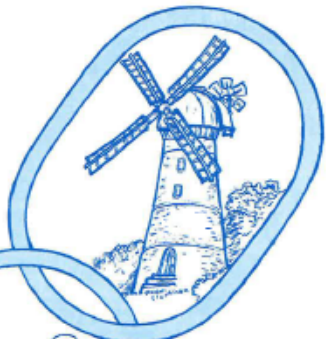


The **LINK**



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

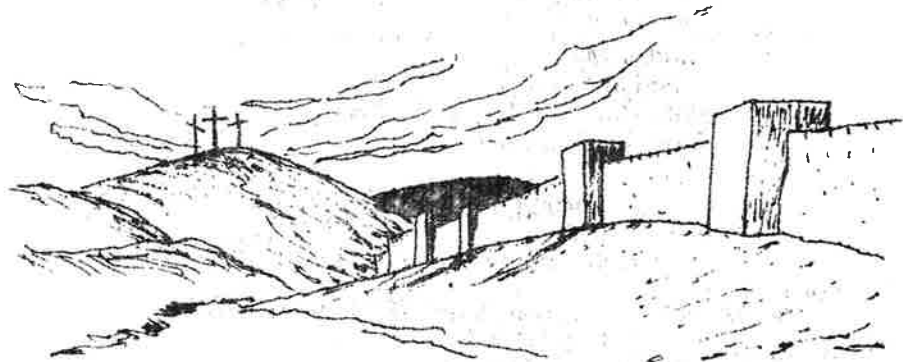
April brings us again to Easter. There is something elemental in the legends of the dying and rebirth of the gods. There is something prophetic there, as well because legend anticipated fact. The resurrection of Jesus is the supreme historic fact upon which the Christian Church stands. Every Sunday is a little Easter because "on the first day of the week" the disciples met the risen Lord. All Christians are united in the response of faith to the Gospel: "He is risen indeed!".

I love these lines written by an unknown soldier who was killed in the 1914-18 war. They really say it all.

If it be all for naught, for nothingness
 At last, why does God make the world so fair?
 Why spill this golden splendour out across
 The western hills, and light the silver lamp
 Of eve? Why give me eyes to see, and soul
 To love so strong and deep? When, with a pang
 This brightness stabs me through, and wakes within
 Rebellious voice to cry against all death?
 Why set this hunger for eternity
 To gnaw my heartstrings through, if death ends all?
 If death ends all, then evil must be good,
 Wrong must be right, and beauty ugliness.
 God is a Judas who betrays his Son,
 And with a kiss, damns all the world to hell, -
 If Christ rose not again.

St. Paul was less poetic but equally certain. Moreover, he drew on living memory and witness of the resurrection:

"If Christ has not been raised then our preaching is useless and your believing is useless: because we swore in evidence before God that he had raised Christ to life." (1 Corinthians 15:14-15 - Jerusalem Bible)



Copy for the May issue should reach
 48 St. John's Road by 9th April: it
 would be very useful if contributors
 could indicate the number of words
 contained in their copy.

THE LINK

The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches.
Annual subscription is £1.20. To order a copy please telephone
Mrs. Margaret Booker 812684.

†††

Items for publication (news, letters, articles, etc.) should be delivered to
Mrs. Mair Muir, 48 St. John's Road. Tel: 812289.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the SACC, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Clergy: The Rev'd. Barry Rose, The Vicarage,
St. John's Road. Tel: 812203.
The Rev'd. Andrew Proud, 43 Gilbey Crescent.
Tel: 814463.

Services: At St. Mary's, Church Road.
Holy Communion – 8 a.m. (2nd Sunday)
Matins – 11 a.m. (not 1st or 3rd Sunday)
Choral Communion – 11 a.m. (3rd Sunday)
Evensong – 6.30 p.m. (summer months)
At St. John's, St. John's Road.
Holy Communion – 8 a.m. (not 1st or 2nd Sunday)
Parish Communion – 9.30 a.m.
Evensong – 4 p.m. (winter months)

METHODIST CHURCH

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Minister: The Rev'd. Harold Fisher, 2 South Road,
Bishop's Stortford. Tel: 54475.
Services: Morning Service and Sunday School – 9.15 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd. Joe Tuohey, 12 Millside,
(flat above Church). Tel: 814349.
Services: Sunday Masses – 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.
and at Henham – 9.15 a.m.
Holy Days – 9.15 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Confessions on Saturday after 10.30 a.m. Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.
Local Contact: Mair Muir, 48 St. John's Road.
Tel: 812289.

Meeting for worship: 10.45 a.m.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Chapel Hill.

Minister: The Rev'd. Eric McIlwain, 18 Cambanks,
Union Lane, Cambridge. Tel: (0223) 313152.

Group Secretary:
Miss Dorothy Oswald, 29 Bentfield Causeway.
Tel: 814758.

Services: Morning Service with Junior Church – 11 a.m.

For details of services at Clavering, Newport and Widdington
please ring the Group Secretary.

