



**I** *Imagine there's no heaven, it's easy if you try. No hell below us, above us only sky. Imagine all the people, living for today... Imagine there's no countries, it isn't hard to do. Nothing to kill or die for and no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace...*

Those words of John Lennon from his song 'Imagine' are in many ways very sad. The sentiments about living life in peace are great and who could argue with that? Yet for Lennon it seemed that religion has played such a large part in fracturing our world rather than bringing it together. At first sight this song can seem very anti religion, but I would like to suggest it picks up more on humankind's tribal tendencies than anything else. So often war and factional violence are blamed on religion, but I believe it is much more about greed, discrimination, hypocrisy and our sad habit of insisting our way must be the only way. Imagine then a world where the Apostle Paul's words about Jesus and humility were the norm:

*Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: he always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death - his death on the cross.'*

*Philippians 2:3-8*

Imagine a world living in total peace; impossibility?

At the moment yes, but when Jesus returns it really will be heaven.

*Blessings  
David*



# Care Time



Please pray for Iris and Dave Evans - Dave's mother died recently, and Iris' nephew Russell is unwell; for others in our wider church family who need our prayers; and those no longer able to attend church. Please also pray for **The Place on the Hill** as we continue with our Friday opening which is proving very popular.

We have received prayer requests from some of those who attend the Place on the Hill. We are remembering these requests during our Sunday worship. Please use the prayer slips which are available in the foyer.

Betty

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

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

6th 10.30 am Don McGregor  
13th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion  
20th 10.30 am Peter Dawe  
27th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall

## Other Activities

Mon 7th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall  
Fri 11th/18th/25th 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall  
Sat 12th 10 am - noon Shoe Box Collection in the Foyer  
Sun 13th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
6.00 pm Village Harvest Supper at St John's  
Mon 14th 8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gdns  
Bible Study led by Rev'd Stuart Veitch  
Sat 26th 10 am - noon Annual Church Meeting in the Hall  
10 am - noon Shoe Box Collection in the Foyer  
Tue 29th 8.00 pm Churches Together Meeting in the Hall

## Annual Church Meeting

**10 am Saturday 26th October in the Hall**

The Annual Church Meeting is when we have an opportunity to look back over the past year, and think about the future. Important decisions are often made at church meetings and this is your chance to have a voice.



**Village Harvest Supper**  
proceeds to Care Network (Uttlesford)

**6 - 8.30 pm Sunday 13th October**

**St John's Church Hall**

*Fish / Chicken / Veggie & Chips*  
*followed by entertainment from the churches*

Tickets: Adults £6 Schoolchildren £5 - advance booking essential

Contact Marion ~ Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome



**Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm:  
7th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec**

On Monday 9th September the Pilots enjoyed the company of a visitor, Pamela Jenner, a drama specialist from Saffron Walden. Pamela introduced the children to some drama games and told them the story of Jonah and the Whale. Everyone had fun and we all enjoyed the evening. We are looking forward to Pamela's visit to our next Pilot meeting on 7th October, when we will do more work towards preparing for our 'Play in a Day', the date of which is still to be confirmed.

*Valerie and Peter and all the Pilot team*

*Tel: 813433*

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



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 13th October and 17th November. The new catalogues in the church foyer have lots of gifts suitable for Christmas presents, but you need to order early as they do sometimes sell out.

Brenda

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



**Fridays 6.15 - 7.45 pm: 11th, 18th, 25th Oct  
Free Church Hall**

Investigators is a new group which started in September, endorsed by Churches Together in Stansted, aimed at 7-10 year old children; however there is some flexibility over the age-range, particularly for younger siblings, as long as they are of school age and confident enough to mix with 7-10 year olds. Sessions include a mix of games, activities, bible-stories and lots of different topics from the local area and across the world - but above all it is... FUN! All leaders are members of local churches and are CRB/DBS-checked, experienced in working with children, and trained in best practice. There is no cost for attending but places are limited and filling up fast, so contact me asap to book.

*Ros Page*

*On behalf of the Investigators Team*

*Tel: 810813*

*Email: [rospagemusic@yahoo.com](mailto:rospagemusic@yahoo.com)*

## The Fearless Four in Paris

If it was quiet on Sunday 28th July at church it was probably because the 'fearless four' (Mike, Alan, Margaret and myself) went to Paris with the U3A for a long weekend. On Saturday morning, we visited the Palace of Versailles along with several hundred other people. The Palace is huge; it was originally built as a Chateau in 1624 for Louis XIII and gradually expanded to become the Symbol of absolute Monarchy. The Hall of Mirrors is an amazing place, built in 1690, where ceremonies of the French Court took place. It looks out onto the wonderful gardens, designed by Andre Le Notre in 1661 - 1700 for Louis XIV. On Sunday, Alan and I took leave from the Group and went to the Musee d'Orsay, just across the Seine from the Louvre. This wonderful Museum is housed in what was a former railway station built in 1898. It holds mostly French art and we admired many impressionist and post-impressionist works including Gauguin, Manet, Seurat, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Millet and many unknown to us before. We selected some we would like to buy and are awaiting their arrival....



We were unable to go up the Eiffel Tower as planned, due to lift problems, but instead went to Montparnasse Tower which has equally amazing views 56 floors up! The lift is so fast that your ears go odd - or maybe that's just me! We took photos up there and of course you can see the top of the Eiffel Tower, which you can't if you are in the Tower itself! We had a lovely Sunday lunch and a glass of champagne in a restaurant on the Avenue des Champs Elysees to make up for our supposed disappointment at not going up the Tower! We

enjoyed a trip up the Seine on one of the famous Bateaux Mouches and saw many famous landmarks and the French enjoying their afternoon by the river. Alan had set a French Quiz for the U3A members which he distributed on the way there and gave the answers as a welcome diversion on the journey back - do any of you know who is the Patron Saint of Paris? I didn't but I do now!

*Judy*

## Harvest 2013

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collection shown below. The goods have been shared between our Foodbank in Stansted and the Harlow Foodbank.



Contributions towards the Stansted Foodbank are accepted at any time and are stored in the vestry. You can bring goods when you come for Sunday worship, or when The Place is open on Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm. For more details contact Alan Dean on 813579. Thank you.



The Place on the Hill  
@placeonthehill

**Wednesdays & Fridays**  
**9.30 am - 12.30 pm Free Church**

**Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge**  
[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace)

**More helpers are needed on Fridays**  
**If you can help please contact**  
**Marion email:**

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

**Thank you**

## Twenty Seven Million Slaves in the World Now

About ten years ago I began writing a novel entitled '**The Garden of Sparkling Delight**' about sexual slavery, and because I have a connection with a member of your church I thought you might be interested in hearing about it. The inspiration for the book came when I attended a lecture given by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) at a URC ladies day, where I learnt that an estimated 20,000 young people are in slavery in Great Britain. Until then, I had not given the subject much thought as I wrongly assumed that it might be a problem in other countries. I came away from that day angrier than I ever remember being before, and desperately frustrated at not being able to do anything practically to address the problem apart from giving money. It was borne in on me over the next few weeks that one way of helping would be to write a novel describing what it might feel like to be taken from your home and made to work as a prostitute. My hope is that anyone who reads the book will travel down this pathway of empathy and so be moved in their turn to think of something creative they can do to help right this dreadful evil that affects every corner of our globe.

I also felt that a story would engage the emotions of the reader better than a factual account, as in a novel it is possible to describe in a deeper way the effect of prostitution on a child's body and personality, and the repercussions on their families and friends. The book also tells the story of a young British couple which provides a positive story line, and shows the contrast between the normal expectations of the average woman and those who are enticed or sold into sexual slavery. The more people who understand this evil and do something about it, the better; so I would be grateful if you could read the book and recommend it to others, so that we can join together to fight this problem. If you have contact with people in local magazines who would be prepared to run an article about this book, please email me on [debvaren@gmail.com](mailto:debvaren@gmail.com) with the details. If you visit my blog <http://debvaren.blogspot.co.uk> you will find suggestions how you can help and background to some of the characters. We would welcome your feedback. All profits from the sale of the book (available from Amazon in paperback £7.30 and for Kindle £4.10) go to the four charities listed at the back of the book, who are working to rescue such children and young people. If you could write a positive review, that would really help. Deborah Varen is a pen name which reflects the fact that many people have given and are giving their time and expertise to this project. Thank you so much.

Deborah Varen

# Stansted Free Church

## Methodist / URC

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

### Contacts

#### Minister

Rev David Keeble

Email: [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

##### Mike & Marion Dyer

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

#### Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer

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

#### Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer

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

#### Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

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

### Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

#### Pilots Children's Work

**Monday (monthly)** 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: [pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### The Place on the Hill Drop-In (All Welcome)

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

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