

Imagine!



Imagine not
having
anything to
celebrate

I imagine what it would be like if we celebrated the anniversary of every significant event in our lives. My father recently gave me the book in which my mother recorded details of when my two brothers and I achieved certain milestones in our early years. The first recorded events are our birthdays. However, how many of us celebrate our christening day? According to the book, I was christened on July 4th. If I did celebrate it now it would be tinged with poignancy, as my mother died on July 4th. A few pages on in the book, I was amused (or not!) to see dates for when my two brothers first smiled, but alas no entry for me, so that's one anniversary less to celebrate. The latest entry with my name against it is April 17th 1949. What did I achieve then? Apparently I started crawling! Fortunately my mother appears to have become bored with the book after a while, so the spaces for 'first steps' and 'first bathe' are still blank. All three of us seem to have managed to avoid having these exciting events recorded for the edification of posterity!

Just imagine what it would be like to have everything recorded throughout our lives, rather than just during the early years of innocence. Well, the bad news is that everything is recorded. Not just the first time it happens either. Every smile, every step, every tear, every success, every failure is noted by God. The good news is that God doesn't write them in a book to be produced as evidence at the day of judgement. No, I like to imagine that God actually uses them as waymarks to help us progress along a daily path that is right for us. It's a bit like the supermarket loyalty card which remembers everything we have purchased in the past so we can be guided to buy similar or complementary products in the future. God does not expect us to change our behaviour in dramatic ways, but if we have been spending our lives just visiting the sandwich counter we could be missing out on some of the delights of the smorgasbord.

This month at Stansted Free Church we celebrate all that has happened in the first three years of our unity. Some of it has been recorded, some of it not, but we can look back with gratitude and see how far we have come with God's help. We do not know how God wants us to move forward, but we must trust him to use the knowledge of where we have been, to lead us closer to his will. Whether that includes laying off the (hymn) sandwiches remains to be seen!

Michael Dyer

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 27th September. Please submit articles by Friday 18th September to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to:

23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP. Thank you.

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 September

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 6th 3.30 pm Rev David Mullins & Rev Allen Morton
Church Anniversary and tea
- 13th 10.30 am Rev David Mullins
Holy Communion
- 20th 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton
Harvest Festival - gifts to Whitechapel Mission
- 27th 10.30 am Rev Martin Cressey

Other Activities

- Mon 14th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
- Sun 20th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
- Mon 21st 2.00 pm Monday Club in the Hall
8.00 pm Circuit Meeting in the Hall
- Wed 23rd 7.30 pm Worship Leaders' Meeting in the Hall
- Mon 28th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Special Events this Month

4 pm Saturday 5th September
Saffron Walden Methodist Church
Welcome to Rev David Keeble as Minister

3.30 pm Sunday 6th September
Stansted Free Church
Church Anniversary followed by bring & share tea

2.30 pm Tuesday 22nd September
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church
Induction of Brenda Veitch as District Network President

Goodbye Stansted



.... Hello Kingswinford

Well we are in, still a lot of boxes to unpack but as you can see our retirement has begun - the photo was taken at Kinver Lock 4 miles away! We want to say a very big thank you for the many cards and good wishes we have received and especially for the gardening tokens and the lovely orchid that appeared on Wednesday just as we arrived. We think we will probably buy a stone bird bath or a

small moveable water feature with the tokens so that when we move next time into our own house we can take it with us.



As you know we are only renting the house at 23 Grantley Crescent, Kingswinford DY6 9EH for 6-9 months, but if anyone is in the area please give us a ring - we would love to see you. Our phone

number is 01384 400602 and our email address remains the same as before. Once again many thanks, we will miss you all, please keep in touch. Best wishes for the future to you all and for the future of Stansted Free Church.

Janet and Brian



Village Harvest Supper (proceeds to St Clare Hospice)

Hot Supper followed by Entertainment

6 - 8.30 pm Sun 11th Oct ~ St John's Church Hall

Tickets: Adults £5 schoolchildren free
from St John's Church Office

Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome

Pilots

Meetings for the this term Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm
14th & 28th September, 12th October, 2nd, 16th & 30th November,
7th December

One of our projects for the Christmas Term will be to make a banner showing *Pilots at Stansted Free Church*. If we can get enough support from parents and friends we would like to be able to take our group to the Pilots Day Out at Warwick Castle in May next year. As Betty is now helping the Pilot team, we thought that we could use her expertise in the making of the banner. Hopefully on our first evening we should complete our 'magic bowls' and some of our older Pilots will be writing out the story to put on the notice board in the front porch. We may be able to display some of the magic bowls as well. All Church Members and Friends are welcome to any of our evenings, do come and pay us a visit

Valerie Trundle 813433
pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Deacon Vacancy

We have six deacons who represent the church members, and are elected for an initial term of six years. At the Annual Church Meeting, one of the deacons steps down, and although he or she could be re-elected for a further six years, this is an opportunity to draw someone new into this very important role in our church life. The Church Oversight Group (or COG as it is affectionately known) comprises the six deacons, the joint treasurers, the secretary (who may or may not also be a deacon) and the ministers. We meet every 2 months to discuss any issues concerning the running of the church, finance, pastoral concerns, etc, and if appropriate, bring proposals to the Church Meeting. This year Valerie will be stepping down and we would ask all church members to prayerfully consider whether they should take on this role. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to one of the present deacons: Valerie, Catherine, Mike, Betty, Judy, and Marion (Pretty).

Anyone wishing to be considered must be nominated by another church member. Please hand any nominations to Betty by the end of September.



Care Time



Please remember in your prayers the following members and friends of our church:

Kath Hartnell; Arthur Law; Miss Thame; Jill Walker (wife of local preacher Denis Walker) recovering from major surgery; Ivor Thomas, and Mary Heuch who are not able to attend church.

Please also remember that the prayer slips are available for Sunday morning worship (see below); if you are unable to be at church, please pass your requests to Marion Pretty or me and we will make sure the preacher for that Sunday knows.

We are pleased to welcome David Mullins back after his sabbatical.

Betty

info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Morning Prayer Request Slips

From September we are having a new system for the prayer slips. Instead of the slips being collected during the singing of the first hymn, we are inviting you to place your prayer requests on the plate on the small table by the door into the church as you come in. We hope this will encourage more people to use the slips.

Thank you ...

Please convey to friends in the Circuit our grateful thanks for the very generous gift we received at our final service. This will come in very helpful as we settle into our new home in Peterborough, and is much appreciated. The final service was certainly a memorable occasion.

Trevor & Judith Sands

Congratulations ...

... to Ivor Thomas who will be 97 years young on 13th September. We send you our love and warmest wishes.

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

Ministers

Rev David Mullins

Rev Allen Morton

Email for both ministers: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Church Notices

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Mike & Marion Dyer

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship

New Directions - our bi-monthly service in a less formal style

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk