

Imagine!

Sept
2011



Imagine two hundred years in the future; a historian looking back on our world today, puzzled at the injustices we put up with just as we are puzzled how 18th century citizens couldn't see the slave trade was deeply immoral. The sources of her puzzlement are the big moral elephants in the room that we fail to see and deal with. Like how we carried on living in luxury while most of the world starved? Or how we failed to tackle climate change? Thought for the day's presenter recently reminded us that judgement of how we behave comes not from future generations, but when we stand before God.

How do you imagine the discussion will go? Maybe start with a review of how we "loved the Lord our God with all our soul and with all our heart" and then the specifics of how "we loved our neighbour as ourselves"? That might be tough so let's not look at it too closely. We could reflect on George Orwell's words back in 1942. Martial Petain had just attributed France's fall to the people's love of pleasure. "If only!" mused Orwell and suggested that far from pleasure, the common man struggled to achieve what Petain's pals regarded as the "bare minimum without which human life cannot be lived at all": enough to eat, medication to survive, and enough energy to face tomorrow. In 2011 how little has changed. Just look at Somalia! We have the resources to solve it; we just need the will to do it. Imagine if we focused our attention and solved it in 20 years! Orwell went on to say "The major problem of our time is the decay of the belief in personal immortality. It cannot be dealt with while the average human being is drudging like an ox or shivering in fear". Imagine - Orwell said that nearly 70 years ago! His opinion was to deal with basic human needs first and then move to the spiritual. Reminiscent of Jesus feeding the five thousand before preaching to them maybe? Worth thinking about how we really do love our neighbours as ourselves.

Alan Wheeler

Bibles Wanted

As you may have noticed, we are gradually replacing the heavy wood and metal chairs in the hall with lighter and more comfortable ones. At the recent Church Meeting it was agreed to offer the redundant chairs to Containers of Hope, a Christian organisation that sends much needed items mostly to Rwanda and Uganda. Some of you may remember that we gave them the heavy tables that we replaced with lightweight folding ones. They were very pleased to accept 36 chairs which are now packed into a container waiting to be shipped to a church in Rwanda in October. When my contact came to collect the chairs, he managed to pack 18 into his car on both trips, with barely enough room for him to squeeze into the driver's seat! He said if I knew of anyone disposing of modern hymnbooks and bibles they would be very glad of them. The Deacons agreed that we have plenty of hymnbooks so we offered him our copies of New Church Praise (a URC book that came out in the 70s, which was never very popular and has not been used here for at least the last 10 years) which they gratefully accepted.

If anyone has a spare Bible (modern translation only, as the King James' language is difficult for them to understand) they are very much needed, so please let me know and I will pass them on.

Betty



Care Time



Please remember any of our church family who need our prayers, including: Allen Morton, who is unwell, and his wife Daphne; Doris Lambden, mother-in-law of Alan Wheeler; Rita Morson; Brenda Scarr, undergoing chemotherapy; Ivor Thomas, Chris Coetzee and those no longer able to attend church.

We send our congratulations to Ivor Thomas who became a great grandfather in August when his granddaughter Katherine and her husband Rob had their first baby, a little boy Tobias Morgan. We also say Happy Birthday to Ivor on the 13th September when he will be 99 years young! What a great achievement.

Betty

What's on in September

Worship at Stansted Free Church

4th 10.30 am Andrew Brown

11th 3.30 pm Rev'd David Simpson - Church Anniversary

18th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion

25th 10.30 am Denis Walker - Harvest

Breakfast goods and warm clothing for Whitechapel Mission will be received

Other Activities

Mon 19th 6.00 pm Pilots in the hall

8.00 pm Circuit Meeting at B S Methodist Church

Thu 22nd 2.30 pm Bible Study in the Foyer (see below)

Mon 26th 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - The White House, Ugley Grn

Sunday 11th September - 5th Anniversary

On 1st September, we will be celebrating our 5th anniversary of being a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP). Our anniversary service on 11th September will be led by Rev David Simpson, who was our URC minister at the time when the LEP was formed..

The service will be at 3.30 pm followed by tea (no morning service)

What does the Bible say about Food?

A Bible Study from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund

Led by Stuart and Brenda Veitch

In the Foyer Thursdays 2.30 - 3.30 pm followed by tea

22nd September The Creator provides

6th October The Temptations of Abundance

27th October Needs and Wants

10th November Food and Culture

24th November Miracles, Big and Small

8th December Hospitality and Communion

All Welcome

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

Minister

Rev David Keeble
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Secretary

Betty Francis
Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Notices

Marion Pretty

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

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.
Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 25th September. Please submit articles by Friday 16th September to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk or send to:

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

Copies of this and previous editions of Imagine can be found on our website www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk