

# Imagine!



Imagine a world without any rain

**I** imagine an elderly mother and her middle-aged daughter together on a fine day at a local beauty spot. From their car to the nearest park bench it is only two hundred yards. Shuffling one foot in front of the other, the elderly woman, leaning on her companion's arm, gradually negotiates the grassy space between. Earlier at home, the daughter patiently got mother out of bed, toileted, washed, dressed and breakfasted her, explaining that they were going out. Within moments, mother has forgotten the conversation ever happened, asking over and over again whether they were going out. Loving and dutiful as the daughter might well be, imagine the strain she endures having to listen to this ceaseless loop of repetition, sometimes for hour after hour. Both people suffer the effects of this inexorable dissolution of the older woman's brain. The following piece, by Albert Jewell, in a Methodist Prayer Handbook, helps us sense the loss felt by those living with someone with Alzheimer's:

*They say it is a living bereavement that no one else can understand.  
To 'lose' someone whilst they are still there.  
Not to have the hard comfort of funeral rites. It can be a cruel thing.*

*Help me to remember the 'you' that you were.  
To enjoy the memories that may still trigger your own fleeting recognition.  
Help me to cherish the 'you' that is now,  
still special to me even when you have forgotten why.*

*Help me to envision the 'you' that will one day be,  
restored in the enfolding love of God,  
in whom past, present and future are one, and in whom we shall then be complete.  
Lord, keep me in hope and give me strength until that day.*

We can only say “Amen”, praying that we grow in understanding and capacity to show compassion to all affected by this awful disease that affects the lives of so many people and their families.

*Allen Morton*

### Thank you from Rev David Mullins

I’ve just received a lovely card from all the Stansted folk. That’s very kind indeed.

Please thank everyone for their kind words and good wishes. I don’t feel I’ve left and will still look forward to leading worship from time to time and working together as opportunities arise.

Thank you so much. As ever.

David

<b>In this issue:</b>	<b>Page</b>
Services and Events & Chrishall Methodist Church	3
Pilots	4
Tribute to Phyllis Little	5
The Entertainers	6
Village Harvest Supper	6
Mr Darwin’s Tree	7
Contacts and regular events	Back cover

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 31st October. Please submit articles by Friday 22nd October 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 October

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3rd 10.30 am *New Directions with the Worship Team*  
10th 10.30 am *Rev David Keeble - Communion*  
17th 10.30 am *Rev Allen Morton*  
24th 10.30 am *Pamela Cressey*  
31st 10.30 am *Rev Stuart Veitch*

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

## Other Activities

- Sat 2nd 10.00 am *Contemporary Worship Day for*  
to 5.00 pm *anyone interested in worship*  
Mon 4th 6.00 pm *Pilots in the Hall*  
Sat 9th 10.30 am *Church AGM in the Hall*  
Mon 11th 8.00 pm *Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens*  
*Rev Stuart Veitch*  
Sun 17th 11.30 am *Fairtrade goods on sale after service*  
6.00 pm *Village Harvest Supper at St John's*  
Mon 18th 6.00 pm *Pilots in the Hall*

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Chrishall Harvest Festival & Final Service

3 pm on Sunday 3rd October followed by refreshments. All are welcome but they would like to know numbers. Please call Catherine if you would like to attend.

### Café Worship

7 pm Sunday 31st October at B Stortford Methodist Church

### Shoe Box Packing for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm Thursday 4th November in the Hall. Please see Link article for details of suitable items or call Catherine

# Pilots

Pilots enjoyed an entertaining evening led by Lyndsey Barnes and her friend Kirsty, based around The Creation, Prayer and 'What we take for Granted'. Henry and Michelle worked with the Seniors and discussed, among other subjects, the recent visit of the Pope, later joining the younger pilots for refreshments and a chat about the



evening's activities. Arthur and Peter made displays of photographs showing Arthur's Art Exhibition and the MAF Evening. Sarah made the refreshments. When Allen Morton arrived we were joining in Lyndsey and Kirsty's activities. Lyndsey will soon be our Synod Representative for

Fury and will be welcomed by the Moderator, Rev Paul Whittle at the Ipswich Synod on 16th October. She will be sharing this position with Stephen Ball of Southend. Lyndsey is one of our former Pilots and we are very fortunate that she is wanting to become a Pilot Leader. We wish her every blessing as she attends various events connected with her new role.

*Valerie (Captain)*

As you know, I'm now taking more of a leading role in Pilots. Valerie has operations coming up, and asked if I could help, and I jumped at the idea! I've been a pilot for around seven years now, and I want to give something back to Pilots, as a thank you for what they gave me. Pilots has introduced me to worship on such a big level! I've made so many good friends and helped at a lot of events for young people. My aim now is to give young people in our area the chance to make new friends, do fun activities whilst learning about Jesus Christ. This term I have a range of activities for the Pilots to take part in, to ensure they are entertained, and enjoy themselves. We've got a few regular young people who attend, but we are looking for some more, so if you're reading this and have young children/grandchildren, bring them along to pilots!

