

# Imagine!

July  
2012



**I** magine if she had known what would happen next! She had chosen a home by the sea 200 miles away from her daughter. The sea was crystal blue and the evenings of cool breezes made for splendid walks along the promenade as the sun slipped like a gleaming blood orange into the ocean. She had an aching in her heart, though, when she remembered her daughter far away on the other side of the country.

One day she knew soothing the dull ache was more important than relishing in the ocean's joy. She and her husband found a house nearer her daughter and moved back to the centre of the country. Within weeks she sought medical help for a persistent and debilitating pain in her tummy. The sad news that she had cancer was soon declared. Near her beautiful new home she discovered wonderful medical staff who helped her through the difficult time and there was great consolation in her daughter's constant presence.

Was it all planned? Sometimes, something tells us it is time to make a big change and make our preparations. Was it the same, I wonder, for our country's Methodist conferences when they carried out those great meditations on what our church is for? Easy to go to church week after week but sometimes you have to stop and take stock and ask if the church we have got is, as they say, "Fit for purpose".

The conference in 1999 adopted a paper 'Called to love and praise' which mirrored an earlier paper put to the same conference 62 years earlier. Both documents are wonderful ponderings on the nature of our church, well worth reading and deeply encouraging.

I am struck by what neither conference knew at the time – the imminent events of 1939 and those of 2001. Was God saying “a difficult time is coming, time to think where you are and be sure of your foundations as you face the future”?

Whether it be cancer, a war, or terrorism, before and through the devastation, God is there, however terrible the suffering and turning upside down of our familiar world. When our lives face threat of terrible change let us remember he walks with us and helps us prepare.

Alan Wheeler

## **Jubilee Celebrations**

A report and pictures of various Jubilee Celebrations will appear in the next edition of Imagine.

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

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	The Worship Team- New Directions
8th	10.30 am	Rev'd David Mullins - Holy Communion
15th	10.30 am	Mike Render
22nd	10.30 am	Denis Walker (note change from the plan)
29th	10.30 am	Rev'd David Keeble

## Other Activities

Sun 1st	11.30 am	Fairtrade Goods on Sale after Service
Tue 3rd	8.00 pm	Way Forward Meeting in the Hall
Mon 9th	6 - 7.30 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom Party - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Mon 23rd	8.00 pm	Churches Together Meeting in the Hall
Sun 29th	11.30 am	Fairtrade Goods on Sale after Service

### Way Forward - Special Church Meeting

**8 pm Tuesday 3rd July in the Hall** led by Rev'd Stuart Veitch  
(Rev'd David Keeble is on holiday).

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss some ideas arising from the **Mission Shaped Intro course** which will help us identify how we can best serve our community:

- How can we interact with them?
- What needs are there in the community that are not already being met?
- Where might God already be working so that we can join in?
- What mission might we be able to do with our partner churches in Stansted?

**This is a very important meeting and all are welcome.  
Please come and share your thoughts.**

# Stansted Free Church

## Methodist / URC

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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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)