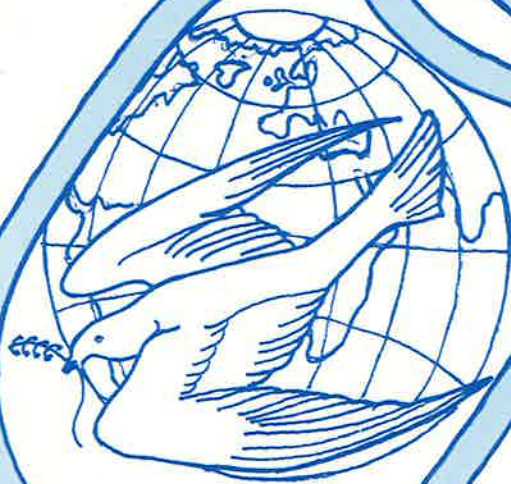


Aug 1871

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

Vol I No.11. *The Link* August 1981

Advertisers who wish to book space for
1981 - 82 should apply without delay to
Mr J S Clay, 7 Croasdaile Close (812751)

Copy for the September issue
should reach 48 St John's Road
by 6th August 1981

We have to tighten our schedule
because of the Bank Holiday at
the end of August.

LORD, temper with
CRANQUILLITY
our manifold activity, that we
may do our work for THEE
with very great SIMPLICITY.

A Mediaeval Monk

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.

Village News

S T A N S T E D C A R N I V A L

Mrs K Stevens and the members of the Carnival Committee wish to thank all those who took part in, helped and supported the Carnival and Fete on Saturday, 27th June.

The sum of £600 (approximately) was raised for the Herts and Essex Hospital Cardiac Unit Appeal.

A Flower and Produce Show is to be held during September. Further details in the September edition of The Link.

R Robinson
Hon Secretary

H U W J O H N S O N C L U B

Our garden party on 12th June was a great success. It was a dry evening even if the sun didn't shine. We were glad to welcome so many friends who came and had a good time spending their money on the various stalls. A buffet supper was served which everyone seemed to enjoy.

The evening was rounded off with Brian auctioning bottles of wine and no-one dared cough, blink or move a muscle in case our alert auctioneer put the offer up another 50p!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way - with donations, loan of equipment and by giving their time. Most of all, though, a big 'Thank-you' to everyone who came to support and help raise the magnificent sum of £71.

And still more good news -

On the 18th June our good friends at the Cock Public House who have given us regular support for a long time, opened their Long John bottle in which customers put donations for the Club. They also ran a raffle and the combined total was £132.28. This was a wonderful donation and on behalf of the children "Thank you, mine Host and Hostess, and all your customers for your generosity."

Betty Lockwood

THE MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

On the 17th June, 1981 we celebrated our 25th Anniversary. Originally it was to be held as a Garden Party at the home of our president, Mrs Mary Page; but owing to the chilly weather conditions, it was held at St John's Hall. About 100 members attended.

Mrs Cracknell was our pianist and we started off with a few old time songs. Mrs Page gave a short review of how the Club started in 1956 and then introduced Miss Kidner, MBE, County Organiser, who congratulated the Club upon its membership and yearly programme and told us we were one of the oldest clubs in the County.

Mrs Winch (Chairman) then made several comments upon the work, effort and endless amount of time that Mrs Page and Mrs Robinson (Secretary) had voluntarily given to the members of the Club since it started, the welfare of the members being of prime importance.

Miss Kidner was then called upon to present Mrs Page and Mrs Robinson (neither of whom had any idea that such a presentation was going to be made) with tokens of appreciation for their devoted service. Miss Kidner was also asked to accept a gift in appreciation of her assistance and attendance.

Refreshments, which had been prepared during the morning by various members of the committee and other helpers, were then served. Several members made a special effort to express their thanks for a most enjoyable meeting.

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

A most handsome profit was made for the Cardiac Unit at the Herts and Essex Hospital when the Nursery School Mums provided the refreshments for the recent Stansted Carnival at the Mountfitchet School. Tea and squash was in constant demand; 250 scones, 200 sausage rolls, 300 small and 15 large cakes plus biscuits were consumed, keeping us busy all afternoon. Our most grateful thanks go to our Mums who produced all those lovely goodies.

