



I can imagine, if I shut my eyes, the morning of the holiday; the friendly sun as we skip down the road towards the coach; the early morning smells of dew on the freshly cut grass, of bacon and egg cooking somewhere. The coach is green and gleaming and glorious. Our hearts are in our throats as we already anticipate the thrill of the moment our bare shins will be knocked by wavelets and our toes sink in the sand.

Holidays were almost paramount in importance in our tiny minds back then. In later years we surf the internet for a holiday novelty that we know will not come up to the thrill we used to find. Somehow the salt has lost its savour.

Do you know that feeling that however old others might think you are, you actually feel as if you are still a teenager in your inner self? We really are young in God's eyes. How can we recapture the heights and glories of life? Perhaps first by letting the past be the past. Nostalgia is dead-weight for the soul.

We are a new creation every morning. We can be confident that God is the God who can still surprise us, who can still bring back that first day of the holiday feeling. As Paul tells us "I can do all things through God who strengthens me".

Let's drink the new wine with joy and step forward as young people on the holiday that our Lord beckons us on.

Alan Wheeler



Church Family



We ask you to remember our church family in your prayers: Brian Townsend (whose brother has died recently), and Ronald Rawlings (Methodist supernumerary minister living in Thaxted) and his wife Nancy, who used to attend Stansted Methodist church. Both Ronald & Nancy are in poor health at the present time.

Thank you

Janet and Brian would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the love and support that they and the family have received over the last few difficult months and especially since Dora's death. £500 has been given in her memory and this has been divided between Barnardos and the Essex Air Ambulance.

Joan Grose would like to thank everyone who donated to the Macmillan Cancer Trust in memory of her aunt, Doris Torkington.

Thank you to all who have contributed towards the grass cutting. The amount donated so far has exactly matched the bill received!

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th August. Please submit articles by Friday 17th August. If you have email access, then we would prefer your articles to be sent to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk.

Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP. If you have any queries, please telephone us. Thank you.

Editors: Alan Wheeler 813745 and Mike & Marion Dyer 814059

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

What's on in August

Sunday Worship at Stansted Free Church

5 th	10.30 am	All Age Worship
	2.30 pm	Rev Trevor Sands
12 th	10.30 am	Gillian Taylor
19 th	10.30 am	Rev Stuart Veitch - Holy Communion
26 th	10.30 am	Nigel Courtman

Morning worship is followed by coffee except the first Sunday in the month, when tea is usually served following the afternoon service.

Please join us!

Other Activities

Sun 5 th	3.30 pm	Outreach tea in the Foyer
Wed 15 th	8.00 pm	Church Meeting in the hall (see page 4)
Sat 18 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning for Samaritans's Purse at St Pau's Church, Harlow (see church notice board)
Mon 20 th	2.30 pm	Monday Club in the hall

News from Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church HYMNS OF PRAISE (Local style)

When is it?	Saturday 8th September 2007
Where is it?	Bishops Stortford Methodist Church
What time?	8 pm (doors open 7.30)

Who should come?

- Anyone who enjoys listening to music or singing and remembers their favourite hymns and songs from yesterday, last week or even years ago
- church congregations, groups and organisations
- recent arrivals who have yet to visit a local church

Have a great evening singing along or just enjoy the music

Can you come? You'll be welcome! Diary it now! **Entrance free!**

Enquiries to John Simkins on 01279 504964

From the Secretary

August looks a fairly quiet month - famous last words! Unless I've made a big mistake and forgotten to put something important in my diary, there is only one meeting, but it is an important meeting! On Wednesday 15th August at 8pm we shall be holding a special Church Meeting. There are two items we need to discuss. Firstly the proposed changes to the URC Districts: Janet Tollington will be explaining the various options and what they will mean to us at Stansted and Bishops Stortford. As we are a linked pastorate, both churches will have to agree to be in the same district or whatever replaces it. On the same evening we need to look at the Methodist Review. As I understand it, each church is asked to express their views on where the church and circuit are going and what future plans they have. Stuart Veitch will chair this part of the meeting. As you can see these are two very important issues for the life and work of the church. Please try to attend so that the views of all the members can be taken into account.

Moving on to September. It will be Stansted Free Church's first birthday on the 2nd and we plan to celebrate by having a birthday tea after the 2.30pm service. Unfortunately, the induction for our new Methodist minister, David Mullins is on the same day at Bishop's Stortford church, so David and Louise will not be able to be with us. However, David's first service with us will be on 16th September, which will be an opportunity to give him a proper 'Stansted' welcome.