Roman Catholic

PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL

Thursday	2nd April	Lenten United Service URC 8.00 pm
Saturday	4th April	11 am First Confession instructions St Theresa's.
Sunday	5th April	6.00 pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction (St Anthony's, Henham)
Monday	6th April	7.45 pm Mass, followed by Parish Council Meeting (St Theresa's)
Thursday	9th April	8.00 pm. Christians of all demonin- ations join together for an "Agape" in the United Reformed Church Hall.
Friday	10th April	8.00 pm Penitential Service (St Theresa's)
Saturday	11th April	11 am First Confession instructions
Sunday	12th April	10.30 am Folk Mass. <u>Palm Sunday</u> St Theresa's.
Wednesday	15th April	8.00 pm Commissioning of Lay-Ministers at St Helen's Cathedral, Brentwood.
Thursday	16th April	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> 8.00 pm Special Mass reminding us of the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. This will end with a procession to the Altar of Repose where there will be watching and silent prayer until midnight.
Friday	17th April	<u>Good Friday</u> 3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord with veneration of the Cross and Holy Com- munion. 8.00 pm Stations of the Cross and veneration of the Cross.
Saturday	18th April	<u>Holy Saturday</u> 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday	19th April	<u>Easter Sunday</u> 8.00 am Mass. 10.30 am Easter Folk Mass.

EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL

It is a joyful time when we are looking forward to the summer, but it is of particular joy for Christians, since after the preparation for Easter in Lent, and especially the last week of Lent, when we are vividly reminded of Christ's suffering and death, we celebrate His glorious Resurrection from the dead. What a wonderful time for the Apostles of Jesus! All seemed to be lost, and suddenly they see what their Master meant by dying on the Cross; a way that was foreign to human nature, yet showed how much he was prepared to suffer out of LOVE, because that is exactly what Christ did, besides redeeming us by this tremendous act of love, He showed us that suffering need not be something useless, but rather a way of proving our love. His Resurrection proved that to His disciples who then realised that death,

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far from being the end, was intended to be the beginning. No longer did they fear death, but when it was threatened, they welcomed it. New hope flooded in; now, Christ's disciples knew that he was not a failure, but someone wonderful where love conquered hatred, and inspired them to do great things. They began to see that suffering could show real love; as indeed it had with Christ.

Let us see that joy and hope in the same way as the Apostles saw it. May it inspire us with that love which alone comes from God.

May this wish be fulfilled in all people of goodwill this Easter-time.

God Bless.

Fr Joe Tuohy

ST THERESA'S YOUTH GROUP

Sixteen members of the St Theresa's Youth Group met at the home of Jan King in Henham on Saturday, 7th March. First of all we prepared for Mass by making some posters for Lent which will be displayed in St Theresa's Church and St Anthony's, Henham. We divided into five groups designing the posters on the themes of Suffering, Forgiveness, Joy, Friendship and Helping Others. We also chose readings and made up prayers for the Mass which followed. Father Tuohy came to celebrate Mass for us and we read the readings and sung hymns. Instead of the Homily (or Sermon) we described our posters and what our own particular theme meant to us. After Mass we had a shared supper and danced to a few records; we all had a very enjoyable evening.

Rachel Warnatt.

'Three things last forever,
Faith, hope and love,
And the greatest of these is love,
And the greatest of these is love.'

This is a chorus of one of my favourite hymns in a folk book used regularly at our church, St. Theresa's. A fast catchy hymn summing up the three things most important in life 'and the greatest of these is love'. It is the love of God and of each other which is important and that love should last forever.

Hannah Warnett, Aged 12
St Theresa's Youth Group.

/continued

REFLECTIONS OF A LAY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Some two years ago when our parish priest approached me and asked if I would become a Lay Minister, I was dumb-founded. Surely in our congregation, I felt, there were others better qualified to do this noble work. However, on accepting, and beginning to meet the sick and the handicapped, I found it very rewarding.

If you make an appointment of day and time, I find the people look forward to seeing you. All is made ready for you, and you have a chat about church and local affairs - you feel that they have had a tremendous boost to their morale; and it relieves their distress. You go away satisfied that you have helped someone when that person is at a very low ebb. Yes, very rewarding for your effort.

George D'Agostino

Methodist

WHY DO PEOPLE SUFFER?

I wonder how many times you have heard people say, or had someone say to you, why on earth should it happen to him? What's she done to deserve this? Surely it would be a merciful release if he had died? I can't bear to see him suffer.

Pain, suffering disease. The moment you begin to think about it all you've got to face the question....Why? Anyone who is trying to live the Christian life has got to face this problem of suffering squarely. Perhaps you know people who really want to try and follow Christ's way of living, but somehow they just can't reconcile Christianity and a God of love with the suffering of someone they love. What will you say to them ... and to yourself.

That's the great question. Why do people suffer... why all this pain? That little boy down the road happily playing about a few days ago, suddenly struck down with leukaemia, that mother of a family taken off to hospital, the young man in the office, and others, some of them especially dear to you.

"What has Christianity to say about this?" you ask. You Christians talk about a good God. You say that God is like Jesus. Jesus wouldn't want all this suffering to happen I can't understand it.