We should like to thank the Mountfitchet School for inviting the older children to see their animals on 1st July. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, seeing calves, young chicks and ducks at such close quarters. This treat is and will be the topic of conversation for a good while to come.

The children in the older group enjoyed a picnic and romp on the grass at St John's Hall on Wednesday, 8th July, food being provided by the teachers and some of the Mums.

On Wednesday, 15th July, the children in the older group performed a short end of term entertainment when parents and the children of the younger group came along to watch.

R A I N B O W P L A Y G R O U P
Lower Street

Do you remember my poem last issue?
Since then I've been making flowers from tissue.
We entered the Stansted Carnival procession
Using all the resources in our possession.
We had paper flowers all over the trailer
and nursery rhymes blaring from a loud hailer.
We had blackbirds, a sixpence, some soldiers, a pie,
A king, queen, cook, a maid and some rye.
Unfortunately we arrived a little late
'Cause the Range Rover collapsed just before the gate.
But no-one worried and a happy throng
Of Mums and Dads pushed it along.
We all waited with hearts a-flutter
To see whose name the Judges would utter
and couldn't believe our ears or eyes
'Cause "THE RAINBOW PLAYGROUP" won FIRST PRIZE.

by Brenda Cook
Secretary, Rainbow Playgroup
Committee

STANSTED AND DISTRICT CND GROUP

We meet regularly on the second Wednesday of the month.
Our next meeting will be on 12th August at 8.00 pm.

Phone Chris and Liz Lane (813997)
or Ann and Pete Webb (812088)

for venue and further information.

Forthcoming events include a public meeting in the Quaker Meeting House on 9th September and a market stall and march during Peace Week, 24th - 31st October.

STANSTED WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
(Afternoon)

The WI met as usual at the Youth Club in Lower Street. Business discussions are seldom dull but this month, amongst other things, our attention was drawn to the suggested use of Rye Street Hospital buildings for the care of the elderly. Many felt that this is a good idea as concern for this growing portion of our population is becoming more acute over the years.

Our speaker was Mrs Joyce who gave us a talk on "Fashion to suit your figure." She made the point that the first priority must be comfort. To obtain this, clothes must fit well and suit each individual. Camouflage of the figure faults is very important, too. This can be achieved in many subtle ways; very important indeed is a good foundation but so is a good posture. Accessories, too, play their part. Colour, cut and the size of the design printed on the material used; all are important in order to give the impression of a very well dressed lady!

Mrs C Francis
Correspondent

At our June meeting we enjoyed a talk on the work of the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds, followed by a slide show and talk on the birds that use the Lea Valley area throughout the year.

Mrs E Rice and Mrs J Townsend were congratulated on obtaining second place in the competition between local Women's Institutes for the Streeter Cup.

The next meeting on 6th August will be a joint meeting with the Afternoon Institute. The speaker will be Mrs Tanner who will be telling us how she became a helicopter pilot, and the competition will be your prettiest cup and saucer.

S M Smith
Correspondent

THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

"Four times the normal yield from your garden" was the claim that caught the eye of Mrs Katie Thear in an American gardening book 6 years ago.

This claim was made about a novel method of cultivation on raised beds, and the Mountfitchet Garden Club heard, at their July meeting, how Mrs Thear and her husband have been experimenting with this form of gardening on their small holding at Widdington. The preparation of the beds is hard work, as it involves digging down into the subsoil, but once the bed is established there is very little effort needed to maintain it, and as it is never walked on it will not need digging again.

Sadly the claim for a four-fold increase has not been fulfilled in Essex, but perhaps the Californian climate is required for that. However, an increase of 30% - 100% has been proved to the Thears' satisfaction, and they feel that this justifies the initial effort involved.

The Club members were very interested in, and intrigued by Mrs Thears' description of her raised beds, and a very lively question time followed her talk.

Mrs Follows of Elsenham very kindly offered to open her garden to members of the Club on Sunday 19th July. As this garden is not normally open to the public, we would like to thank Mrs Follows for her generosity and for a very enjoyable afternoon.

