

Imagine!



Aug
2015

I imagine you are sitting in your hospital waiting room – the inner one, after skipping through Reception. I was there, idly reading the messages that passed across the screen on the wall opposite. Every now and again, “If you are feeling unwell, go to Reception” appeared. I wanted to laugh out loud; what on earth was anyone doing here who is **not** ‘feeling unwell’?? They should be out working! By the third or fourth sighting of the travelling message, I began to see its sense. Maybe a patient, dreading facing a specialist and hearing bad news, felt suddenly ‘unwell’. Perhaps a companion, fearing for their friend’s treatment or prognosis, ever fearful for their own health – enough to bring on a wave of sickness; or even the ride here by car or ambulance made one sick! How truly can ‘feeling unwell’ apply to our spiritual state! The psalmist said, “Do not fret” - how hard it is to avoid that! At this holiday time, in our rapidly changing world, we constantly fret about our loved ones, and still more about those enduring flood, fire, earthquake, terrorist attacks, domestic violence and accidents. It is enough to make me ‘feel unwell’ (it is called *sympathy*, and I hope it never leaves me).

So I must go to Reception, to God, the great Receiver of our prayers and thanks, receiving us in whatever state of ill feeling and enabling us to **act** on our sympathy.

I hope you are ‘feeling well’ if you were holidaying; but if the return to work pulls you down, I would go to Reception with my petitions for everyone, and thanks for more chances to help my neighbour when **they** are unwell.

Phyllis Harrison



Care Time



We remember Cherry, Noel and all who are unwell; Jane and other members of our congregation who are no longer able to attend church; those who have lost loved ones; and visitors to The Place on The Hill who are going through difficult times.

We pray for the Churches Together Messy Church steering group as they continue with preparations for the first event in October; for Caroline and Paul Vodden as they prepare for their move to Saffron Walden, and for Arthur and his daughter Alex as she prepares for her move to Australia.

Church Secondary Double Glazing

We are very pleased that our application to Viridor for funding to install secondary double glazing in the church has been successful and work is due to start in the autumn. We are also installing blinds on the church windows which will help improve the display when we use the video projector on sunny days. Our thanks go to Valerie and Betty for their hard work on this project.



Wednesdays & Fridays
(including school holidays)
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

facebook The Place on the Hill
twitter @placeonthehill

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

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions
9th 10.30 am Rev'd Christine Fowler
16th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
23rd 10.30 am Julie Finbow
30th 10.30 am Denis Walker

Other Activities

Sat 8th 10 am - noon & 2 - 4 pm Open Day at The Manse, 8 Birchalls
Sun 16th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service

OPEN DAY at the Manse

Christine and Roy invite you to

8 Birchalls, High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

Saturday 8th August

10 am - noon and 2 - 4 pm

This invitation is extended to all the WEBS churches

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Saturday 5th at 2.30 pm Induction of Revd Caroline Vodden

Water Lane United Reformed Church, Bishop's Stortford

Sunday 6th at 10.30 am Stansted Free Church 9th Anniversary

Preacher Rev'd David Mullins

Sunday 13th at 10.30 am 350th Anniversary Service

Abbey Lane United Reformed Church, Saffron Walden

Preacher Mr John Ellis (Moderator of the General Assembly)

There will be no service at our church on that day

Sunday 13th at 3.30 pm Stansted Churches Songs of Praise

Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill or St John's Church if wet

Accompanied by Bishop's Stortford Brass Band

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

Contacts

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship.

1st Sunday of each month - New Directions (Informal)

The Place on the Hill Drop-In (Everyone Welcome)

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk