



I imagine you got to the polling booth and looked down the list of candidates and there was '*Jesus of Nazareth - Independent*' staring you in the face! All the parties are basically the same, you have been telling yourself, but would this new candidate offer a fresh start, giving politics a good name again?

Imagine his manifesto; would it be as incomprehensible as the rest of the parties? "Those who walk in the dark don't know where they are going." This sounds like a good description of the other parties, and I like the way he is calling them a "brood of vipers". "Put your trust in the light" he is saying and he is promising that all sorts of people are going to be blessed.

Better look at the small print and see whether we are among them. It looks as if the prisoners, the poor and the blind fare well under his manifesto; and after all, he is declaring that "The year of the Lord's favour" is coming. That sounds like good news in a time of recession. But do we really want to vote for someone who hasn't got our own four or five main priorities on his agenda?

Imagine what's in it for us if we vote for this candidate. After all he does seem to be telling us that times are going to get tough before they get better - "the sun will be darkened.... stars will fall out of the sky.."

I'd prefer a candidate who told us the good times are coming back again! He does seem to be rather over-orientated towards those on the edge... the outcasts, the not quite respectable. No mention of looking after my little group.

How about you? Does he get your vote? More to the point, is voting for any of the other parties on the list going to help his kingdom to come nearer, or make it a more remote possibility? Something to ponder as you approach the polling booth on 6th May.

Alan Wheeler

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The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on Sunday 30th May. Please submit articles by Friday 21st May 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 May

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 2nd 10.30 am Rev Tim Richards - Baptism of Oscar Keef
(Fran's first grandchild)
- 9th 10.30 am Rev David Mullins - Communion
- 16th 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton
- 23rd 10.30 am Andrew Brown
- 30th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall

Other Activities

- Sun 2nd 12.00 pm Bring & Share Lunch with the Richards
Family in the Hall
- Sun 9th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
6.30 pm Christian Aid Service at the
Quaker Meeting House
- Mon 10th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
- Sat 22nd 10.30 am Church Meeting in the Hall
- Mon 24th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at 13 Blackbushe, B. Stortford



ECUMENICAL SERVICE

6.30 pm Sun 9th May Quaker Meeting House

All welcome

Door-to-door collectors still wanted 9th - 16th May
Please contact Catherine on 813579

Pilots

MAF Evening

On 22nd March Pilots held an exciting and entertaining evening with 45 friends and parents. Kevin Crook told us of some new ventures that MAF are currently undertaking - one being the introduction of 'Above and Beyond'. This is a new project trying to involve more children and young adults with the vital work of MAF and most of our Pilots signed up to receive the new magazine.

Michelle sang some of her own songs, and Cherry and her two granddaughters provided us with a lovely spread. We all had a great evening. With the sale of books and donations from friends and our own Pilot Group, the substantial amount of £95 was forwarded to Mission Aviation Fellowship.

MAF Service



On Sunday 28th March, we held a special MAF Service led by Rev Stuart Veitch. Michelle gave a very interesting Powerpoint and video presentation promoting the work of MAF.

She also told us of her own personal experiences since becoming more involved with the organisation.

Michelle sang a song which she had written, and accompanied herself on the guitar.

Pilot dates for the Summer term - Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm:
26th April, 10th & 24th May, 14th & 28th June and 12th July.
More details of this term's activities in next month's Imagine.

Valerie Trundle

Organ & Vocal Recital 10th April

by Brian and Claire Heald



Phyllis H would like to thank warmly all the 'team' who helped Betty and Marion D with publicity and all the arrangements (including a warm Saturday afternoon) for the recital, resulting in a full house and the sum of £400 forwarded to Methodist Homes (MHA). They must feel rewarded!

Brian was also delighted to send £100 from the sale of CDs to the Chester Wesley Centre Renewal Project.



is a charity providing care homes, housing and support services for older people throughout Britain. Established 65 years ago, MHA now delivers a range of services to suit individual and differing needs to over 12,500 individuals nationwide, delivered by 5,000 dedicated staff and 5,000 committed volunteers. Our services make a real difference to the lives of the older people we serve. We place a special emphasis on the spiritual, as well as physical well-being of each person for whom we provide care, and all our homes and housing have a chaplain to provide pastoral support. MHA is at the forefront of quality dementia services, building new services and delivering care and support specially designed for individuals with dementia.



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; Francis Mercer with advanced cancer; James King, Ivor Thomas, and Mary Heuch, and all those who are not able to attend church.

Betty

betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



The Big Sing 4 pm Sunday 20th June

On June 20th the village will be gathering in the Memorial Gardens to join voices in Songs of Praise. If anyone has a hymn they would like to be included, please let me know by 15th May.

Catherine Dean

catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Entries are coming in thick and fast 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 available in the hall and the church foyer. You can also download an entry form, or enter on-line by visiting our website.

You may have seen in the Link magazine that we are looking for more helpers. We would not want to encourage you to miss morning worship, but we will still need helpers from noon onwards. If you can help, please contact me. Many thanks.



Marion Dyer

info@stansted10k.org.uk

www.stansted10k.org.uk



Doing a Christian Aid collection has got easier. This year, a Community Service team will deliver the envelopes, so that collectors will only have to go round once to collect them. As there are still several streets in Stansted with

no collector, please consider whether this is something that you can do. It is only a few hours' commitment, and it does make a huge contribution to the work of Christian Aid and its partners to put into action its mission statement "We believe in Life before Death."

Please join us at the Quaker Meeting House on Sunday 9th May at 6.30 pm for an ecumenical Christian Aid service.

Catherine Dean
christianaid@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:

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| 10th May | Readings and Music on the theme of Pentecost |
| 24th May | At Home: 13 Blackbushe, Bishop's Stortford |
| 14th June | Rev Giles Tulk: 'How does the church respond to 21st Century Society?' |

Marion Dyer
marion@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 9th May and 6th June. If you would like any fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. New catalogues are in the foyer

Brenda
fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Rev Allen Morton

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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