

Imagine!

April
2013



Imagine a difficult journey on foot on a hard road. You are only journeying because you are trying to forget something. You want to stop that aching in your heart. Your companion lags behind you. She is taciturn. That's okay, because you have only one topic of conversation; and better to keep your eye on the rocky path and the heat-seared horizon that has only one benefit – it's somewhere away from the city - the rotten city where you have left behind your agony. But who is this coming onto the path? You don't really want a conversation, but it's impolite not to talk. This interloper wants to know what we are discussing. All travellers discuss things, but not us; we are trying to erase a memory. You blurt out the details of the sad events of this weekend – the unexpected prosecution and execution of your dear friend, and the rumours of an empty grave on Sunday morning. Now he is calling you foolish. Well that's a fine thing; he certainly knows how to make friends! He explains from the Old Testament all the prophecies from God that told us the Messiah was to live among us and die for us. His explanations make sense but doesn't ease our heartache. Up ahead we must take a right fork to finish our journey.

The stranger starts to make his farewells, but we have become oddly drawn to him and warmed to his company, as he has helped to clarify things for us. The evening draws in so we ask him to share supper with us and a bed for the night. At table something strange occurs - it is as if he is the host and not us. He breaks bread and pours the wine. Suddenly the scales fall from our eyes! We look into his face which is now glowing with loving kindness and glory. As our hearts thump madly we see now that our journey has not ended but is only just beginning – the journey into the heart of God's new life for us. As you read this, remember the stranger is still here with us. Look into his face, eat bread with Him and continue the journey with Him. Leave the darkness of Good Friday behind.

Alan Wheeler



Care Time



Please pray for Phyllis Harrison who is recovering from a fall in her driveway several weeks ago. Phyllis also had a cataract operation on 5th March. We also pray for Doris and George Lambdon, parents-in-law of Alan Wheeler; others in our wider church family who need our prayers; and those no longer able to attend church.

We remember Kath Hartnell as she settles into her new home at Stanley Wilson Lodge in Saffron Walden. Kath has been a regular worshiper at our church for a long time, and we shall all miss her.

Please also remember the prayer slips which are available in the foyer for those to be remembered during our Sunday worship.

Betty



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 21st April and 12th May. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. Catalogues are still available in the church foyer.

Fairtrade Fortnight Big Brew

Many thanks to all who supported my event which raised £70.

Brenda 815819

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 28th April. Please submit articles by Friday 19th April 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 April

Worship at Stansted Free Church

7th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - New Directions
14th 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
21st 10.30 am Penny Flynn
28th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble

Other Activities

Mon 8th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gdns
Mon 15th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
Sun 21st 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 22nd 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 7 Blythwood Gardens

Easter Offering Service

Sunday 21st April 6.30 pm B Stortford Methodist Church

This year's service is entitled 'Beyond the Harbour Wall', which was inspired by Julie Hulme's visit to Ireland in 2011. Julie was the last Women's Network President, before the launch of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) in July 2011. The speaker is Maureen Hilson. During the service, Maureen will be presented with her certificate commemorating 50 years as a Local preacher.

All welcome

Choir for a Day Saturday 8th June B S Methodist Church

10.30 am - 5 pm followed by concert 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Cost £6 - all welcome

Music will include items by John Rutter, Gilbert & Sullivan, Gary Barlow & Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stainer and others.

The previous event was excellent!! Please let me know by 21st April if you would like to attend, either as a singer or as audience, and I will send in one booking form on behalf of Stansted.

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Sunday Service

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

Pilots Children's Work

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

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

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

Every Wednesday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk