



April  
2016

**I**magine seeing some spectacular lights. A recent eyewitness photo in the Guardian newspaper depicted the northern lights.



The picture was taken at Sycamore Gap in Hadrian's Wall by Owen Humphreys (reproduced Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd).

It shows a bare tree silhouetted against the green, yellow and red light of the Aurora.

At Easter the cross is bare (the cross is sometimes described as the tree), although in some churches, including ours, it is decorated with spring flowers.

It is certainly empty. All the pain and suffering of Good Friday is past. God has met all the sin and evil of the world with the love of Christ. The victory of life over death has been won. And in the light of our Easter faith, we have re-born hope for ourselves and for the world. We see beyond the darkness of the cross to the glory of the resurrection. The tree of death has become the tree of life.

Wherever our experience casts a dark shadow over us, whenever we are tempted to give up on ourselves, other people, or the world, the light of Easter and Christ risen from the dead blazes with hope. It causes us to shout alleluia (praise God) and to grasp hold of life with new determination to live by the light of faith.

With Easter love and joy. God bless,

# EASTER OFFERING 2016



Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches overseas.

## "Child, get up!"



Methodist Women  
in Britain

The Methodist Church

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Photo by Linda Crossley, Vice-President, Methodist Women in Britain, showing Dalit girls at a community education project, run by the Church of North India's Bishop College, for rag-pickers in the city of Nagpur.

Sunday 8th May 6.30 pm  
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church  
All Welcome

## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

### Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3rd 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions  
10th 10.30 am John Banks  
17th 10.30 am Rev'd Caroline Vodden - Communion  
24th 10.30 am Mark Hayes

### Other Activities

- Sun 10th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
Wed 27th 7.30 pm WEBS Bible Study in the Foyer  
Sat 30th 10.00 am Church Meeting in the Hall

### NEWS from WEBS

#### Bible Studies - Tell me the Stories of Jesus

*How well do we really know them?*

Led by Rev'd Caroline Vodden

**Wednesdays 27th April, 25th May and 29th June**

2.30 - 4 pm Newport United Reformed Church or

**7.30 pm coffee for 7.45 pm start - 9 pm Stansted Free Church Foyer**



### Care Time



### Jane Sell

We pray for Geoffrey and Christopher Sell and families, following the death of their mother, who was one of our oldest church members, having celebrated her 90th birthday last year. Jane was a well-known and respected member of the Stansted community and has done much voluntary work at the Day Centre in the past. She will be very much missed. Her funeral is due to take place at our church on Friday 1st April 11.30 am, followed by refreshments in the hall, to which all are invited.

We also remember the family of Isobel Linegar, whose funeral took place in our church recently. Isobel and her husband had a connection with the church when they were younger.

### Rev'd Roy Fowler Sabbatical 4th April - 4th July

We pray for Roy that he may find a time of refreshment and renewal.

(All enquiries during this time should be directed to the secretary)

# **Stansted Free Church (Methodist / URC)**

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

**Part of the WEBS (West Essex & Bishop's Stortford) URC Pastorate  
and the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Circuit**

## **Contacts**

### **Minister**

Revd Roy Fowler                    (day off Monday)  
On sabbatical 4th April - 4th July - please contact the secretary

### **WEBS Minister**

Revd Caroline Vodden

### **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 of each month - New Directions (Informal)

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

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm  
Tel Marion & Mike, Catherine & Alan or Fran  
Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)