stephen@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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 MARCH

Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	Mike Dyer and Kurt Roeloffs - New Directions
8th	10.30 am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch
15th	10.30 am	Jerry Heyhoe
22nd	10.30 am	Roy Fowler - Communion
29th	10.30 am	Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Other Activities

Wed	4th	8.00 pm	Lent Group in the Hall
Fri	6th	2.00 pm	World Day of Prayer in the Church
Sat	7th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall
Wed	11th	8.00 pm	Circuit Meeting in the Hall
Sun	15th	3.30 pm	Messy Church in St Mary's School
Wed	18th	8.00 pm	LPWT Meeting in B S Methodist Youth Room
Sun	22nd	11.30 am	Fairtrade Goods on sale after the service
Sat	28th	2.00 pm	Stainer's Crucifixion S Walden URC (<i>see opposite</i>)
Wed	11th/18th/25th	8 00 pm	Lent Groups - various venues (<i>see opposite</i>)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

International and Interdenominational



2 pm Friday 6th March
Stansted Free Church



Rise! Take up your Mat and Walk

Prepared by the women of Zimbabwe

Eight years ago Zimbabwe was invited to prepare the 2020 service. Since then, the country has gone through many changes notably the ousting of Robert Mugabe; but the new dawn that so many had hoped and prayed for has not happened. In fact, life for ordinary Zimbabweans is harder than ever, and they really need our prayers. This special service is ecumenical and everyone is welcome, whether you usually attend church or not. Please join us; refreshments will be served after the service.

Catherine

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

Rev'd 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