Christianity looks the facts in the face. Christianity says pain is real. Christianity faces squarely all the

suffering in the world. And Christianity admits there's no slick answer to this problem..... But before you begin to think about it, just come along come to a green hill outside a city wall. Don't talk for a moment.... just look. Over there. A man, THE Man, Jesus, Son of God, dying by inches on a cross, the nails splintering His tendons, the agony on His face, the parched lips there's pain. There's real suffering. It is cruel, stark, it's utterly undeserved.

No, don't talk..... just look. So then if you want to begin to probe the mystery of suffering you must stand at the foot of the Cross of Christ. There's plenty of room there.

Few of his friends remained with him when he was dying. Look at the outstretched hands, the hands that made an instrument of torture into an expression of love.

Watch how He dies on that terrible Friday we call Good. From the hardened officer of the Roman army came the heartfelt cry - "Truly this man was the Son of God".

Soon Easter Day will dawn. But till then come ... Where? Outside a city wall.....

Arthur Law

Why not join us this coming Good Friday morning at 11 o'clock at the Quaker Meeting House, when we remember that first Good Friday?

We also have Fellowship Meetings fortnightly on Mondays at 8.00 pm. Come and join us for discussion and fellowship. Times and places are given in THE LINK.

STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

Lenten Services

2nd April 8.00 pm United Reformed Church
9th April An Agape Supper at the United Reformed Hall - a Service with a "bring and share" meal.

British Council of Churches

At the meeting held on 23rd February, the Association decided unanimously to become affiliated to the British Council of Churches. This will help us become more aware of moral issues that affect us all and of how we should be helping the people of the Third World.

Society of Friends

QUESTIONS ON A FRONTIER

A stay with a Yugoslav family last summer has left me pondering the questions people sometimes ask about life in a communist country and my answers. Provisional these answers must be, for my stay was short and I was a guest.

Does communism destroy family life? Our hosts were part of a three-generation family just like our own. Grandparents of our own age were looking after their grandchildren so that we could stay comfortably with our hosts who are much the age of our own children. At least in this family, there was the same warmth and mutual helpfulness as we have at home. "High life" in a flat rather better equipped than many in England did not produce "tower block neurosis", for mothers were not shut in but at work and confidently so, since in association with the flats were the kindergartens and amenities needed to make such a life work well. Thinking in Orwellian terms, I wondered whether in a country where all are equal, our friends were more equal than others! Possibly.

Is there religious freedom? Churches were open and staffed; we found a Serbian Orthodox church in the Catholic republic of Croatia where we began our stay and when we were recognised as English we were warmly welcomed there by smiles and the playing of a recording of the beautiful Orthodox liturgy. We hope this is really a sign of greater tolerance, for anti-Orthodox feeling has in the past been strong and cruel in Croatia. We noticed two things: the plainness of the Catholic churches, and the obvious declining life of the Serbian convent we visited in the mountains. We formed our own conclusions about what had happened to the church treasure: but before making judgements we thought of the events of the Reformation in sixteenth century England and the despoiling of our cathedrals.

We learned from our friends that there was freedom of worship and freedom, now, to own and read the Bible. A one-to-one talk with my hostess revealed that churchgoing by a Party member, though not forbidden, would cause surprise. She said also that the teaching of religion was forbidden. My personal observation of the churches suggested that there must be some possibility for the training of priests. My friend, who owned a Bible, freely admitted to having been brought up without formal belief and implied that she did not miss it. Certainly, the kindness and seriousness in their lives was no less than in a similar family

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Questions on a Frontier, continued

here. I ask myself whether there are not many young people in our own society who, if they could lay aside convention, would not say the same. And a second question: is not a member of the Communist Party in this country in a similar position to a Christian in Yugoslavia.

There we met humanist communism. The atheism of Albania was spoken of with disapproval. Clearly a liberalising process has taken place since the early days.

Our description of the Quaker doctrine of "that of God in every man" met a warm response from our friends. And we agreed that a man's own integrity and not the taking of an oath makes him speak the truth. I am content to find common ground here.

How independent and united? Fiercely independent after centuries of domination by foreign powers and today not part of either the Eastern or Western blocs. Proud of a humane and original form of worker co-operative - a system not unlike the dream of many forward-looking people here. Determined to preserve and defend the unity of a country composed of six autonomous republics. The one topic that was politely deflected was discussion of conflict between Serbs and Croats. Old feuds must be forgotten. A lesson here for us? The one moment of indignation: comment on the irresponsibility, in the months before Tito's death, of the Western Press which by indulging in ill-founded speculation about imminent collapse had so undermined international confidence that it brought about a 30% devaluation of the dinar. This communist, but (unlike Russia) not imperialist, country keeps one of the frontiers of the West.

A one-party state? True: with all the uncertainties of such a system. This form of Government allows for autocratic decision and if there is to be further easing of control over people's lives, Yugoslavia will need to feel secure. Much depends on our efforts as individuals to be open-minded towards a country with the label "Communist" - a label that so many of us find frightening.