The meeting on 3rd August, an illustrated talk on the garden of Mrs Doris Thomas, will be held at the Friends Meeting House, as our normal venue is not available.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The annual Barbeque Lunch will be held at WATERMILL FARM, HAZEL END, on Sunday 6th September from 12 noon until 4.30 pm. Admission will be by ticket only at a price of £2.50 per adult and £2.00 per child or old age pensioner. Enquiries for tickets

/continued

The Royal British Legion, (continued)

should be made to any of the following:

Major Power - 814720
Mr Cheal - 813128
Mrs Whall - 813880
Mr Traveller - 815414
Mrs Stephens - 813562

There will be a bar, numerous sideshows, lunch and tea - and fine weather.

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES' REGISTER

Local Organisers of the Stansted branch of the NHR are:

Frances O'Connor, 3 Churchill Corner (813603)
Katy Dockerill, The Snuff Box, 22 Bentfield Road (812997)

Either will give further information to prospective members.

On 20 May we discussed Marilyn French's book, 'The Women's Room', a feminist novel which is said to 'change lives'. The book provoked a lively and interesting discussion and most could see some reflection of their lives in, at least, part of the life of Mira Ward, the heroine, although none felt that reading it had yet changed her life!

The meeting on 2nd June was a visit to the Bishop's Stortford Local History Society's Museum where Mr Wally Wright gave a most interesting talk on the exhibits. The displays included Victorian costume, horse harness and other equipment and flint axeheads found in the locality.

Trade Union Democracy was the theme for a discussion led by Mr Terry Mackey on 16th June. Terry is a lecturer in Industrial Relations at the City of London Polytechnic and he used the structure of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs as a model to illustrate the questions he posed.

On 2nd July Mrs Katie Thear entertained us with a talk illustrated by slides on the self-sufficiency she and her family practise at their home at Widdington. She also brought goats milk and butter for us to sample and all who partook were pleasantly surprised.

A representative from STAG will put the case for expansion at Stansted Airport on 16th July.

Future Meetings:

5 August: 'Hey, Anna!' - A discussion on a slide show on a disabled teenager.
18 August: A discussion on whether or not parents should have the right to choose the sex of their baby.
1 September Visit to Stansted Hall
16 September Scrabble evening.

HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS

STANSTED - A Good Starting Point

Within a radius of about 25 miles:

The Bardfields.

Bishop's Stortford College Summer School, second week, August 3 - 7, Daytime holiday courses. At the time of going to press there were still vacancies for: Association Football, Cake Decorating, Calligraphy, Car Maintenance, Chair Seating, Cricket, Drawing and Painting, Dressmaking, Gymnastics, Judo, Mixed Needlecraft, Patchwork, Pottery, Swimming, Tennis, Woodwork. Please ring 504230 to check for other details.

Little Hallingbury: Pleasure boats for the Rivers Lea and Stort cruises start from Boat Station, Little Hallingbury Mill, Gaston Green: Tel: Bishop's Stortford 723568.

Cambridge: Fitzwilliam Museum, Colleges, Theatre, Cinemas etc.

Epping Forest: Forest Museum at Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, near Chingford.

Finchingfield: "Prettiest village in Essex"

Harlow Park: Listen to the Band on Sunday afternoons.

Hertford.

Knebworth Park: Stately Home

Lee Valley Leisure Centre: Wide variety of sports and pastimes.

Thaxted.

Saffron Walden with Audley End House

Waltham Abbey.

Within a radius of about 50 miles

Ayot St Lawrence: Shaw's Corner, home of Bernard Shaw: Ayot House, Georgian buildings incorporating Lullingstone Silk Farm.

Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambs. National Trust property. Tel: Cambridge 811200.

Bedford: Connection with John Bunyan

Bourne Mill, Colchester. National Trust property (and then you're not far from the sea!)

Ely: Cathedral

Grafham Water: Sailing

Hinchingbrooke House: Huntingdon: Stately Home

Luton Hoo: Stately Home.

Paycocke's, Coggeshall. National Trust Property

Peckover House: North Brink, Wisbeach. National Trust Property. Tel: Wisbeach 3463

Whipsnade Zoo.

Wicken Fen, Lode Lane, Wicken, Ely. National Trust Property. Nature Reserve. Tel: Ely 720274.

Wimpole Hall, Arrington, Royston, Herts. National Trust Property. 18th century building owned by Rudyard Kipling's daughter until her death in 1976 Sunday 23 August 2.00 pm onwards, British Driving Society Rally (Horses and Carriages) in the Park.

Woburn Abbey: Stately Home and Wild Life Park.