*Lyndsey Barnes*

## Phyllis Little

Sadly Phyllis Little died on 16th September, having been in hospital for many weeks. Phyllis moved to Stansted in her late teens. She had been brought up as a Baptist, but as there wasn't a Baptist church in the village, she attended the then Congregational Church and became a member in June 1937. So she has been a member for over 73 years - our longest serving member; a great achievement and a hard act to follow.

Over all these years Phyllis has been working away quietly in the background. She always refused to become an Elder, in the old URC days, saying "That's not for me". If there was an occasion when refreshments were needed Phyllis was there - whether it was running the café at the bazaar, making cakes for the afternoon teas or baking for the cake stall, when we were fund raising to modernise the church and hall. In fact up until the last year she was still making cakes for one or two of our old customers as she didn't want to let them down.

Phyllis was secretary of the Church Guild for many years. When this ceased due to the members getting older and not wanting to turn out in the evening, she started up the Monday Club which met in the afternoon. Not only did she run the club she also transported the members to and fro. Phyllis was always giving lifts to church or the WI. Her car was essential to her, and it was a great sadness since last November that her problems with her leg stopped her from driving; how she longed to be mobile again.

There is so much that could be said about Phyllis; each of us will have our own memories and experiences of her kindness and thoughtfulness. She was a much loved mother, mother-in-law, aunt and friend and we shall all miss her, but are glad that we knew her. Our sympathy goes to Valerie and Colin, Alison and Don.

Betty

Please remember in your prayers Gladys Dix, recovering in Epping Hospital after a stroke; Mary Heuch, Ivor Thomas, Chris Coetzee and all those who are not able to attend church.

Come and have a great evening  
listening to songs that people know and love

# 'The Entertainers'

Water Lane URC Church  
Bishop's Stortford

**8 pm Saturday 9th October**

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of  
our Church Building

**Tickets £6**

from Maggie Groves on 657243



**Village Harvest Supper**  
(proceeds to Whitechapel Mission)

*Hot Supper followed by Entertainment*

**6 - 8.30 pm Sun 17th Oct ~ St John's Church Hall**

Tickets: Adults £5 Schoolchildren free from Marion  
Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome

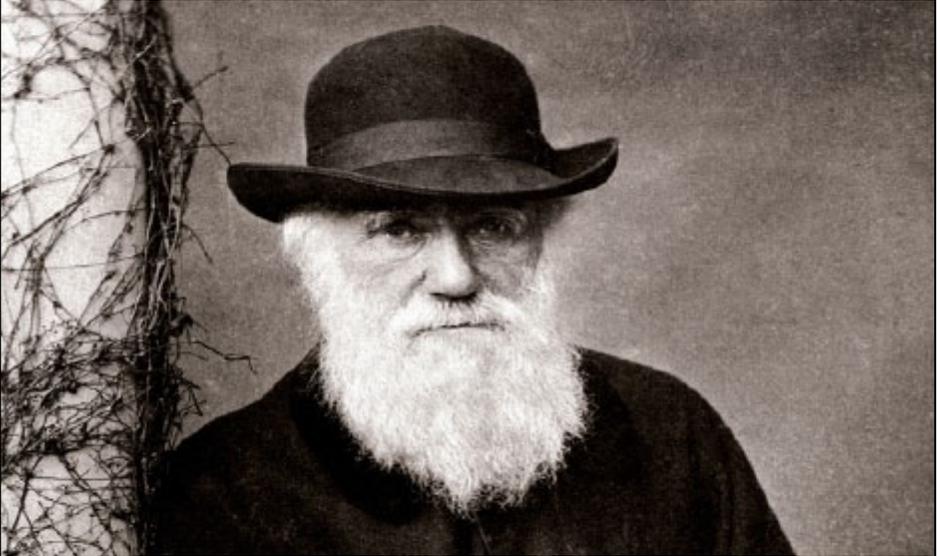


The Faraday Institute  
for Science & Religion  
presents



## MR. DARWIN'S TREE

LIFE, LOVE, SEX, FAITH, DOUBT, DEATH, THE UNIVERSE AND...?



A play written and directed by MURRAY WATTS  
Performed by ANDREW HARRISON

Friday 29th and Saturday 30th October at 8 pm  
McCrum Lecture Theatre (behind the Eagle Pub),  
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Tickets £10 (£5 concessions) from 01223 741281  
[www.faraday-institute.org](http://www.faraday-institute.org)

*The play focuses on the relationship between Darwin (an agnostic) and his wife Emma (a Christian), and issues of science, faith, love and human destiny. It is aimed at a general audience of all beliefs and persuasions, and intends to entertain, challenge and move all who encounter it. The play is suitable for anyone over the age of sixteen.*

# Stansted Free Church

## Methodist / URC

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

### Contacts

#### **Ministers**

Rev David Keeble

Rev Allen Morton

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

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Marion Pretty

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Brenda Veitch

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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)