Dorothy A Stansfield

A useful book: Stella Alexander - Church and State in Yugoslavia since 1945. (Cambridge University Press)

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

Market Stall on Saturday morning, 16th May

Please bake us a cake or grow a plant for sale - and remember us in your spring cleaning - Good as new clothes - furniture - books - white elephants.

All offers to: Margaret Burton 814279
Margaret Booker 812684

United Reformed

This month we are using our pages to illustrate a variety of print material which we can reproduce in THE LINK. Your Church or group may have printed matter which could be used in this way:

The Brandt Report

The suggestion for an international commission came from the President of the World Bank in 1977. Willy Brandt, former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, became chairman of the new commission's work. Members included experts from many countries – rich and poor. Here is just a brief summary of some of the main suggestions of the report*:

- There must be an emergency programme to help the world's very poorest countries in the poverty belts of Africa and Asia. This should include more help with water and soil management, health care, solar energy development, mineral and oil exploration, infrastructure for industry and transport.
- There must be an end to mass hunger and malnutrition. This means more funds for developing agriculture, irrigation, agricultural research, crop storage, fertilisers and other aids, development of fisheries. There must be reforms in how land is owned and farmed where this will help bring higher production and more income to the poor. An International Grains Arrangement and larger emergency reserves could mean greater security over world food supplies. Food aid should be increased – without reducing efforts to increase food production in poorer countries as well.
- Orderly change is needed to less dependence on non-renewable energy sources such as oil. An international strategy on energy supplies is needed. A global energy research centre should be created under the UN.
- International codes are needed to help the sharing of technology and to govern the activities of transnational corporations. There should be more efforts in both richer and poor countries to develop appropriate technologies, and the flow of information about such technologies should be improved.
- The international monetary system must be reformed, giving greater participation and advantage to poorer countries.
- Flows of overseas aid should be enlarged. A timetable should be adopted by the richer countries to increase their official development assistance to 0.7% of GNP by 1985, and to 1% before the year 2000.
- Funds and skills being put into arms production must be channelled into peaceful needs. *"If only a fraction of the money, manpower, and research presently devoted to military uses were diverted to development, the future prospects of the Third World would look entirely different".*

"On the basis of the eternal will of God we have to think of every human being, even the oddest, most villainous or miserable, as one to whom Jesus Christ is Brother and God is Father; and we have to deal with him on that assumption." —Karl Barth

U.S. Congressman Paul Simon on church priorities:

"If a boy throws a stone through a church's stained glass window, that stained glass will get fixed. I'm much less sure that the boy is going to get fixed. Yet, if there is a mandate to do either, it is not the window that is the Christian mandate."

Three barriers to daunt the handicapped



Forweth Thomas writes on the International Year of Disabled People

1981 is the International Year of Disabled People - IYDP.

What, another of those! It's being overdone, don't you think?

If you think so, please come with me to a workshop I was involved with in South India - a training centre for disabled people. A young man is sitting at an electric drill, tattered shorts and an old football jersey his only clothes. You will soon notice that he sits awkwardly on the stool and is so deformed as to make using a wheelchair hard.

'Why do you go on coming here on a trainee's allowance when you were making more in your previous job?' you might ask him. His previous 'job' had been as a beggar in one of the main shopping centres of the city, moving around by crawling on the road.

'I now have self respect,' is his reply, and it is enough.

That man remains for me a symbol of hope and determination in a world where the majority of handicapped people live in societies where for some long time to come their needs will have to give place to the equally urgent needs of 'ordinary' people.

Four aims

To focus world attention on the needs of such people the United Nations has made 1981 an International Year of Disabled

People. The year has four main aims. To

- 1 increase awareness: to make all of us more alive to the needs, abilities and aspirations of disabled people;
- 2 hasten participation: to make more possible the participation, equality and integration of disabled people;
- 3 speed prevention: to encourage study, research projects and measures for the prevention of disability;
- 4 change attitudes: to promote more positive attitudes towards disabled people.

Most handicapped people have to break through three major barriers. The first is within oneself. It is the struggle to learn to accept oneself as a person with a disability living in a normal world. The discovery of meaning in life and the ability to live it positively eludes many for want of understanding from those around them.

The second barrier is that of the physical environment. Two steps, for example, may present not only a 'no entry' sign but become a taunt: 'We don't want you here'.

The third barrier is that into the world of work and the discovery of independence and a place in society's work force.

What can we do?

- 1 Look again at the part disabled people play, and we give them to play, in our fellowships.
- 2 Review the congregation's involvement

directly or through its members in other organisations with and for the handicapped in your area.

- 3 Offer help to fill in the gaps in the care offered - count the cost, be ready to sustain it.
- 4 Tackle the problem of accessibility - make your church one that is easy for handicapped people to enter and move around in.
- 5 Find out what programmes are planned locally in connection with IYDP. Local IYDP Committees have been formed in many counties. Your local Council for Voluntary Service or local branch of any national disability organisation can advise you. Work with them.
- 6 Leaflets and posters for use nationally are being produced by IYDP, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU (in Wales: Llys Ifor, Crescent Road, Caerphilly, Mid Glam CF8 1XC).

Here is a prayer many of us have found helpful:

Lord, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

The Revd Forweth Thomas, disabled by polio at the beginning of his 29 years' missionary service in India, is Personnel Secretary in the URC World Church and Mission Department. *Reform* January 1981

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7.30 pm

Good Friday United Service with the Methodists at the Quaker Hall. 11 am.

Easter Sunday Group service at 10.30 am followed by coffee in the Lecture Hall.

STANSTED GUILD

The Annual General Meeting of the Stansted Guild will be held on Monday 13th April 1981 in the Lecture Hall of the United Reformed Church at 8 pm when the Officers and Committee for the 1981-1982 session will be elected.

Church of England

FROM THE VICAR

As Christians we need to be reminded time and time again that God called His Church into being and has given it the tasks of mission and ministry. The word mission is very unpopular today mainly because of the methods of evangelism that some Christians use. Nevertheless this does not mean that we must ignore God's call to us to proclaim by word and deed, the Gospel of His love shown to us in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. But the message of love we proclaim is weakened if our Church life is not being continuously renewed.

The Church is renewed year by year in Holy Week as we go back together to the point of our redemption in the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus. In that first Holy Week he redeemed us, and every Holy Week he renews our redeemed state. But renewal is a painful business. Sometimes it means we must change - change our lives - change our attitudes. This is precisely why we find mission is so difficult. To meet people where they are, to reveal to them God's love in the world and in their lives, to bring them into the fellowship of His Church inevitably means that Christians must be prepared to accept change. Where the Church does so it is renewed and strengthened.

Let this coming Holy Week then, for us as individuals and as His Church, be a time of renewal - renewal in inward holiness, renewal in outward witness. Our Holy Week Services are set out elsewhere in The Link.

* * * * *

On Friday, 24th April we have a meeting in St John's Church to launch an appeal for its repair and restoration. The meeting will be chaired by the Bishop of Colchester and we are hoping that the Bishop of Truro and Lady Kirk will also be there.

In preparing for the launch of our appeal we have been greatly heartened that Lord Butler, Sir John Betjeman, Lady Kirk and the Bishops of Chelmsford and Truro have agreed to be patrons. Also when it became known that St John's was in urgent need of repair several individuals and societies have come forward saying what a very fine building it is. The Victorian Society has written enthusiastically about it and I have just heard that it has been given a very good write-up in a magazine published by the Royal Society of Arts. I hope to be able to reproduce parts of this article for you to read. On 11th July The Friends of Essex Churches Support Trust are holding their AGM in St John's when there will be a talk and guided tour of the church by the eminent architect, Laurence King.

St John's was built at a time when architects were wanting to produce their own ideas and encourage craftsmen to give

of their best. A look round the church reveals that the stone mason, the bricklayer, the carpenter and the blacksmith had a great time. Now we have to face the mammoth task of restoring it as so much of the original materials are deteriorating fast. I urge you to support the Appeal Committee, under its chairman, Peter Pavitt, and help us save not only a fine Victorian building but also a church where worship and prayer is offered every day of the week.

* * * * *

I am delighted that the Bishop of Chelmsford has given permission for Margaret Becker to take the sacrament of Holy Communion to the housebound. This Diocese has just given approval for laity to do this and perhaps one day we may reintroduce the practice of the early Church when people took the sacrament home to their sick relatives straight from the Eucharist.

* * * * *

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptised

1 February	Kirsty Louise Massey	8 Water Lane Stansted
1 March	Garry Colin Muscutt	8 Priory Drive Stansted
1 March	Daniel Garry Muscutt	8 Priory Drive Stansted
1 March	Christopher Paul Guyer	38 Bentfield Causeway
1 March	Rebecca Joanne Leek	3 Coltsfield Stansted

Departed

15 January	Lloyd Jones Treacher	St Julian, Wood End Green.
13 February	Charles Kitchener Cocks	7 St Mary's Drive
27 February	Ernest Ralph Wheteley	53 Bentfield End Stansted
2 March	Hilda Margery Loftus	Savages, Lower St, Stansted
5 March	George Thomas Frost	Manor Road, Stansted
6 March	Amy Maude Luxford	82 St John's Road

* * * * *

Victor and Norah Allard

You might like to know that Victor and Norah Allard are going to be back in Stansted on Palm Sunday, and will be in church for the 9.30 am Parish Communion, where, we are sure, they would love to see you.

Stansted Young Wives

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Tuesday 7th April in St John's Hall, at the usual time. Our next meeting after that will be on Tuesday 5th May.

Wedding Bells

Our congratulations go out to Diana Davies (daughter of the Revd Stan and Mrs Davies) who is to be married to Mr Julian Christopher in Thaxted Parish Church on 11th April 1981.

The Forum

On the 8th April, the Forum will meet, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Johnson, at 6 Park Road, at 8.00 pm. Mr and Mrs Johnson are going to talk to us about the work of the Huv Johnson Club, and illustrate it with colour slides.