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

SQUINTING, or WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

Essex is rich in its variety of old church buildings. One church still has its Saxon log walls (Greenstead); one nearer home has old clapboard walls and a thatched roof (Duddenoe End); several have timber belfries and still others have round towers, brick towers ... well, you get the idea. Many parish churches still have a "leper's squint", a small angled hole through which lepers could see the altar and observe the Mass. Fortunately there are no lepers left in Essex, though Ilford once had a lepers' hospital.

In a way, though, we are still squinting because we each look at the church from our own angle. There are historical angles, angles of experience, angles of doctrine, even racial angles (pun intended) as well as angles of family and tradition. Any artist or engineer or architect will tell you that things look different from different angles. By definition any angled view is an incomplete or restricted view, necessarily partial because of the angle.

The great thing about the church over the past twenty years is that we have begun to widen our angle of view. We are looking into each other's churches and seeing a bigger picture. United Reformed Churches, for instance, are calling ministers from Samoa, India and Africa to places like Bristol, Orpington or Sheffield.

Here in Stansted the clergy from St Theresa's, St Mary's, the U.R.C. and Methodist churches meet each month to discuss our common endeavours (like the LINK), our common problems (like reaching newcomers), to share our reading, our interests, our ANGLES, and just to have a good natter among friends. The Stansted Association of Churches brings in the Society of Friends (who do not have ordained clergy, another ANGLE, you see, or perhaps don't see) and the lay members of all the churches to join in common worship, study and fellowship. More sharing of angles.

When we have put enough angles together we may one day arrive at wholeness, i.e., the perfect circle. Then we shall be able to stop squinting. It should be a lot easier on the eyes and improve our full-dimensional viewing. In the meantime, what's YOUR angle?

Eric McIlwain

Future Dates

- 13 September United Act of Worship at United Reformed Church at 6.30 pm
- 14 September Annual General Meeting at St John's Hall at 7.30 pm. Speaker: Father Peter Tarran

"NEVER DO APART WHAT YOU CAN HONESTLY DO TOGETHER"

A few weeks ago I joined about a hundred other people at an Ecumenical Discussion Day held in a school hall in Brentwood. We represented thirty-four of the parishes of the diocese and we were there to hear our bishop talk to us about Christian unity and, through questions and discussion, to share our experience of ecumenism in our widely divergent parishes.



Bishop McMahon described the two movements in the work for unity, one downwards from the theologians and the hierarchy and one upwards from the whole people of God. It was the second movement that most concerned us, as parish representatives trying to promote growth together at a local level. In the words of Pope John "never to apart those things you can honestly do together." I felt very proud of Stansted because we have achieved so much in the way of joint worship and discussion.

The question time afterwards highlighted many of the difficulties we have faced in promoting unity but the Bishop was very encouraging and emphasised his complete support for us, stating unequivocally that Christian unity is not "just an optional extra" in the Catholic Church - it is God's will for us and we are all obliged to pray and work for its fulfillment.

We then dispersed to our separate deanery discussion groups to share with others what has been achieved in our parishes. The group was particularly impressed by Stansted's joint magazine 'The Link' and were eager for advice on how to undertake such a venture.

At the end of the afternoon Bishop McMahon led us in a short service of prayer during which we rededicated ourselves to the cause of unity. The bishop promised that these discussion days would be held regularly, and expressed the hope that leaders of other churches would be invited to speak to us. He sent us back to our parishes with the injunction to pray continuously for unity because "the walls that divide us do not reach up to heaven."

Ann Webb

Society of Friends

Protein for People. A Quaker Project in Africa.

Nearly 30 years ago, Quaker Meetings began to form in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Inevitably church groups turn outward to help people who need it and Salisbury Meeting, in Rhodesia, (to which my husband and I have belonged from the beginning) became involved in a number of projects. The one I would like to write about now, started some seven years ago.

A Swedish missionary, working on a Methodist Mission in the East of Rhodesia, had thought out a system whereby families, on a small plot, could produce sufficient protein to feed themselves. Inspired by this, some Quakers started their own units, adapted to local conditions.

The philosophy behind it is simple: Keep some small animals and poultry on deep litter and have a vegetable garden; some grain crops and a few fruit trees will help; have compost pits. Feed the animals, using home-grown foods, use their litter to feed the vegetable garden (via the compost pits) and both animals and vegetables will feed you! This unit can be as small as a pair of rabbits and a few hens and a tiny vegetable garden. It is important to have it in a compact area to save labour and to fence the outside area with wire mesh, to keep your animals in and predators out. The housing for the animals is not expensive - bush poles and grass for roofs can be used. In a climate where some vegetables will grow all the year round, it is possible to produce protein for your family to eat nearly every day of the year.

How could Quakers help to spread such a valuable idea? Hearing that British Quakers were prepared to grant money from their 1% Fund for viable projects, Salisbury Quakers applied and were allowed a sum sufficient for their needs. Remembering that "If you educate a girl you educate a family" the venue chosen was a Homecraft School for girl school-leavers, about 80 miles from Salisbury. A Committee was set up, composed of representatives from: the Rhodesia Council of Social Service (to administer the finance): the Anglican Church (whose school it was): and the Quakers (whose idea and money it was). So, the Protein for People Project was on its way.

An African, previously trained in basic agricultural skills, was chosen, with due consideration given to his character and teaching ability. Then he went to do a few

months training at the Methodist Mission I mentioned before. His wife went as well and learned some craft skills. Then they moved to the Homecraft School and Oscar prepared the Unit, started a good vegetable garden and plot for grain, made pits for compost and built the housing for the livestock. Quakers were able to supply the first few rabbits and poultry which he needed. Apart from the cost of training and Oscar's salary, the most expensive thing was the wire netting around the whole unit. This protection meant all the difference between loss or profit, between success or failure.

At the beginning of the school year, in 1976, the girls found that there were now additions to their Timetables. Several periods a week were given over to practical or theory sessions on the Project. During the two years of their course they now learned to build a simple unit - as small or as large as they could afford to fence; how to care for animals and poultry; how to grow food for the animals and for people; how to make compost; how to use this on the crops they were growing; how to prepare and cook the food for eating; how to make use of all the products from the unit, using skins to make shoes, feathers to fill pillows and anything else which ingenuity suggested.

In a surprisingly short time the schoolgirls were eating their own home-grown produce. Vegetables, eggs, poultry and rabbit certainly were a good addition to their rather monotonous fare.

Some people are naturally better than others at caring for animals and crops and there were some setbacks and mishaps but by and large the project made progress and was pronounced a success.

Sadly, the war drew too near for safety in this rather remote area and the school was disbanded for about a year. How glad we were when we learned, on our return to Zimbabwe this year, that the Protein for People Project is going happily ahead once more, with the faithful Oscar still teaching and inspiring others.

Mary E M Robinson

United Reformed

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

The service on Sunday, August 2nd, at Bishop's Stortford is one of the 16 held throughout East Anglia on that day. 48 delegates to the World Executive of the Council for World Mission will be involved, 3 at each service. The Council for World Mission combines the former London Missionary Society, the Colonial Missionary Society and the Presbyterian Overseas Mission. The first two united in 1966 and the third came in at the form-

ation of the United Reformed Church in 1972.

Since 1977 the Council for World Mission has become a co-operative effort which involves 26 churches from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. Delegates from all these regions will be in Cambridge at the end of July to attend the Executive sessions. Our Group has been invited to send 7 members to a special Civic Reception at the Cambridge Guildhall on Thursday, July 30th. Our morning service on August 2nd has been withdrawn in order that members may hear the delegates at Bishop's Stortford.

Calendar for August

- 2 August 10.30 am Service at Bishop's Stortford U.R.C. for a special Council of World Mission Service.
6.30 pm. A short evening service followed by a Congregational meeting in the Lecutre Hall.
- 6 August Widdington mission night at 7.30 pm. Speaker: Mr Christopher Wright, until recently a CWM missionary in South Africa and now living in Newmarket. Illustrated talk, coffee and Bring and Buy stall.
- Preachers for August while Rev. E McIlwain is on holiday:
- 16 August Mr B Harrison of Ugley Green
- 23 August Mr Engel of Bishop's Stortford
- 30 August Mr A Law of Stansted

Methodist

The annual meeting of the Methodist Conference was held at Norwich during the first week of July. One of the chief matters before the Conference was the set of Proposals from the Churches' Council for Covenanting. At the end of the debate the Conference voted with 497 in favour, 5 against and 5 abstentions. We can hardly come nearer to unanimity than that. The highest court of our Church gave an overwhelming and unequivocal lead in this crucial matter of our times. The Conference hopes that fullest discussion will take place both in District Synods and Circuit Meetings. The proposals are not, in themselves, a scheme to bring about organic unity. Rather they seek to open up the way for the Churches involved to share and work together more and more closely in a binding Covenant. It is hoped that by this means these Churches will eventually come to that Unity which is the will of God for them.

Some of you will know that the Rev Harry O Morton, who had been appointed to become Chairman of our District on 1st September, suffered a stroke about ten weeks ago. He has been allowed to superannuate for a year in the hope that his health will so recover that he will be able to take up the appointment on 1st September 1982. Meanwhile, our

retiring Chairman, the Rev Deryck C Collingwood, has been asked to continue in that office. With characteristic generosity and sacrifice he has agreed to do so. We are very grateful to him and wish him and Mrs Collingwood a further happy and successful year among us. And we pray for the full recovery of Mr Morton.

Please note on the July - September Plan the Circuit Service to be held at our Bishop's Stortford Church on the first Sunday on our new Connexional Year - 6th September at 6.30 pm, preceded by a faith tea at 4.45 pm.

I hope we may recommence our fortnightly Stansted Methodist Fellowship Meetings on Monday, 28th September. Please note the date and every alternate Monday through to Christmas. My very best wishes to you all.

Harold Fisher

Church of England

FROM THE CURATE



"I see that our Additional Curate is already hard at work in the parish!"

I would like to express my warmest thanks to everybody who helped to make both my ordination and my first Eucharist such a memorable occasion. It was marvellous to know that there was so much support from the Parish, for both occasions. Thank you, also, to everybody who contributed so generously to both of my gifts ... the silver plated communion set, and the leather-bound edition of the A.S.B. They are both things that I shall treasure and get much use from during my ministry; thanks also to those who did the catering after my first Eucharist.

After a year in the Parish, I feel that I have learned a lot, both from the people and from the Vicar, about what it is to be a Priest. People have been very loving and accepting, and patient(!) There have been many good times that I have shared with people, and a few sad times that I have shared with people in their lives. This, for me, is such an important aspect of the ministry - sharing with people in the sadness, joy and everyday aspects of their lives ...

and in sharing this with God. I am sure that I can look forward to further happy times with the people of Stansted. There is much for me to learn about the Priesthood and much for us all to learn together, as a Church, about what God wishes of us in the coming years. I pray that, in partnership, we may learn of these things together.

With best wishes,
Andrew Proud

PARISH EVENTS

August

- 2nd Baptisms at 4.00 pm
6th Transfiguration of Our Lord
24th St Bartholomew. Holy Communion 9 am
31st Parish Picnic in Hatfield Forest

September

- 6th September Spectacular ... in aid of St John's Appeal
7th P.C.C. Meeting at Pleshey 8.00 pm
8th The Blessed Virgin Mary. Sung Eucharist 8.00 pm
St Mary's.

WHAT'S NEW!

THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Some say the service and prayers in the chancel, others in the body of the church; some say the same in a seat made in the church, some in the pulpit with their faces to the people; some keep precisely to the order of the book, others intermeddle psalms in metre; some say in a surplice, others without a surplice; the Table standeth in the body of the church in some places, in others it standeth in the chancel; in some places the Table standeth alterwise, distant from the wall a yard; in some others in the middle of the chancel north and south; in some places the Table is joined, in others it standeth upon trestles; in some places the Table hath a carpet, in others it hath not; administration of the Communion is done by some with surplice and cap, some with surplice alone, others with none; some with chalice, some with communion cup, others with a common cup; some unleavened bread, some with leavened; some receive kneeling, others standing, others sitting; some baptism in a font, others in a basin; some sign with the sign of the cross, others sign not; some with a square cap, some with a round cap, some with a button cap, some with a hat.

Edmund Grindal, Bishop of London,
looking at his Diocese in 1565.

PARISH REGISTERS

Married

- 27th June Ian Collins 44 Blythwood Gardens and Janet Ing,
1 Riverside Stone Close, Bishop's Stortford.
4th July Michael Gray, Woodbridge, Suffolk and Annette Goddard
26 Maitland Road.

Departed

- 26th July Peter Bell. 25 Recreation Grounds.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Congratulations to David and Elizabeth Hedge on the birth of a daughter, Emma Jane.

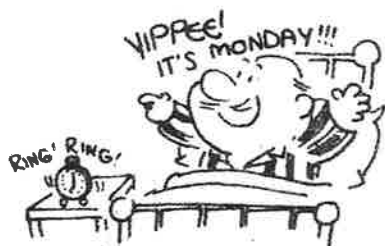
Our thanks to Sue Feldman, who helped us a great deal with our youth club, and who has now moved to Felstead.

RECIPES PLEASE

Susan Robinson, 7 St John's Road, is compiling a recipe book to be sold for the St John's Appeal. If you have a recipe she can include in her book, please contact her as soon as possible - telephone 813629.

OUR THANKS ...

to Bill and Christine Stiles for the Sherry Morning held in aid of St John's Appeal. £91 was added to the funds ... and to those who came on the Sponsored Stroll when £180 was raised.



DAY-OFF

During the month of August, the clergy day-off will be Monday each week.

ST MARY'S BELLRINGERS

On Friday, 26th June, with the help of Richard Prime from Bishop's Stortford, we were successful in ringing a quarter peal in 44 minutes. It was the first quarter for Graham Bickerton and the first in two methods for Roy Holman. The ringers were as follows:

1. Graham Bickerton;
2. Alan Barber;
3. Roy Holman;
4. Richard Prime;
5. Alan Dixon (conductor);
6. Stefan Farnell.

With practice we hope to ring a full peal before the end of the year.

New recruits are always welcome to join us on our Monday night practices from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Alan Barber

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

Some months ago we stopped letting the Church Hall for wedding receptions and parties because, on occasions, the premises were left in a bad condition. We have now been able to review our arrangements and are now letting the hall again. Our Hall Secretary is Mr. Brian Green,
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September
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Sunday 6th September

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"SEVERAL DENOMINATIONS KNELT IN PRAYER TOGETHER"

THE UNIVERSE had a report recently of Mass being offered by Cardinal Hume in a secret chapel in Milton Manor, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, which had been used in the days when Roman Catholics were a proscribed sect.

In the 18th century, a celebrant had been Bishop Challoner, Vicar Apostate of the London District, who was 90 years old when he died in 1781.

Cardinal Hume wore Challoner's vestments and used his chalice and his missal. Several 18th century hymns were sung. Archbishop Heim, the Apostolic Delegate, was present with Bishop Emery of Portsmouth.

After Mass, Cardinal Hume visited the crypt of St Blaise Anglican church, where Challoner was buried. His body was moved to Westminster Cathedral in 1946.

The Cardinal and the Rector of Milton, the Rev Alan Stephenson, and villagers of several denominations knelt in prayer together.

In Challoner's time Milton Manor was owned by Bryant Barrett, a young convert. Together they designed the chapel, which the bishop consecrated.

Catholics were not allowed to buy land or property, so Bryant Barrett's elder brother, a Protestant, bought the Manor. Then Bryant secretly gave him the money for it.

Mrs Marjorie Mockler, a direct descendant of the Barrett family, and the present owner of the manor, said: "We arranged a simple service to try to capture the atmosphere of those early secret Masses."

BAPTISMS Congratulations to the Adams family on the baptism of their daughter Rebecca Grace, on 14 June last; and also to the Ramsden family on the baptism of their daughter, Nichola Clare, on 28 June last.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Our congratulations and good wishes go to the following children who made their first Holy Communion in June. They are - Robert Sinnott, David Adams, Paul Wells, Darren Bardae, Simon Proctor, Alex Warren, Rachel Alison, Daniel Hargreaves, Clare Collins, Leigh Langer, Daniel Webb, Stuart Price, Stuart Mears, Jane Lecky-Thompson, Alex, Amanda and Stuart Lucas, Timothy Sriver, Michael and Ian Foster, Jonathan McCowan, David Richardson and Simon Harris.

THANKS We thank Fr John Timmins and Sister Etheldreda from the Brentwood Religious Education Service who gave us a very interesting course on "How do I know I'm right?"

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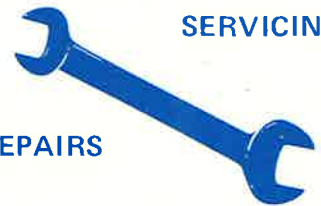
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