A reminder that Rev Trevor Sands is our interim minister from now until 1st September when David arrives (see back page). *Betty*

Monday Club

How lucky we were with the weather for our July meeting, which was held in the garden. It was a very friendly and enjoyable afternoon, holding a raffle, quiz and lots of talking while we had our tea; a very relaxed afternoon. Thank you for coming.

Our next meeting is on August 20th when our speaker is Mr Barry Kaufmann Wright and I would like to see as many of you as possible. If you can't join as a member just pay your £1 for the afternoon. A warm welcome greets you. *Phyllis Little*

Farewell to Keith & Fran

15th July 2007



We do wish Keith and Fran well as they prepare for their new ministry in the Leigh on Sea circuit. They have invited us to go and visit them - hopefully we will be able to take up their offer in the not too distant future!

Isle of Iona and Fingal's Cave

In August 2002 Valerie and myself were able to visit the Hebridean Island of Iona to celebrate our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Iona is known throughout the Christian world and is now a major centre for pilgrimage and it had long been our wish to visit the island. In AD 563 Columba and his twelve disciples landed at Port na Churaich (Harbour of the Coracle) to build a monastery and establish a school of learning, having travelled in a hide covered boat from Ireland. They introduced a faith which was to spread far beyond Iona and Mull and indeed Scotland itself.

Arriving very early in the morning we made the one mile sea crossing from the Isle of Mull to Iona. Only foot passengers are able to travel on the modern boat as no cars are permitted on the island. The village population is about one hundred people and is served by one car (the local taxi).

Iona Abbey is a celebrated Christian Centre and the burial place of Scottish Kings. We were able to visit the final resting place of a former leader of the Labour Party Mr John Smith. Engraved upon a simple stone within the boundaries of the Abbey appear the following words: "John Smith, an Honest Man". We decided that our second pilgrimage would be in the footsteps of the composer Felix Mendelssohn.

It was in 1829 on the 7th August (our visit was on the 13th, some 174 years later) that Mendelssohn visited the Isle of Staffa and Fingal's Cave. The cave is about ten miles off the coast of Iona and can only be reached in favourable seas. Mendelssohn visited the cave with his friend Kingemann and the day was wild. Kingemann describes the arrival at Staffa: "We were put into boats and lifted by the hissing sea to the celebrated Fingal's Cave. A greener roar of waves never rushed into a stranger cavern, its many pillars making it look like the inside of an immense church organ, black and resounding, quite alone, the wild grey sea within and without". Mendelssohn was later to develop his experience into good use and "The Hebrides Overture" also known as "Fingal's Cave" has become world famous.

The impact of the cave on all those who enter it, and especially those who do so alone, is likely to be remembered for life and is one that we will never forget.

Pilots

We have continued our theme of John Williams throughout the Summer term, and have wall displays in the hall and a table display in the church porch.

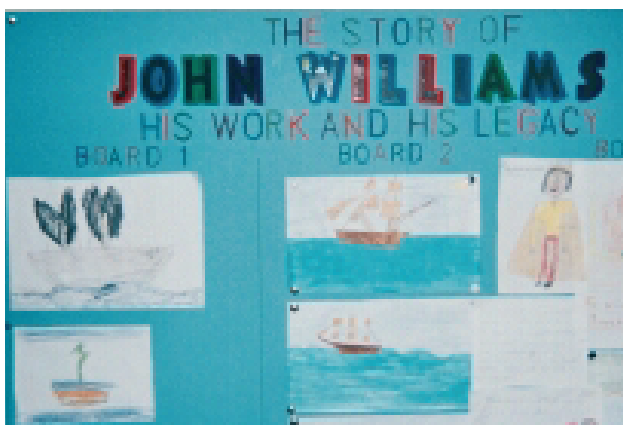
Autumn / Winter Term Mondays at 6 pm in the Hall:

September 10th & 24th

October 8th (special evening all invited) & 29th

November 12th & 26th, December 10th

Valerie Trundle 813433



Part of one of
the wall
displays in the
hall

The Magic Box *by Abigail King*

I will put in my box
The sights of the beach
The sound of the waves

I will put in my box
A princess fighting a dragon
And a prince trapped in a castle

I will put in my box
Feelings that I know will come true
Like flying high with birds

I will put in my box
A dancing ballerina,
A gold ice stage
A number in each corner

My box is fashioned with pink stars
White sand with crabs
And a bright sun

I shall love my box
I shall fly with the birds that are in it
I shall swim and see another world.

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Pilots

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Sunday Services

1st Sunday in each month

10.30 am New Directions in Worship
 An informal, participative service for all ages
2.30 pm Afternoon Worship
 followed by outreach tea

All other Sundays

10.30 am Morning Worship

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays

6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years. Tel 813433