ST JOHN'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Frs Barry and Andrew invite you to join them in the celebration of our Patronal Festival at St John's on Wednesday 6th May. There will be a sung Eucharist in the church at 7.30 pm; and you are invited to come into the Hall afterwards to join in some country dancing. There will be no charge for the evening....so come and have fun with us, and bring your own supper to share with everybody else. The party will be between 8.15 and 9.30 pm, so that you can bring all your family with you all age-groups are very welcome! If you can't tap your feet, why not come along and clap your hands to the music?

COMMUNITY AT ASHELDHAM

Set firmly on the wind-swept marshland of the Dengie Peninsula, the Youth Church at Asheldham provided us with a superb base for a week-end of laughter and community living. When the rest of Essex seemed to be covered with rain, we spent four hours walking nine miles along country lanes, muddy tracks, and coastal pathways. Then, exhausted for the rest of the week-end, we played games, cooked for each other (Sunday lunch arrived on the table when the rest of civilised Britain is sitting down for tea!), listened to music, laughed (a lot) and generally enjoyed being together. Asheldham is something that has to be experienced to be believedthe church is beautifully converted, and really is as warm as toast, as they said it would be! The view from the church is very pleasant, looking over towards Burnham-on-Crouch, over marsh land and trees. We backed on to a farm, where a fine flock of rare Soay sheep had a marvellous view of us, cooking, washing-up and generally having a good time. Definitely an experience worth repeating.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

Are you coming to the Good Friday Project this year?

All children over the age of five years are invited to come along to St Mary's School, St John's Road at 10.30 am on Good Friday, 17th April. You will be able to paint, act and make music. Please bring a packed lunch.

C H I L D R E N

Invite Mum, Dad and all your friends to
St John's Church at 2.00 pm on Good Friday
to see the results of our morning's work.

Any adult or teenager who would like to help with the Project please contact Marion Johnson at 6 Park Road Stansted, Telephone 812284.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 1981

Palm Sunday Holy Communion with palms 8.00 am St Mary's
Parish Communion with palms 9.30 am St John's
Matins 11.00 am St Mary's
Evensong 6.30 pm St John's

Monday Holy Communion 9 am St John's
Stations of the Cross 8.00 pm St John's

Tuesday Holy Communion 7.30pm St John's

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.00 am St John's

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 10.00 am St John's
Sung Eucharist of the Lord's Supper 8.00 pm
St John's. Chain of prayer to midnight.

Good Friday Holy Hour and Sermon 12 noon St John's
Children's Service 2.00 pm St John's
Communion with Hymns 8.00 pm St Mary's

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service 8.00 pm St John's

Easter Day Holy Communion 8.00 am St Mary's
Parish Communion 9.30 am St John's
Matins 11.00 am St Mary's
Evensong 6.30 pm St Mary's



CALENDAR AND DIARY

April

5th Songs of Praise 6.30 pm St John's
8th The Forum will meet at 6 Park Road at 8.00 pm
14th Tuesday Club ... in the Vicarage.
12th - 19th Holy Week - see elsewhere for details.
24th St John's Appeal launching service - see
elsewhere for details

May

4th P.C.C. 8.00 pm
6th St John's Patronal Festival. Holy Eucharist 7.30 pm
in St John's Church, followed by a party in the
Hall.

Village News

FIRST AID MINTS



This is a simple procedure which is a life saving one. If a person is unconscious but breathing, two things may happen, depending on the degree of unconsciousness.

1. The muscles become very relaxed which means the tongue will fall to the back of the mouth and block the air passage if they are lying on their back.

2. Vomiting may occur.

If the casualty is placed in the recovery position (see picture above) the tongue will fall forward and any fluid will drain out and will go into the lungs. This means the patient will not die from suffocation.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

with apologies to John Masefield

I must go down to the Club again

To see the children there

Both short and tall and plump and thin

Some walk, some hobble or are carried in

And the things they do and the games they play

Make Thursdays quite a special day.

I must go down to the Club again

For the children are always there

To laugh with them and play with them

And seek pleasures we all can share

If we think an attack has come we really musn't mind

It's probably a sudden hug from a hefty child behind.

I must go down to the Club again

For I cannot stay away

Where puzzles and books and bricks and things

Fly through the air on invisible wings

But a sticky hand gets tucked in yours and a child

sits on your knee

A tiny smile on a grubby face - what joy it is to

see.

Betty Lockwood

GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

22nd February is a very special day for Guides in that it is the anniversary of the joint birthdays of Robert Baden-Powell and his wife Clave Baden-Powell, founders of the movement.

It is traditional for Brownies, Guides and Rangers to celebrate this day by planning service projects, parties or religious services, often ecumenical, to 'think about' and pray for our sisters and brothers in Guiding and Scouting all over the world.

Stansted is no exception and on Sunday, 22nd February, the Stansted District of the Guide Movement, which includes the villages of Birchanger, Manuden, Elsenham and Henham, met together for the 'Thinking Day Service' which was held in the United Reformed Church, Stansted. The service was very well attended, with at least 300 in the congregation, including parents and friends. Mrs Mary Warnett, District Commissioner, introduced and led the service assisted by Mrs Jan King, District Assistant. Mrs Ann Collingsworth, Division Assistant, was present and received the flags.

