



Imagine you have moved to another country to find a better quality of life. Imagine you can't speak the language of that country. Imagine that the only job you can get is poorly paid and long hours. Imagine going to a school where all the lessons are in a language you don't understand. Imagine you visit a doctor or a dentist and you can't understand what they are telling you... and so the list goes on.

This is the reality for many of the people I come across in my job, which includes advising people about learning and work opportunities. Some are refugees; some are migrant workers from the poorer Eastern European countries such as Poland and Bulgaria; some are from places further afield such as Thailand and China.

Imagine how difficult it can be for these people to integrate into the local community because they don't understand our language and culture. Many have tried and given up, forming instead communities with people from their own country, with whom they have more in common.

I wonder what the church seems like to those who have never been to a service, other than a wedding or a funeral? Churches have their own language and culture. How do we help newcomers integrate into our church community? We want to encourage new people to join our church; let's make it easy for them!

Marion Dyer



Care Time



We were all very sad to learn of the death of Dora Camp (see page 4). Our love and sympathy to Janet, Brian, Andrew, Stuart and their families. We also remember Alan and Catherine Dean and their family in our prayers, following the death of Alan's mother.

It is lovely to see Mary Eccelstone back in church with us, and a big thank you to those who are assisting with transport. We remember Ivor Thomas, Cherry Lewis and Mary Heuch who are unable to come as often as they would like.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 29th July. Please submit articles by Friday 20th July. 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 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 July

Sunday Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	All Age Worship - Sea Sunday - Listening
	2.30 pm	Rev Murray George
8th	10.30 am	Ken Mark
15th	10.30 am	Rev Keith Page - Holy Communion
22nd	10.30 am	Rev David Thompson
29th	10.30 am	Gordon Doyle

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 1st	3.30 pm	Outreach tea in the Foyer
Mon 2nd	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom 7 Blythwood Gdns - Salvation Army
Sun 15th	12 noon	Farewell lunch for Keith & Fran Page
Mon 16th	2.30 pm	Monday Club at Fermoy, High Lane
	6.00 pm	Pilots barbecue at 6 Wetherfield
	8.00 pm	Shalom 7 Blythwood - Music, Poetry & Party

Future Dates for your Diary

Sunday September 2nd will be our 1st birthday so we are planning a birthday tea after the afternoon service. The preacher will be Rev John Buxton from Harlow. On the same day at 6.30 pm there will be a welcome service for our new Methodist Minister, David Mullins and his wife Louise and their two teenage daughters, Rachel and Jenni. This will be at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church.

Our Harvest Festival will be on 30th September, when we will be holding a Harvest Lunch and hope that David and Louise will be with us.

Dora Camp



Over 70 people attended a Thanksgiving Service in Stansted Free Church on Wednesday 20th June to Celebrate the Life of Dora.

Aged 92 years, Dora had been a member of the church for 74 years - quite some record - and certainly our longest serving member.

She was born in Thaxted on the 25th August 1914, and at the age of 15 left home to work in service firstly in Henham and then in Stansted. She

was married to Philip in 1937 in the Congregational Church (now Stansted Free Church) and their daughter Janet was born in 1940.

The family moved to Chapel Hill in 1954 and their home was open to all, both to the young and the not so young. A warm welcome was assured to the many who have reason to remember with affection the hospitality received during those years. Dora took an active part in church life, being a loyal member of the choir and an important asset to the church drama club, taking a leading role in the 1953 production of *Babes in the Wood* which was performed in the former Central Hall in Stansted.

Dora and Philip moved to Sunnyside and after the early death of Philip, Janet and Brian invited Dora to live with them in their home in Chapel Hill. For the next 31 years the family supported one another in every way and as the years advanced Janet and Brian continued to care for Dora to the end of her life.

Dora was very proud of her two grandchildren and their wives and also of her four great grand children. She will be greatly missed by family and friends alike.

Peter Trundle

From the Minister

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Faith fascinates me. We hear so much more of the Christian *faith* rather than the Christian *religion* – and rightly so. But what is faith? We tend to assume that faith comes from inside ourselves. This is not untrue, but it's only 10% of what true faith is all about.

In one of my previous jobs, I had the task of providing credit for business customers, based on the their balance sheet, history and credit ratings. Sometimes we could offer higher credit to a small company through a larger company guaranteeing the debt. This allowed me to treat the smaller company as if it was a larger one. That's exactly what God does for us.

We are frail creatures, and faith is not something we easily accept. But if we believe that God:

- created the entire universe
- made everything out of His love
- sent His only Son who died, was buried and rose again for our redemption
- sent His Holy Spirit
- is making a new creation of all who have faith in Him

If we think about all these things – it is not our strength, wisdom or power that's important – it's God's! Faith is counter-culture, working opposite to how the world sees things – so it can never be 'icing on the cake' – but something we must make our own choice.

What do I believe? The world's way – or Christ's Way? If I believe all these things, then there is only one answer.

This is my last contribution to *Imagine* as I am moving soon to Leigh on Sea. I would like to thank you all for your love, kindness and support. It has been an especial joy to see two churches becoming one. The future is now before us, and the only road for us is paved in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless.

Keith

From the Secretary

We're half way through the year. Where do the weeks go?

We are very grateful to Ted Pretty and Peter Brown who for some time have been cutting the grass at the front of the church and keeping it very neat and tidy. Due to other commitments they are unable to continue. To Ted and Peter we say a big 'thank you'. We all know what hard work it is, fitting it in with the hundred and one other things we do. Before Ted and Peter stepped in was becoming difficult to maintain the grass, as we're all getting older and although the spirit is willing sometime the flesh is weak and time is short. So what are the options? Let's 'Imagine' what we could do. Get some sheep? Turn it into a wildlife garden, usually an excuse, in my case, for letting the weeds grow! I'm not sure that Stansted is ready for either of these ideas.

This is my suggestion. We have identified someone who is willing to cut the grass and generally tidy up; this is obviously going to cost money, but if we spread the cost over the year, it works out at about £7 a week. So as not to put an additional burden on the church finances, and incur the wrath of the treasurers, I suggest that if 7 people were willing to give an extra £1 a week or 14 people 50p a week or 28 people 25p a week (slightly less if it were gift aided) the cost would be covered. The alternative is that I shall be harassing people to go on a grass-cutting rota. We have paid for two 'cuts' this year so we need to get this organised as soon as possible. Please speak to me if you are able to contribute; donations will be confidential.

Church Photo

At the recent Church Meeting it was suggested that to enable David Mullins (and any future new ministers) to be able to put a 'name to a face', we would take a group photo. When a new Minister comes to a circuit or a joint pastorate they have to get to know upwards of a hundred members so named photos are a great help.

Church Meetings

I will be giving a questionnaire to all members to find out which day would be most popular for Church Meeting. It is hoped that we can have a regular date (e.g. the 1st Thursday in alternate months) so that we can book that particular day for the whole year, and everyone will know when the meetings will be. Betty

Farewell to Keith Page

In line with Methodist tradition, Keith will be moving to another Circuit - Leigh on Sea - over the summer. His last service with us is on 15th July, which is, quite fittingly, a communion service. Keith has been minister to the Stansted Methodists since 2003, and to the members of the Free Church for the past year.

This has been a time of great change for the members of both churches, but for the Methodists it has meant a considerable change from our informal style of worship in a small hall. Keith supported and nurtured us as we moved out of our 'comfort zone', encouraging us to go ahead in faith and not to be afraid of the future. He spent many hours with David Simpson sorting out the various legal matters.

We will all miss him very much, and wish him well in his new appointment.

Marion Dyer

Farewell Lunch for Keith and Fran Page

Please remember to put your name on the list in the foyer if you wish to book for lunch on July 15th.

Please place any donations for a farewell gift in the box in the foyer, or pass to Betty, by 8th July.

Ministerial Arrangements for July and August

Keith ceases to be our minister on 23rd July. From then until 2nd September, when Rev David Mullins joins us, we will be under the pastorate of Rev Trevor Sands, the Methodist Minister at Saffron Walden. Therefore, if you need a **minister** during this time, please contact Trevor on 01799 522037.

If you need a **pastoral visit**, please contact Janet Townsend. As mentioned previously, Rev Stuart Veitch will also be assisting in some aspects of pastoral ministry.

Monday Club

Our May meeting speaker, the Revd Murray George, started by giving us a paper called *Life Times*, which were memories and moments from a life to date, set out with 25 titles of which we only managed to hear a few. One was called 'A Waltz up Ben Nevis (with a difference)'. Each one was so interesting that we will look forward to hearing the rest at a future meeting.

