

# Imagine!



Imagine every prayer is answered!

**I**magine, when you pray the Lord's Prayer, Jesus prays with you - said the insightful, former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey in his book *Be Still*. Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, of the Russian Orthodox tradition, in *Living Prayer*, comments that the Lord's Prayer 'is both a simple, yet also a difficult prayer'. Methodist, Neville Ward, wrote what is for me the most useful book I have ever read on prayer, *The Use of Praying*. His thinking on what we pray for when we ask for good for others, and for ourselves, removes all notions of prayer as being in any way magical.

Magical ideas wrongly imagine that we can manipulate whatever power there is we call 'God' into giving us what we want. Take the irate customer on the telephone to me in my Post Office days, who, when I refused to reduce her telephone bill, insisted: 'If I protest long enough, I'll get what I want!' Where prayer is concerned, the One to whom prayer is made is then construed as being like some immovable official to be badgered into submission.

Jesus tells a story of a feisty widow badgering a reluctant magistrate into giving her the justice she sought: 'If I don't give her redress,' he thought, 'she'll give me a black eye!' By this parable, Luke's Jesus teaches the reverse lesson: that God is not at all like that reluctant judge, but will speedily answer our plea for the Kingdom's rule to come about. The challenge, said Jesus, is whether there are people with the faith to persist in prayer and hope of that kingdom.

‘What will the Son of Man find when he comes on earth?’ asks Christ. ‘Will he find people of faith?’ How fair is it to imagine this as our response: ‘Lord, I have faith, help me where faith falls short!’

*Allen Morton*

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The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on Sunday 4th July. Please submit articles by Friday 25th June 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 June

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

6th 10.30 am New Directions with the Worship team  
MHA Sunday - Pilgrimage

13th 10.30 am Rev David Mullins - Communion

20th 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton

27th 10.30 am No Service - see below

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

## Other Activities

Wed 2nd 8.00 pm Local Preachers & Worship Leaders  
Meeting in the Church

Sun 6th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service

Mon 14th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall  
8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Sun 20th 4.00 pm The Big Sing - Memorial Gardens

Sun 27th 11.00 am Stansted Fun Run - Bentfield Green

Mon 28th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall  
8.00 pm Shalom at The White Hse, Ugley Grn

## Sunday 27th June - no service

This is the day of the bi-annual Stansted Fun Run. Most of the congregation will be helping with this major village charity event, so we have decided not to hold a service at Stansted Free Church on that day. We invite you to attend one of the following services:

**Stansted:** St John's 10.30 am - Ordination of the curate Revd Giles Tulk

**Bishop's Stortford:** URC 11 am Methodist Church 10 am

# Pilots

## Warwick Castle

The beautiful morning of 15th May was the start of a wonderful day for three of our Pilots. I took great pleasure in taking them on a national Pilots trip, to Warwick Castle. We met with Pilots from Cambridge in the morning, before boarding a coach to Warwick. Once there, we joined in the worship, with many other Pilots. Then followed a walk around the Castle and surrounding areas, with the girls collecting stickers for their books on the way.



We then enjoyed the wonderful sunshine before joining back for worship, this time with all the Pilots, singing various worship songs, doing actions with them, and reflecting on the day. I have to say, it was an amazing experience to have so many Pilots in once space, all worshipping God together; and I shall certainly take the girls to the next event.

*Lyndsey Barnes*

Pilot dates for the rest of this term - Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm:  
14th & 28th June and 12th July.

# PILOTS ART EXHIBITION & COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship

Paintings by Arthur Law

10 am - 1 pm Saturday 10th July in the Hall

**Come & see the Artist at Work ~ All welcome**



Care Time



Please remember in your prayers: Allen and Daphne Morton's daughter Elaine, undergoing chemotherapy; Phyllis Little now home from her spell in hospital with a dislocated shoulder; Valerie's brother Charles, with heart problems; Judy's brother-in-law, with Alzheimer's, and his family; the family of Francis Mercer who died recently; the King family, Ivor Thomas, and Mary Heuch, and all those who are not able to attend church.

Betty

[betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



## Shalom

Please join us - all welcome

*Meetings are 8 pm at 7 Blythwood Gdns unless otherwise stated*

Shalom meets on the 2nd Monday of each month for a more formal session, and on the 4th Monday of each month for an informal 'At Home'. Future dates are:

14th June Rev Giles Tulk: 'How does the church respond to 21st Century Society?'

28th June At Home: The White House, Ugley Green (Phyllis H)

Marion Dyer [marion@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:marion@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

## News from the Church meeting

At the recent Church meeting, we discussed our Mission Pledge, which has now been agreed as follows:

1. **Embracing Renewal** - Develop the life of the church starting from where we are, developing what we do best, but always prepared for change, however difficult we may find such change.
2. **Nurturing Pilots** - Encourage a closer relationship between the church fellowship and the families of Pilots children and young people, by supporting Pilots special events.
3. **Refreshing Worship** - Explore further, the possibilities of new ways of worship, such as Café Style.
4. **Salt in our World** - Find ways of reaching out to the wider community, to show folk that church goers are just ordinary people
5. **Healing our World** -Support needs in the community, bearing in mind the already extensive involvement in charity, voluntary and local council of many of our members.
6. **Declaring "We are Here"** -'Market' ourselves through the hall as a mission asset for the church, making it more appealing.
7. **Being a Touching Place** - Say to people, by what we do, 'we care about you'.
8. **Alert to Family Need** - Be more organized in visiting members who don't come very often or are sick.
9. **Open Heart – Open Mind** - Strive to be a wider church, in losing prejudices and encouraging openness of outlook and attitude.
10. **As One Church 'In Step'** - Continue working ecumenically, improving links and fostering joint ventures with the other local churches.

We are planning to discuss two or three of the above at each church meeting, to see how we are progressing. A simplified version will be displayed on the noticeboard in the hall which we hope will be informative for non-church people.

## Stansted 10K Fun Run & Walk 11 am Sunday 27th June



At the time of writing we have well over a hundred entries for this year's event in which we are supporting: Uttlesford Community Travel; Stansted Day Centre; Samaritan's Purse; St Clare Hospice; and Assin Endwa Trust. Entry forms are in the hall and the church foyer.

You can also download an entry form, or enter on-line by visiting our website. We still need helpers, please contact me. Many thanks.

Marion Dyer

[info@stansted10k.org.uk](mailto:info@stansted10k.org.uk)

[www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk)

## Worship Leaders' Accreditation Service 9th May



Marion Dyer, Catherine Dean, Fran Richards, Brenda Veitch, Alan Wheeler



## The Big Sing 4 pm Sunday 20th June Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill (in St John's Church if wet)

Join us in singing the Village's favourite hymns and songs - some old, some new - something for everyone. Members of The Church of the Cherubim and Seraphim, Birmingham, will be joining us. Tea and cake will be served afterwards. Bring a deckchair!

Catherine Dean

# Stansted Free Church

## Methodist / URC

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

### Contacts

#### **Ministers**

Rev David Mullins

Rev Allen Morton

Email for both ministers: [minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Church Secretary**

Betty Francis

Email: [info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Church Notices**

Marion Pretty

#### **Lettings**

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Brenda Veitch

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### Sunday Service

10.30 am      Morning Worship

*New Directions* - our bi-monthly service in a less formal style

### Children's Work

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

Valerie Trundle Email: [pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)