The Brownies, Guides and Rangers were asked to prepare and contribute one item per unit towards the service on this year's theme of the 'Disabled', in order that we may think about and pray for not only our Guiding sisters throughout the World, but all those who are disabled.

Everyone worked hard and it was clear that much research had gone into the subject with sympathetic prayers, hymns, drawings and a lot of information. There were two playlets, one from Manuden Brownies and Guides and one from Henham Guides. Elsenham Guides gave a moving demonstration of deaf and dumb language when they renewed their Guide Promise. The Rangers performed a splendid dance mime to two songs from Godspell.

The Guide Promise was renewed by all enrolled Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Guiders and Commissioners, as it is every year. A collection was made and the amount of £34.07p sent to the World Thinking Day Fund which was set up to help needy Guides all over the world.

It was a truly enjoyable afternoon and we thank all those who attended. Special thanks also to Rev Eric McIlwain, the United Reformed Church Minister, who so readily allowed us to use the church and kindly had it heated for us.

Mary Warnett
Guide District Commissioner

STANSTED SCOUTS AND GUIDES

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION

Monday 4th May

Once again it will be the great joint event of the year when both the Scout Association and the Guide Association get together for their Annual Fete. This year the event will take place on the May Day Bank Holiday. We are very pleased to announce that the venue will be Bentfield Place Garden, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Thompson.

Please book this date in your diary and come along and give us your support as you have done in past years. We do rely on your generosity for our funds so why not do us a favour, and

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Scouts and Guides, continued

give yourselves the pleasure of seeing the lovely gardens at Bentfield Place. We are sure you will not be disappointed.

We look forward to seeing you on MONDAY, 4th MAY, at our main fund raising get-together.

Marion Pretty - Chairman
Joint Fund Raising Committee.

THE MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

On 4th March we had community singing, with Mrs Cracknell as our pianist. Many songs were sung and many voices were raised. Some were bold enough and young enough to dance. It was a jolly afternoon.

A DAY OUT FOR FRAIL ELDERLY PEOPLE

Apton Road Day Centre is open on a Monday, 9.30 am - 5.00 pm for frail, elderly people. This is to help them and the friends and relatives who care for them. The charge is £1. for the day and includes coffee, lunch, and tea. There will be interesting things to do and companionship.

Please contact Miss Ann Hay, BS.54882, for further details.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The February meeting held in St John's Hall was opened by the Chairman, Mrs K Stevens, who then welcomed three new members.

Mrs Stevens gave a slide show of her holiday journeys round Britain and of castles in Scotland. Mrs S Mumford proposed a vote of thanks. Competition winners were Mrs R Gabb, Mrs D Jones, Miss D Davis, Miss D Whiffin and Mrs P Hutley.

P. Hutley, Press Reporter

WOMEN'S OWN

Our Monday afternoon speakers during the weeks to come are as follows:

30 March	Mrs Hill from Sawbridgeworth
6 April	Miss Patteson
13 April	Mrs Booker

Our Spring Sale will be held on 27th April.

All are invited to our meetings in the United Reformed Church Lecture Hall at 2.45 pm.

REMEMBER - Many bargains will be found at our Spring Sale.

STANSTED WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

(Afternoon)

There was a very full attendance at the February meeting and two new members were welcomed into the fold! Everyone agreed that Mrs Edwards had done an excellent job at the New Year Party meeting.

After the business, the members enjoyed a talk by Mrs Fleming of the St John's Ambulance Air Wing. It was quite

/continued

Stansted WI, continued

fascinating to learn how kidneys, hearts and livers are transported from donor to recipient. A lot of team work is needed and most "lifts" are made by 'plane, time being of prime importance. Also, the area covered is surprisingly large - most of Europe, as far afield as Switzerland, as well as the U.K.

The competition, a limerick, was won by Mrs King and the raffle prizes by Mrs Watson and Mrs Bennet. Thus closed a happy afternoon.

D C D Francis
Correspondent

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET (EVENING) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs Gilkes of the National Dairy Council came to the February meeting to talk about the nine classic cheeses of England and Wales. She spoke about the history of the various regional cheeses, and gave information on their manufacture and use in cookery, as well as telling us how best to buy and store this now expensive commodity. To help us in our choice, we were able to sample all the classic cheeses, Cheddar, Leicester, Caerphilly, Derby, Cheshire, Lancashire, Double Gloucester, Wensleydale and the king of them all, Stilton.

The next meeting on 9th April will include a talk 'What the Hands can tell' by Mrs Crowther.

Sally H Smith
Correspondent

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Local organisers of the Stansted National Housewives Register are: Frances O'Connor, 3 Churchill Corner, Tel: 813603 and Katy Dockerill, Snuff Box Cottage, Bentfield Road, Tel: 812997. Either will give further information to prospective members.

The February NHR meetings were one on the work of Salvador Dali, and one on various religious faiths. Both proved very interesting and led to lively discussions. On 3rd March there was a planning session when members suggested ideas for meetings for the last six months of this year. Planning was followed by a more relaxed hour of talk, aided by wine, cheese and pate.

On 16th March, Councillors Stuart Ayres and Bill Stiles came to give their views on the proposals for the development of Stansted Airport. On 9th April, there will be a sale of quality 'seconds' in clothing for all the family. National Conference is on the theme 'What Price Progress' and is to be held at Warwick University during the weekend 10th - 12th April. Three Stansted members will represent the group there, and they will report back at a meeting on 29th April.

Future meetings include a visit to the Bishop's Stortford Local History Museum, a talk on Self-sufficiency by Mrs Thear from Widdington, a discussion of Marilyn French's book 'The Women's Room', and a talk by a representative of STAG.

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STANSTED CHAMBER OF TRADE

The Annual General Meeting of the Stansted Chamber of Trade was held on 2nd March at St John's Hall. The new Committee and officers elected were as follows:

Chairman	Mr E Deamer
Vice-Chairman	Mrs P Griggs
Treasurer:	Mr J Robinson
Hon Secretary	Mrs J Medwell
Committee:	Mr Broadley, Mr J Flogdell Mr G Parris, Mr. Wilson Mrs Bate, Mrs G Scrivener Mr Thurgood, Mr Crook

The aim of the Chamber of Trade is to protect the interests of the businesses and traders in the area of Stansted, Elsenham and Manuden, as well as to act as a watchdog in Parish, District and County matters. We have been very active regarding parking, the condition of the roads and pavements and village amenities.

There are now many new traders in the area and the Chamber of Trade welcome them to join our sixty-two members. If you are interested, please contact either one of the Committee or Mrs J Medwell, The Lodge, Elsenham Road, Stansted (BS 812129) who will give you full details and any other information you may wish.

STANSTED CRICKET CLUB

Some twenty officials and members attended the Annual General Meeting which was held in the Club Pavilion on Friday, 27th February 1981.

The secretary in his report stated that despite the inclement weather the club had gone through a most active and successful season highlighted by the John Lever benefit match at the end of the season. This match, jointly organised with Stansted Hall C.C., was a splendid example of two clubs really working together and achieving the successful outcome that was planned.

The Assistant Secretary reported a moderate season for all three teams with more games lost than won. Nevertheless, there was a good Club spirit and two or three surprising wins against the odds. Neil Hampton headed the 1st XI batting averages and Chris Hutchins the bowling with Kenny Blake heading the second XI batting and Peter Pratt the bowling. Piers Cauthery had

/continued

Cricket Club, continued

taken 16 catches for the 1st XI and Keith Ayres 14 for the 2nd XI.

James Rodgers won the Havenwood Trophy and Trevor Peachey the Ken Little Cup.

The Treasurer reported a Cash Asset of £752 - the takings from the bar made this possible - without them we would have been in the red. This was a healthy position but a new motor mower was required, the price of which would more than offset this amount.

Officers: Mr H G Routledge was re-elected President, the Vice-Presidents en bloc with the addition of Miss M Lowe, Messrs J Day, R Farmer, P Dudley, A Proctor and Mr and Mrs P Young.
Secretary - P A G Heal: Assistant Secretary - P Hedge
Treasurer - R Dunbar: Fixtures Secretary - M Betts
Match Secretary - W Pratt: Captains - 1st XI - R Selby:
2nd XI - K Ayres: Committee: Chairman J.R. Rodgers:
Vice Chairman - K Margetson, plus A Baldock, K Betts,
C Hutchin, P Pratt and T Whellam.
Coaches - W Pratt and I Phillips
Equipment Officer - P Brown
Auditor - R W Thompson.

For 1981 - Coaching of Juniors will be on Monday evenings and the Club is looking for more Playing Members - Contact P A G Heal, telephone 812053 or D Hedge, telephone 812509.

GARDENING CLUB

A meeting to establish a GARDENING CLUB in the village will take place in the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, on Monday 13th April, at 8.00 pm. If you are interested in gardening, you will be welcome. Any information about the Club can be had by ringing Rita Humphreys on 814475.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo

Dead Grasses

The wind streams from a distance -
From the open fields: just ploughed
And gleaming with the moisture of cut earth.
On a low bank some living grass
Presses its chilled, green tongues against the ground
While former grasses' tall, skeletal pods
And empty tubes, insensitive, resist
With the rigidity of death the beating air.
They are dry and paper white, but hold, as does
No other object on this bank, the thin
Departing light that lies as low as mist;
Ignite like optic fibres into stems of fire.
An instant vivid, till the light expires
And, like a damp garment, centuries of dusk
Cling to the skin.

Anthony Hazzard

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo

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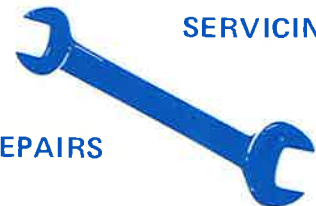
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