



**I**magine the unimaginable! How does one do that? How do you imagine that for which you have no language, prior experience or means of conception? We use our imagination to go beyond what we currently know, experience and envisage, and we do this by building upon present understanding and concepts. But how do we imagine that which defies such developmental thinking?

It is the season of Easter and I have the resurrection of Jesus in mind. What took place that first Easter broke the bounds of imagination. The appearance of Jesus, first to the women and then to the disciples, came 'out of the blue' as it were. It was completely unexpected. The disciples had given up on Jesus when they fled the scene in the garden, and the women only came to the tomb to anoint his body which had been hurriedly buried because of the Sabbath. The death of Jesus was catastrophic in terms of their faith in Jesus. They said as much: "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." (Luke 24 v 21)

But then came the unimaginable - Jesus is raised from the dead! There are no categories in which this can be described, let alone understood. The gospel accounts of this reveal the overwhelming incomprehension that overtakes Jesus' followers. They were not prepared for this. Mark's gospel ends with the baffling account of the women who 'went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.' (Mark 16 v 8)

The resurrection of Jesus outstrips our imaginative capacities, but as it does so it gives us back the resources to re-imagine the world anew. The first followers of Jesus were changed dramatically;

no longer fearful and despairing they became brave and hope-filled and went out to change the world. This would have been beyond their imagination before that first Easter, but now it had become their reality! They help us to see that Jesus is God's way of creating a new world in which love overcomes death, goodness triumphs over evil and hope prevails over despair. This is a world that we are not only called to imagine this Easter, but above all to realise in all practical ways as God's Spirit leads us in the everyday service of the risen Christ.

Happy Easter!

David

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th April. Please submit articles by Friday 17th April to: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**

# What's on in April

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	New Directions in Worship The Worship Team
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Good Friday Service Rev'd Allen Morton
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Easter Day Communion Rev'd Stuart Veitch
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev'd Allen Morton
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Denis Walker

**Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.**

## Other Activities

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Church Oversight Group at 7 Blythwood Gdns
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 pm	Churches Together in Stansted Forum St John's Church
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Easter Offering Service – B S Methodist Church
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gdns People of Courage and Faith
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Worship Leaders' Course in the Hall

## Circuit Quiet Day for Everyone

Organised by Bishop's Stortford Circuit Women's Network



Music, prayers and readings  
based on the Woman at the well (John Chapter 4)

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May 10 am to 4 pm**

**Chrishall Methodist Church**

**led by Brenda and Stuart Veitch**



For various reasons, several regular Christian Aid volunteers are unable to help with the envelope collection this year. As charitable giving is likely to suffer because of the economic situation, I would like to find replacement and additional helpers. So

I am appealing to those in the church, who could give some time in the week beginning 10th May to make a difference to the lives of the world's most disadvantaged people. Please let me know if you can help, or if you would like information about Christian Aid. Even if you can only collect from a few houses, or if you could help with distributing envelopes, I would love to hear from you. Thanks.

*Catherine Dean*  
*christianaid@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*

## Methodist World Mission Quiz Sheet

Just a reminder that if you have not already bought a copy of the quiz sheet I have produced to raise money for the Methodist World Mission Fund, there is still time! It is great fun and the entry fee is only £1. The answers are all stations on the London Underground and Docklands Light Railway; so you'll need to get out your underground map, find the magnifying glass (if your eyesight is anything like mine!) and get the old grey cells working. The closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> May so there is plenty of time.

*Betty*



# Shalom

*Please join us - all welcome*

Meetings are 8 pm at 7 Blythwood Gdns

27th April  
11th May  
1st June

Harry Goreing: People of Courage and Faith  
Catherine Dean: Christian Aid Quiz  
Col Alan Hart: Street Pastors

*Marion Dyer*

# Pilots

Meetings this term begin on Monday 20th April 6 - 7.30 pm

## A Special Service - New Directions in Worship

Having heard much about Pilot involvement in worship at the URC Synod in early March, it seemed appropriate to invite our Pilots and their parents to come along and join us in morning worship



on 15th March. Allen Morton came to our Pilot evening the previous week, and suggested that we plan the service around Noah's Ark, as that was our Bible story for that particular evening. We made the Ark and placed it in the Church ready for the service, and we learnt some Noah songs to sing on the day.

Sylvia and Henry joined us for the service, along with several Pilots and their parents. I was very disappointed not to be present as I was unwell, but Peter told me that all went very well and that everyone seemed to enjoy the service.

After the service everyone went outside for a photograph by the newly erected Pilot plaque. We hope to take another photograph with all the Pilots and their Officers one Monday evening when the evenings get lighter.

I am sure that the congregation were encouraged to see the Pilots in church; I also believe that the children could see more clearly that what we do on our Pilot evenings has its ultimate true meaning when we are involved with church members and friends on special occasions such as this. Hopefully we will see more services like this in the future.



*Valerie Trundle 813433*

The next Traidcraft stalls at our church will be after the Sunday morning service on 5th April, 10th May (Christian Aid Week), and 7th June. If you would like any items at other times, please feel free to contact me. The new catalogue is now available in the foyer.



During the 9 months since I started selling Traidcraft goods at Church I have sold about £1,000 worth of goods. Thank you so much for supporting the stall every month.

Thank you to all of you who supported the Coffee Morning during Fairtrade Fortnight. I was able to send £38 to Traidcraft Exchange. The money helps to provide training and support for new fairly-traded enterprises.

*Brenda Veitch 815819  
fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*



Care Time



Congratulations to Judy and Herbert Colliver on their Golden Wedding on 21st March. Unfortunately they were unable to hold their planned family celebration as Herbert was still in hospital, but hopefully that will come later when he is home again. In the meantime we wish him a speedy return to health. Please remember Phyllis Little and her family in your prayers, as they are facing some difficult problems at this time.

Now a mention about the prayer concerns slips on a Sunday. If anyone is unable to be at church and they would like someone (eg - family member, neighbour, work colleague etc), an event, or something that has happened to them or in the world to be included in our prayer time, please contact me and I will make sure the preacher for that Sunday knows.

*Janet 812593  
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*

## Worship Leaders' Course

The course continues on Wednesday 29th April, Wednesday 20th May, Thursday 4th June (extra session), Thursday 11th June, Thursday 2nd July, and Wednesday 22nd July. Also a reminder that visits (which are open to all) are being arranged to churches with different styles of worship. The next one is on 19th April to an Iona Service in London.

*Stuart and Brenda Veitch 815819  
worshipleadercourse@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*

## URC Synod at Braintree

The year 2009 marks 'The Year of the Child', and the March Synod in Braintree certainly reflected that. As usual, the morning began with opening worship which was very uplifting and set the mood for what followed. After a few items of church business, the main part of the morning began with a visual presentation of youth work within the URC led by Victoria Paulding, who was joined by other young people telling of their faith and work within the church. Then Sylvia Payne (Pilot Officer from Church House) and Henry Playle (Youth and Children's Development Officer for the Eastern Province) gave a presentation about Pilots within the Church. It was good to note that Stansted Free Church Pilots already have some of their ideas in place. We watched a video about the Pilots' day out at Longleat, and it was fascinating to see all the different banners the children had made for their own Pilot Groups - an idea that Stansted Pilots might follow in the future.

It was good to see and hear about the work that was happening with children within the church, and the vision that the Youth and Children's Work Committee wants Synods and local churches to adopt and engage with. During lunchtime we met up with Martin and Pamela Cressey, and on the way home we called in on Betty Childs, one of our former church members. Over a cup of tea we talked about 'old times' at Stansted, and it made a fitting end to the day.

*Valerie Trundle 813433*

# **Stansted Free Church**

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### **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](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)