The June speaker was our well known Mrs Marion Johnson, who told us about her life at school. She came from Hockerill College and then spent her life at Stansted School, seeing many changes from the old schools and then the new ones. This brought back a lot of memories for some of us mothers that had our children go to the local schools and also worked there ourselves. She then kept us smiling with the humorous side of the children's sayings and also parents; we saw the school photographs and children's work. Thank you Marion.

The meeting on July 16th at 2.30 pm will be in my garden.

Phyllis Little

Hear Hear!!



A few months ago we published a cartoon about our temperamental church P A system, little knowing that shortly afterwards we were to have a new one installed! This has been made possible by a generous donation from Angela Finbow in memory of her parents John and Rachel Berrett, who for many years were members first at Henham and then here.

We are most grateful to Angela for her thoughtful and generous gift, and are planning for some kind of plaque in the church in the near future.

Pilots

Our last two meetings for this term are on 2nd & 16th July from 6.00 - 7.30. This term we have continued with our theme of journeys and we have started a display in the church foyer. Please take a look!

Advance notice

We are having a very special Pilot Evening to be held at 6 pm on Monday 8th October in the hall. We are inviting the Mission Aviation Fellowship, a Christian group of medical personnel and their pilots, to lead the evening. They will talk about their work and mission in the inaccessible regions of Africa, flying their light aircraft to reach those who desperately need their help. All are welcome to this evening so please put this date in your diary and support them.

This term, we have been pleased to welcome back Cherry, one of our leaders, who has been very unwell for many months, but is now making a good recovery. We send our prayers and best wishes to Peter and Rosemary Thompson, two more of our leaders. We wish Peter a speedy recovery and hope to see them both at Pilots again in the not too distant future.

Valerie Trundle



Abbie's Prayer



Dear Father God,
thank you for all animals and insects who are our friends.

We have some animals as pets and we love them very much.
Without animals some people would be very, very lonely.

ChristianAid

We believe in life before death

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the grand total of £2075.79, collected in Stansted during Christian Aid Week. In particular I would like to thank all the collectors; and also Brenda, Pauline and Stuart, who ran a coffee morning which raised £95.

The Worship material for the Christian Aid service was written by John Bell of the Iona Community and focussed on **El Salvador**. We heard how a fertile and vibrant country with much potential has had that potential diminished for various reasons. Many will remember how Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spoke out for the poor and oppressed, was shot by the army in 1980 as he was celebrating mass. About 75,000 people died during the civil war from 1980 to 1992.

Recently earthquakes, drought, floods and hurricanes have battered the country, increasing in frequency and intensity, most likely as a result of global warming.

We also heard how Christian Aid's partners are training people to grow fruit and vegetables to improve their health and incomes. We heard about HIV prevention programmes in San Salvador and how communities are being taught how to reduce the risks posed by natural disasters and how to respond to emergencies. We ended the service with the following prayer:

May the peace of God
reign in all our hearts and in our nations.
May the justice of God
inform our thinking and that of our leaders.
May the love which God has for the world
infect our compassion.

Catherine Dean

Competition

The editors were delighted to receive so many captions for the picture on the right, taken during the recent asbestos removal work. It would be very difficult to choose the most amusing ones, so we have decided to print them all!!



Our industrial vacuum cleaner being put through its paces.
Mike Dyer.

Whose turn is it to pump the organ? *Abigail King*

Help ... a dalek has eaten me!! *Alan Wheeler*

The new Minister is rather shy. *Betty Francis*

The new console provides organists with total privacy....
Mike Dyer

If we were RC it could be 'Air-conditioned confessional'.
Betty Francis

Who said Dr Who never went to Church? *James King*

Come on Keith - we're waiting to start the service.
Alan Wheeler

Doctor, we are ready for lift off. *Daniel Morris*

Oh dear, Keith has got another cold. *Betty Francis*

Very private baptism at Stansted Free Church. *Alan Wheeler*

This contemporary pulpit design (with hot air extraction) is being evaluated... *Mike Dyer*

The Tardis has landed in our church; out comes Dr Who!!
Lyndsey and Louise

E Flat being meticulously installed on the organ. *Alan Wheeler*

A bouncy castle is the latest idea for keeping children amused during the sermon....older members argue that this is unfair and there should be no upper age limit. *Mike Dyer*

Asbestos - goodbye!!! Sorry to have caused the church so much trouble all these years!. *Phyllis Little*

OK that's loud enough! They can hear us on Cambridge Rd!
Alan Wheeler

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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.