

Imagine!

November
2011



I imagine not having fresh water on tap whenever you need it. I have had experience of this over the last few months whilst our kitchen has been extended. Fortunately we have friendly neighbours, (our niece, her husband and baby!) so we can access their kitchen tap for drinking water. But just imagine what it is like with no drinking water anywhere in your village. Imagine having to walk for hours every day to collect the water needed for you and your family.

For many people this is normal, and has gone on for thousands of years. Imagine Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). The fact that they had both travelled some distance was not significant, because in those days there was no alternative. However, it was significant that the woman came at the hottest time of the day, because her dubious marital history meant she preferred to be alone. Most people would collect water at cooler times. Imagine her dismay when she found she was not alone. Imagine what went through her mind. Why was a Jew demeaning himself to ask a favour of a Samaritan? She had plenty of experience of men, but this one was rather different. She would have been glad that he was a stranger, because he couldn't possibly know her reputation. Imagine her embarrassment when Jesus told her everything she had done. Imagine how you would feel - Jesus knows everything about us!

Imagine how relieved the woman must have been, when Jesus moved off her tally of husbands, and on to the nature of the water in the well. That well had been used by Jacob and his clan 2,000 years earlier and the water was still coming. Surely there could be no improvement on that. Then Jesus told her about the water of life. Just imagine a stream of living water that is available to everyone even without a kitchen tap or a village well. The Holy Spirit is the source of that living water. If we commit our lives to Jesus we need never thirst again.

Mike Dyer



Care Time



Rev'd Allen Morton (our URC minister) took early retirement at the end of October. We have been very blessed by his ministry with us over the past three years, and wish him and Daphne well as Allen settles into retirement.

Please remember any of our wider church family who need our prayers, including Allen and Daphne Morton; Edna Goreing and family, following the death of Harry; Rita Morson; Brenda Scarr, undergoing chemotherapy; Ivor Thomas, Chris Coetzee and those no longer able to attend church.

Betty

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 27th November. Please submit articles by Friday 18th November 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 November

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 6th 10.30 am New Directions - Living Water
13th 10.50 am United Remembrance Day Service at St John's
Rev'd David Keeble
20th 10.30 am Peter Dawe
27th 10.30 am Faith Paulding

Other Activities

- Thu 3rd 7.00 pm Shoe box packing in the Hall (p 7)
Thu 10th 2.30 pm Bible Study in the Foyer (see below)
Sat 12th 7.30 pm Choir For a Day Concert at B S Methodist (p 7)
Mon 14th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom Bible Study - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sat 19th 10.00 am Music in Worship Day at B S Methodist (p 6)
Sun 20th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Thu 24th 2.30 pm Bible Study in the Foyer
Sun 27th 7.00 pm Taizé Prayer at B S Methodist Church
Mon 28th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 49 Recreation Ground

What does the Bible say about Food?

Led by Stuart and Brenda Veitch

In the Foyer Thursdays 2.30 - 3.30 pm followed by tea

- 10th November Food and Culture
24th November Miracles, Big and Small
8th December Hospitality and Communion



Taizé Prayer

7.00 pm Sunday 27th November
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church
All Welcome

A Journey of Remembrance

As Remembrance Day falls in this month I thought I would like to tell you a little story about my family. When I was a little boy there hung on the wall of our living room a picture of a man who I had never seen. When I asked who he was I was told that he was my grandfather who was killed in the first world war. My curiosity was satisfied and as children do, I thought no more about it. He continued to look down on me over the years until after many redecorations of the room he was taken down and never put up again.

Many years later on one of our trips with St. Mary's Singers, my colleague Peter West and I were walking round a war museum in Rochester and I happened to mention that my grandfather was killed in 1916 but I didn't know the whereabouts of his grave. Peter then suggested that I contact the War Graves Commission, so I rang them and within a couple of minutes they told me exactly where his grave was situated and how to find the cemetery. I decided that the next time we were in France we would visit the grave as apparently nobody in our family had ever seen it. However, we still didn't get round to it until after a year or two we decided more or less on the spur of the moment to go. We booked the ferry and a room at the Campanile Hotel at Lens in northern France.



In early May we set off for Dover and the ferry to Calais arriving at the hotel in mid afternoon where we rested and had a leisurely dinner. Next morning we awoke to a fine but cold morning, had a leisurely breakfast and then set off for the village of Vermelles where the cemetery is situated. On arrival we followed the directions we had been given and there in the right hand corner close to the road in plot 2, row C, grave No 17, was the headstone engraved with the words : 16852 Private Harry Trigg, Essex Regiment, 24th March 1916.

On the base of the headstone was an inscription from my granny which said "Deep in our hearts we mourn the loss of one we loved so well." I can't describe the feeling when I read my family name on a headstone in a foreign country, and as I stood looking at my grandfather's grave, I recalled the words of Rupert Brooke, "If I should die think only this of me, there is a corner of some foreign field that is forever England."



There are 2123 graves in this cemetery of young British soldiers, some as young as 18, very few more than early 30's. "They will grow not old, as we that are left grow old. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

My grandfather's name is on the war memorial in Manuden churchyard together with that of his younger brother Leonard who was killed just 3 months later but has no known grave, although his name is on the memorial in the British cemetery in Arras. Two young sons lost to a single family within 3 months. What a waste and for what?

Tony Trigg

Churches Together Village Harvest Supper



This was a sell out again, and the bought-in fish/chicken and chips followed by hot home-made pudding were favourably received. Our contribution to the entertainment was poetry from Marion and Judy, and songs from Michelle, Valerie and Peter. The £115 profit was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee via Churches Together.

Music in Worship

10 am - 4 pm Saturday 19th November

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

A day to explore the direction and impact of music in worship with Andrew Maries of the Keynote Trust www.keynotetrust.org.uk

Contact Marion for full details of the programme



Shalom

All Welcome - Meetings are 8 pm

- 14th Nov Rev Stuart Veitch leads a Bible Study
7 Blythwood Gardens
- 28th Nov At Home - 49 Recreation Ground

Marion Dyer

Christmas is
a time of giving



Want something to do on
3rd November?

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

Please join us at the Shoe Box packing evening on Thursday 3rd November from 7 pm in the Hall. If you are not able to stay and enjoy the fun, then please help by bringing shoe boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and items to fill the boxes, such as:

- Toys - soft toys, balls, finger & glove puppets, jigsaws, cars, girls' jewellery and hair accessories
- Paper, pens, felt tips, chalk, crayons, stickers
 - Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel, hair clips
 - Sweets (but not chocolate) with a sell-by date of at least March 2012, gloves, scarf, sunglasses.

If you are not able to help on the evening or supply items for the boxes, then you may consider giving a donation of £2.50 per shoebox towards transportation costs. Please pass any donations to me before 3rd November. Thank you.

Catherine Dean 813579

Choir for a Day CONCERT



7.30 pm Saturday 12th November



IN SUPPORT OF
**HELP for
HEROES**

In memory of loved
ones no longer with us

Programme includes

*Look at the World ~ Holy Spirit Truth Divine
For the Fallen ~ The Lord bless you and keep you
Band of Brothers ~ Deep River
And the Glory of the Lord from Handel's Messiah*

Tickets £6 from Marion on 814059

Several members of Stansted Free Church are singing in this event

Stansted Free Church
Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

Minister

Rev David Keeble

Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Secretary

Betty Francis

Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Notices

Marion Pretty

Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer

Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer

Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer

Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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