

Imagine!

July
2018



Imagine no television, no radio and no newspapers: no news! Would you be a lot happier? The news seems to be predominantly bad news, “bad news sells newspapers, good news does not”. So we experience a constant drip, drip, drip of bad news and that can so easily lead to a sense of depression, especially if you have little to distract you, perhaps because you are house bound, or you have a stressful situation to face in your own lives.

So if you cut out all the media you have cut out much of the bad news. What are you left with? A barren place, an arid desert!

We Christians are not called upon to hide away from the world, to become something like ostriches with our heads in the sand. There is a place for quiet retreats; but for most of us such retreats are opportunities to recharge our batteries, ready for our engagement with the world we live in. Christ in the garden of Gethsemane came to terms with his Father’s will, submitted to it and went out to face his betrayer.

His story of courage, determination, trust and love is a signpost for us all; his adventure of hope seemed very bleak on Good Friday, but sprung into joy and confidence on Easter Sunday. This calls us to a similar approach to life, in which we see our pilgrimage lives as an adventure of hope, a hope badly needed by the world out there. We are called to be the salt and light for our community, infusing our world with Christ’s values of forgiveness, love and hope.

May the words of Kate Wilkinson’s hymn (Hymns and Psalms 739) be our prayer:

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling all I do or say.*

Stuart Veitch

BAPTISM

It was lovely to see the church packed to capacity for the recent baptism of **Blake Parker**, Sue's first grandson.



Parents **John and Claire** were joined by nearly 90 friends and family plus 15 church members to share this special day.

The congregation joined in the dramatised version of Mark 4 verses 35 - 41 which told of Jesus calming the storm. During the address, Roy invited everyone to make a boat from a sheet of coloured paper, whilst thinking about all the hopes and fears we have for our own lives, our families and especially for Blake.



Many thanks go to: Roy for such a welcoming service; Alan W, Alan D, Mike and Peter for moving so many chairs to and from the hall; Fran and Willy who helped set up the church; Judy and Mike for the photographs; and Marion who maximised the seating space and designed the order of service.



WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	Stort Valley Schools Trust - New Directions
8th	10.30 am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch
15th	10.30 am	Rev'd Claire Heald
22nd	10.30 am	Rev'd Gill Hulme
29th	10.30 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Other Activities

Sun	22nd	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after the service
Sat	28th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall



1000

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
(including school holidays but not Bank Holidays)
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

The Place on the Hill
@placeonthehill



Care Time



We pray for: Desiree, Noel and Lillian and others who can no longer attend church; Valerie and Brenda awaiting treatment; Dave adjusting to his diagnosis and treatment; Margaret recovering from her cataract operation; Arthur, that his house move will go through soon; the two Syrian families; Rev'ds Caroline Vodden and Paul Wilkin returning from sabbatical; those who come to The Place on the Hill and are going through difficult times; and any others known to us.

Please note: Roy is not available from 9th - 23rd July; if you need a minister during that time, please contact Rev'd Caroline Vodden on 01799 524416



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH
INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING



Please bring your used ink cartridges and place in the boxes in the foyer and the hall. All makes except Epson can be recycled, but they must be originals, not re-manufactured. We receive £1 for every cartridge which will go towards the costs of Messy Church. Thank you.

Marion

Stansted Free Church (Methodist / URC)

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Contacts

Minister

Rev'd Roy Fowler (day off Monday)
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

WEBS Minister

Rev'd Caroline Vodden

Methodist Superintendent

Rev'd Gill Hulme

Church Secretary

Betty Francis
Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer
Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer
Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch
Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship.
Some months we hold *New Directions* which is an informal service

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

Monday, Wednesday and Friday (not Bank Holidays)

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Tel Marion & Mike , Catherine or Fran

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

