

Imagine!

Imagine God's
supporting
hand



I imagine looking up at a 110 feet water tower, watching others abseiling down the outside and thinking “That will be me very soon”. Getting strapped up and putting your helmet on does not quite prepare you for what happens next. Imagine climbing up on the inside of the tower on vertical steel ladders which are about 3 inches from your face with quite narrow rungs. There is no room for manoeuvring about at all and it really is best not to look down. Imagine getting to the top and finding that you have to climb across to another ladder that emerges onto the tower. The helpers did say that if any of us couldn’t do that last bit they would hoist us up - so absolutely no chance of backing out there then. I climbed gingerly up towards the top, trying to look as if I was enjoying it and then suddenly I was in the open air! What a fantastic view - rather an unusual way though of looking at the scenery.

Getting strapped up while standing on the top of the tower was the easy part. Being asked to hang over the edge and putting my feet on a ledge was just a little bit more difficult. “You really want me to put my feet over there?” I asked hoping I didn’t have to do it. “Yes don’t worry we are here” - “I know but you are not hanging off the edge”. Then: “Now let go of the ledge and move over here with your feet over the side”. “What now?” - “Yes, we need to tighten up your strap for the rope”. Why did I decide to do this, secretly thinking that I could be doing much better things - I could be at church. “Oh alright but don’t let go of me” - in a very pleading tone. Well after a bit of a pep talk I gripped the abseil rope for dear life and then realised that I had to come down. Slowly lowering myself down was harder than it looked as it was still quite windy. The compère at the bottom of the tower was welcoming everyone down and he kept saying - “Iris, look round and wave to everyone”. Wave? - I was

battling to keep the rope straight, gripping it as hard as I could with both hands. “OK then, if you can’t wave, then wiggle your feet”. That I could do. Then in some sort of perverse way I started enjoying it but not so much as when my feet hit the ground. Would I do it again? Probably for charity but not quite just yet and hopefully on a nice sunny day. Doing the jump took me out of my comfort zone and totally reliant on others. Isn’t that what God asks us to do sometimes? Are we ready to take that leap?

Iris Evans

Christmas is
a time of giving



Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

The Shoe Box packing evening is on Wednesday 11th November from 7pm in the Church Hall. Shoe Boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and items to fill the boxes can be left in the following places:

- Church foyer on Sat 17th and 31st October 10.00 am – noon
- At the back of St. John’s church from 12th October
- Brought on the 11th November

There are six categories: boys and girls aged 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Leaflets are in the church foyer. The following is a list of the items that can be included, though it is not comprehensive.

- Toys - soft toys, balls, finger & glove puppets, jigsaws, cars, girls’ jewellery and hair accessories
- Paper, pens, felt tips, chalk, crayons, stickers
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel, hair clips
- Sweets (but not chocolate) with a sell-by date of at least March 2010, gloves, scarf, sunglasses.

We also need people to cover shoe boxes in advance of the evening - boxes and wrapping paper supplied. A pattern is available for knitting a soft toy. As you know Janet Townsend organised the Shoe Boxes for several years, sending 360 boxes last year. We hope this year’s operation is as successful, so that we do not disappoint Janet. Please give whatever help you can.

Catherine Dean
catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

What's on in October

Worship at Stansted Free Church

4th	10.30 am	The Worship team -New Directions in Worship
11th	10.30 am	Ken Mark
18th	10.30 am	Rev Allen Morton Holy Communion
25th	10.30 am	Penny Flynn

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

Sat 11th	6.00 pm	Village Harvest Supper in St John's Hall
Mon 12th	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Tue 13th	8.00 pm	Church Meeting in the Hall
Sat 17th	10.00 am	Collection point in the Foyer for Shoe Box items
Sun 18th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Tue 27th	7.30 pm	Churches Together Forum in the Hall
Sat 31st	10.00 am	Collection point in the Foyer for Shoe Box items

Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting is at 8 pm on Tuesday 13th October in the Hall. Attendance has been very low at the last few meetings, and at the last meeting there were not enough present to make a quorum and therefore we were not able to vote on any proposals. Please try to attend this time - important decisions are often made at Church meetings and this is your chance to have a voice.



Village Harvest Supper (proceeds to St Clare Hospice)

Hot Supper followed by Entertainment

6 - 8.30 pm Sun 11th Oct ~ St John's Church Hall

Tickets: Adults £5 schoolchildren free from Marion

Bring your own drink & glass ~ All Welcome

Thank you

Phyllis Harrison (still 90) would like to thank everyone for their very kind birthday wishes and Pretty Polly Rose, ably planted by Betty, and still flowering.

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Contacts

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

Ministers

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Rev Allen Morton

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Church Notices

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship

New Directions - our bi-monthly service in a less formal style

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk