

Imagine!

Stansted Free Church



September
2013

I imagine going with Michael Portillo on his Great British TV rail journey, circling and criss-crossing our whole country - first class, air-conditioned rail travel, choice hotel awaiting you nightly...I can't tell you how I envy that man; but I can tell you how he has stretched my IMAGINATION to enter into lives mostly far apart from mine. Hear him talk with descendants and bygone industries, miners, tunnellers, slate-blasters, ship builders, dockers; or with present workers in some of the struggling potteries, weaving mills, fisheries, hill farms - trades keeping going against heavy odds. How it was then (hard and dangerous), how it is now (precarious), and all along the track, the expanse of our great countryside. No wonder Rupert Brooke was looking for it in 'some corner of a foreign field'!

Now imagine how my Austrian friend saved hard and came to have a last fling, going on coach trips all round the Britain where she had spent her early childhood as a refugee. She did the lot: Scottish Highlands, The Lakes, Wales, Devon and Cornwall and The Isle of Wight. When she returned to Vienna her English class teacher asked the students to describe 'a great holiday experience'. My friend entitled hers 'A trip down the river Stort'!! You could have knocked me down with a paddle. But that was the day we shared - 'the Wind in the Willows' just for us, blue skies, Ratty and Mole, scuttling in and out of the water, reeds waving in the breeze, a little bit of heaven 'eternity in an hour'. We've all had those 'one-off' days and now with holiday adventures (perhaps over) why not imagine next Sunday might be one? So I'll try and say with the Psalmist, as I leave home:

"I was glad when they said unto me
Let us go unto the house of the Lord"

And once there with you, and with Peter at the Transfiguration (what a 'one-off')

"Lord it is good for us to be here".

Phyllis Harrison



Care Time



Please pray for Iris and Dave Evans - Dave's mother died recently, and Iris' nephew Russell is unwell; for others in our wider church family who need our prayers; and those no longer able to attend church. Please also pray for **The Place on the Hill** as we begin our Friday opening on 6th September.

We have received prayer requests from some of those who attend the Place on the Hill. We are remembering these requests during our Sunday worship. Please use the prayer slips which are available in the foyer.

Betty

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 29th September. Please submit articles by Friday 20th September to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, 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 September

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 1st 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
8th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble
Church Anniversary and Holy Communion
15th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins
22nd 10.30 am Denis Walker - Harvest Festival (see below)
29th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch with Helen Veitch (see page 5)

Other Activities

- Sun 1st 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 9th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
Tue 10th 8.15 pm LPWT Meeting in the Hall
Fri 13th/20th/27th 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall
Mon 23rd 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 7 Blythwood Gdns

22nd September Harvest Festival

We invite you to bring any of the following items, which will be shared between the Harlow and Stansted Food Banks:

breakfast cereal (not sugar coated); bags of pasta;
pasta sauce; packets of savoury crackers;
cartons of long life milk and long life juice;
tinned: soup, tuna or other fish, tomatoes, baked beans,
sweetcorn, potatoes, carrots, ham or other meat, fruit in juice.

Alternatively envelopes will be available if you would like to make a donation to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.



Village Harvest Supper proceeds to Care Network (Uttlesford)

6 - 8.30 pm Sunday 13th October

St John's Church Hall

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

Tickets: Adults £6 Schoolchildren £5 - advance booking essential

Contact Marion on 814059 ~ Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome



Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm:

9th Sep, 7th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec

The work for the young people connected with our church through Pilots will continue for the foreseeable future. We have a loyal group of children who attend our meetings and enjoy a varied programme of activities and games. This term our Pilots will be working towards their collector and talent badges. We hope that they will also be participating in some drama with a qualified drama specialist - Pamela Jenner, who has worked with children in St. Mary's C of E, Saffron Walden, taking various drama activities. At some stage, the children will take part in a "Play in a Day". This venture would be open to parents, friends and any interested church members.

Although we are only meeting once a month, the children are very keen to continue to attend Pilots and have fun. The URC are appointing a new Youth and Children's Development Officer in September, replacing Henry Playle. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to meet with the successful applicant and gain some much needed help and expertise. We are in contact with Synod Office regarding our vision for the continuation of youth work within Stansted Free Church.

Valerie and Peter and all the Pilot team

Tel: 813433

Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Fridays 6.15 - 7.45 pm: 13th, 20th, 27th Sep

Free Church Hall

Investigators is a new group, endorsed by Churches Together in Stansted, aimed at 7-10 year old children; however there will be some flexibility over the age-range, particularly for younger siblings, as long as they are of school age and confident enough to mix with 7-10 year olds. Sessions will include a mix of games, activities, bible-stories and lots of different topics from the local area and across the world - but above all it will be... FUN! All leaders are members of local churches and are CRB/DBS-checked, experienced in working with children, and trained in best practice. There is no cost for attending but places are limited and filling up fast, so contact me asap to book.

Ros Page

On behalf of the Investigators Team

Tel: 810813

Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com



give child domestic
workers a voice

Sunday 29th September Stansted Free Church

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 10.30 am | Short service led by Rev'd Stuart Veitch |
| 11.00 am | Coffee |
| 11.15 am -
12.15 pm | Presentation by Helen Veitch |
| 12.30 pm approx | Cooked meal |

Come for all or any part of the programme (Yes even just the meal!)

For catering purposes, please contact Brenda Veitch on 815819
if you would like to attend the meal

Helen (daughter of Stuart and Brenda)
is the Co-founder and Director of Children Unite.

Children Unite is a registered charity and was set up to eliminate the international exploitation and abuse of child domestic workers which is largely invisible because it takes place in 'homes', behind closed doors. This isolation allows children to be abused and exploited without anyone knowing about it. Children Unite is working to raise awareness so that communities are aware that child domestic workers exist and so that governments will introduce measures that will better protect children in domestic work.

For further information please see: www.childrenunite.org.uk

CHURCH OUTING
SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER
BLICKLING HALL ESTATE, NORFOLK

**Water Lane URC, Bishop's Stortford invite members and friends
of Stansted Free Church to join them**

- 9.00 am Depart Bishop's Stortford by coach
11.00 am Arrive at Blickling Hall
Gardens, gift shop and cafes will be open
12 noon House and Museum open
5.30 pm Supper at the Buckinghamshire Arms

Visit includes: The house, museum, art exhibition, 3 tea rooms, gift shop, plant centre, walks in the gardens and parkland.

Price to be confirmed but approx (depending on numbers):

National Trust Members £25.00

Non Members £35.00

Please contact Sarah Jeffrey at the church office if you would like to book a place tel 755610 email: sarah.jeffrey@waterlaneurc.org.uk

The Aylsham Food Festival will be running during the weekend and a free shuttle will be available between Blickling and Aylsham



Wednesdays & Fridays
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

 The Place on the Hill
 @placeonthehill

*Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
Methodist Women in Britain*



*Come and Share
A Day of
Celebration*



*St Andrew's Methodist Church
The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AF
Saturday 7th September*



*Service of Induction for
Margaret Torkildsen
As District MWiB President
And Launch of the
President's Project 2013-2014
Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund*



*With illustrated talks by
Rev'd David Winwood*



*Refreshments from 10.00am ~ bring a packed lunch
Tea at 3.00pm
Stalls: Bring and Buy, Traidcraft. CLEM & Cards*

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

Pilots Children's Work

Monday (monthly) 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 81 3433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Place on the Hill Drop-In (All Welcome)

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk