

Imagine!



September
2015

Imagine you had nothing to be thankful for. How depressing would that be? You would have a very grim view of life, extraordinarily self-centred, focused on your rights, and feeling that they are being universally ignored. This is not you of course, because it is the antithesis of the Christian view of life; but, because it demonstrates the opposite to what we should be, it is a reminder of the importance of thanksgiving.

In the season of Harvest Thanksgivings we will reflect again on the generosity of God and our appreciation of the human toil that brings such an abundance of food to our tables. However, recent events are reminders that we are stewards of God's generosity, and the arbiters of justice to those whose toil we so often forget. When we see on our TV screens asylum seekers surviving on meagre daily handouts, and cows being walked through supermarkets, we are reminded that we are called to love our neighbours and to ensure God's generosity is not meant to stop at us, but is for all. Our thanksgiving needs to be the springboard for action.

Yet our thanksgiving should not just embrace the food for our tables. Each day is a gift from God, and we should be thankful for every one of them, and all God's generosity with the gifts of love that should make us Christians, of all people, the most thankful on earth. Sadly we have something of a reputation for being negative and killjoys, which hardly demonstrates the thankfulness that should run parallel to loving "*The Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind*". So may this year's Harvest Festival be a reminder of our calling to share with our friends and neighbours, the spirit of thankfulness to our generous God.

Stuart Veitch



Care Time



We pray for Caroline and Paul Vodden as they settle in Saffron Walden, and for Caroline as she begins her ministry with the WEBS pastorate; for Arthur following his daughter's move to Australia; and for the Churches Together Messy Church steering group as they continue with preparations for the first event in October.

NEWS from WEBS

Our church is part of the WEBS (West Essex & Bishop's Stortford) pastorate and we are encouraged to join the following events:

Autumn Bible Studies - The Missionary Journeys of Paul

Led by Caroline at Newport United Reformed Church

Wednesdays 30th September, 21st October, 25th November

Afternoon 2.30 - 4 pm or Evening 7.30 - 9 pm

Celtic Communion

Newport United Reformed Church 3 pm

Sundays 20th September, 18th October, 15th November



MESSY CHURCH COMES TO STANSTED!

Sunday 4th October 3.30 - 5 pm

St Mary's School, Foresthall Park



New to Stansted, (but already very popular elsewhere), Messy Church is an **exciting** and **informal** style of church for families (particularly those with children under 12). There will be activities, celebration and food (based on a Christian theme), and an emphasis on **FUN!** It is arranged by Churches Together in Stansted and our church has representatives on the steering group which has been meeting since April. We are looking for people to help with the activities on the day (please call Brenda on 815819), and to provide sandwiches and cakes (please call Carol on 812902). For general information please call Marion & Mike on 814059.

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 27th September. Please email articles by Friday 18th September to news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk or pass to one of the 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 SEPTEMBER

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 6th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins - Church Anniversary
13th 10.30 am Service at Saffron Walden URC (see below)
No service at Stansted
20th 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
27th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Harvest Communion (see below)

Other Activities & Services

- Sat 5th 2.30 pm Induction of Caroline at B S URC (see below)
Wed 9th 8.00 pm LPWT Meeting at B Stortford Methodist Church
Sun 13th 3.30 pm Songs of Praise in Memorial Gardens or in St John's Church if wet (please bring a chair)
Sun 20th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Sun 20th 3.00 pm Celtic Communion at Newport
Wed 23rd 8.00 pm Circuit Meeting in the Hall
Mon 28th 8.00 pm Shalom At Home 7 Blythwood Gardens
Wed 30th 10.00 am The Place on the Hill Harvest Special Event
Wed 30th 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm WEBS Bible Study at Newport

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Saturday 5th at 2.30 pm Induction of Revd Caroline Vodden

Water Lane United Reformed Church, Bishop's Stortford
Please contact Betty on 813977 if you would like to travel on the coach which leaves Stansted at 1.15 pm

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)

Sunday 27th at 10.30 Stansted Free Church Harvest Festival Service

Donations for Bishop's Stortford YMCA will be gratefully received:

Pasta, pasta sauces, instant noodles, couscous, mayonnaise.

Tinned: ravioli, tuna, spaghetti, baked beans, fruit, rice, soup, meat (sausages, corned beef, meatballs), vegetables (sweetcorn, peas, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes).

Cereals, pour-over sauces, crackers, UHT/long life milk, biscuits, instant coffee, tea bags, spreads (jam, honey, peanut butter, marmalade, marmite).

Toothpaste, toothbrush, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, comb, brush, toilet bag.

Thank you

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

Contacts

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

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Brenda Veitch

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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