

The **LINK**



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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Meeting on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd at 8 pm at St Theresa's Church

Amongst the items to be discussed will be whether as an Association we should be affiliated to the British Council of Churches.

At the meeting on 5th January, Mr Hugh Cross, who works for the Council, came to talk about the British Council of Churches and the work it does in co-ordinating the ideas, policies and deliberations of all the Christian Churches and all the local Associations affiliated to them, regarding ecumenical, political, environmental and moral issues; this would make for greater understanding of world affairs.

At our meeting we shall be considering the events to take place for Christian Aid week (10 - 16 May) in Stansted.

The meeting is open to everyone, please come and give us your ideas on these matters.

Copy for the March issue should reach 48 St John's Road by 9th February 1981; it would be very helpful if contributors would 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

LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is a special ministry for lay-people in which, with the permission of the parish priest, they may help him in administering the Sacrament of the Eucharist. But first they must be commissioned by the Bishop. Our Bishop has laid down certain qualifications required of candidates for this ministry, which are:-

1. Good reputation, personal devotion to the Eucharistic Mysteries, and having the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, ready to serve the local Christian community.
2. Either men or women are eligible, and must be at least 18 years of age.
3. Acceptable to the community they serve.
4. Having been adequately trained and prepared.

We have already got three such Ministers in our parish - Mr Bryan Donovan, Mr George D'Agostino and Mrs Helen Baker. We have now got three more being prepared, namely Mr Noel Purcell, Mrs Jan King and Mrs Rita Yates; they hope to be commissioned on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 15th April, in St Helen's Cathedral, Brentwood. The result of this form of development in the Church does enable Holy Communion to be taken to the sick more frequently; it also gives more opportunity in the liturgy for Holy Communion to be given under both kinds. Please pray that this ministry will be most fruitful in helping to spread the love, joy and peace of Christ, and especially for those about to start actively in this ministry.

The First Communion Group for 1981 is continuing in the instruction of both children and parents: and all those taking part consider it a real worthwhile venture. Dates for February are:- Saturday, 14th February 9.30 am Teaching session; Saturday, 28th February 9.30 am Liturgy service.

Pastoral Service for the Deaf Children and Youth
Sunday 8th February. Mass at St Anne Line's Church, Grove Crescent, South Woodford, 3.00 pm, Fr McCormick
Sunday 22nd February. Mass at St Peter's Church, Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, 3.30 pm, Fr Ray Cadron

FEBRUARY DIARY

15th February - Special Mass for Married Couples 10.30 am
Folk Mass, followed by cheese and wine.

HOUSE MASSES

During the past few months, we have managed to have Mass in Clavering, Manuden, Widdington, Elsenham, Takeley and Birchanger, not forgetting Stansted. It is to be hoped that this will now become a more regular part of our parish activity and will help people in the remoter areas to get to know each other better, as also their parish priest.

Faith, Hope and Charity

from the Liturgy Group
St Theresa's R.C.

February is a dark, damp month in England and with news of recessions and increasing unemployment there doesn't seem much to lighten our days. We can, however, look forward with hope to Spring which will definitely come soon. A rebirth of God's created garden; for only he has the secret of eternal life which will spring up in everyone of us if only we take time to listen to His message.

If we care to observe a tree and its cycle of growth, we see it is infinitely beautiful in all its stages. In birth; its fresh green buds opening innocently to the elements, some to wither but many to flourish into full blown summer and maturity. Then turning colour and mellowing into old age and autumn before they fall to make way for new growth once more.

We must learn to accept ourselves as God has made us in all our varying stages and developments. We are all imperfect but all unique in His eyes. We must discern our personalised direction and travelling companions on this often rough road of life, calling on Jesus for spiritual help and comfort when we lose our way.

We must open ourselves like the first leaves of Springtime to His divine Light and put our trust in Him.

We must, like the Spring bulbs, put down firm roots in His soil, drinking of His Goodness, letting Him feed us with His love and caring. So nourished, we shall bloom and blossom, turning our faces towards the Light

'O God,
Be my protector,
Be a stronghold to keep me safe;
You are my rock and my refuge;
Be true to your holy name;
Lead me and care for me.'

Antiphon for the 6th
Sunday of the year.

Methodists

Our small Methodist fellowship at Stansted has been sadly depleted by the sudden and untimely death of Mrs Isobel Mitchell. One from a few is always greatly missed, but the loss of Isobel is more keenly felt because she could be relied upon to be present at worship and our various meetings, except when ill-health prevented her being so. She attended our Sunday School in childhood, became a Church Member early in adult life and continued faithful and devoted to the time of her death. Her life was characterized by an uncomplicated but deep faith in God, compassionate concern for people in need, dependable loyalty and quiet personal spirituality. We thank God for her life, for her fellowship with us and for what she did in humble service of her Lord and of other people. To her husband, Harry, and her family we offer our sympathy and our continuing love and prayers.

We also offer the support of our love and prayers to Mrs Anne Boyd whose mother has recently died. The promises and consolations of the Christian Gospel are all important to the bereaved and dying. It is deeply satisfying to offer these assurances to all who have experienced bereavement; the assurances of Jesus make better sense of life and death than anything else I know.

The Bishop's Stortford Council of Churches is running a course on Bereavement, Death and Dying for those who are called upon to help people in these inevitable experiences. The course is also for those who, though not professionally involved at such times, seek help for themselves in these matters in order to help relations, friends and neighbours. The course will be held on the six Tuesday evenings from 27th January to 3rd March at 8.00 pm in the Vestries of All Saints Church, Hockerill. For further information, please contact Mrs M Bateman, Telephone BS 52262. The course fee, to cover essential expenses, is £2.

May I remind the children of our church of the Circuit Bible Quiz and Teddy Bear Show to be held at the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church on Saturday, 7th February. This is mainly an occasion for fun and good fellowship for the younger people of our Circuit, though adults will also be very welcome. Please speak to your Sunday School Teacher for further details about this event.

(cont. Methodists News)

Another Circuit event will take place on Sunday morning, 15th February, when there will be a Family Service for all the churches in our Circuit. The preacher will be the Revd. Deryck C Collingwood, BA, who will be making his last visit to the Bishop's Stortford Circuit as Chairman of the London North-East District. He has served our District very well indeed and we wish to provide him with a very full church at Bishop's Stortford to mark the occasion. Please note that the time of the service will be 10.45 am and do your very best to be there. There will be no service for Methodists at Stansted that day.

Fellowship Meetings on Mondays at 8.00 pm

9th February	6 Woodfield Terrace
23rd February	14 Spencer Close
9th March	56 Rainsford Road

Society of Friends

ONE ELDER'S VIEW OF HER RESPONSIBILITIES

From the beginning, it was accepted that within a growing Quaker group responsibility for watching over its spiritual life was either "assumed by strong personalities or undertaken by appointment".

A more formal concept of Eldership came into being in 1653 when it was advised that in every Meeting, two or three of those "most discerning in the Truth" should have charge of the "flock". London Yearly Meeting directed in 1772 that all Monthly Meetings appoint "serious, discreet and judicious Friends tenderly to encourage and advise others as they shall in the Wisdom of God occasion". This has a rather daunting ring to those of us who are Elders in 1981! How far have our responsibilities changed over the years?

(cont. Society of Friends)

Elders are appointed, initially for three years, by Monthly Meeting (which in our case is composed of the Preparative Meetings of Saffron Walden, Great Bardfield and Dunmow together with Stansted). The number of Elders in each meeting varies according to its size - Stansted has three.

We are given guidelines in our Book of Discipline which defines our duties as "promoting the right holding of Meetings for Worship, of remembering the importance of the sharing of responsibility among the worshipping group, and the "fitness of the ministry to the varied needs of all who attend". We are also responsible for arranging special Meetings such as weddings and funerals. Far more important still, we are enjoined to guide members and others who share our Meeting towards a deeper experience of worship.

So much for the basic duties. Let us now consider the qualities of seriousness, discretion and judiciousness which it is suggested we require. To take them in reverse order - judiciousness is called for when problems or conflicting views need to be resolved, and very occasionally an Elder may have to suggest that ministry which is being given might be more appropriate when Meeting for Worship is over.

Discretion - that is important too. An Elder should always be available (only of course if approached, never trying to evoke confidences) if any member or attender wants to discuss a personal matter.

For "serious" however I would rather substitute "sensitive". Sensitivity is really the crucial part of Eldership. As far as in us lies, and however conscious we may be of our inadequacy, we must try and create a worshipping atmosphere in the Meeting, so that those who come feel the silence to be a living thing, feel the presence of God. This means we must be sensitive to the hopes and fears and divergent views of those present. We must listen rather than lead, and so help to build a loving fellowship to which all in the Meeting contribute, and from which we may all - again to quote from our Book of Discipline - "draw inspiration and strength for God's service in the world."

Nancy Tennant



United Reformed

HOPE FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In April 1980, a 19 year-old Canadian set out to run across Canada (about 4,500 miles) to raise money for the cancer fund. A brave idea, but even more remarkable is the fact that he had lost a leg to cancer some two years earlier. He practised 18 miles a day for 101 days before he even thought of beginning. When we were in Canada last summer the whole nation followed his progress as he took one step on his artificial limb, two hops on his good leg, one step, two hops, across Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, for 3,000 miles until, at Thunder Bay, Ontario, he could not get his breath. He had developed a cancer on the lung. Terry Fox's run had ended, 1,500 miles short of the goal and he had raised some £1,000,000 for the cancer fund. But this was not the end of the story. Within days (his run ended September 1st, and we left for England September 4th), £5,000,000 had been pledged and by December 31st £8,000,000 had come in with contributions still "running strong". Terry's run was finished but the idea ran on because his run was a genuinely heroic effort which appealed to all Canada. Terry said it was all the result of determination which had come to him in the hospital where he had lost his leg. "There were four in a room", he said, "and I had to listen to the doctors tell people they had a 35% chance of living and then hear that person tell their family. My heart became larger during that time.". Indeed, his heart took him 3,000 miles on one good leg. Everyone saw the end of his run but no-one saw the beginning when he took the first, painful practice hop.

Not a bad story as we begin the YEAR OF THE HANDICAPPED. Perhaps, if our hearts are not too handicapped, we can all join in a MARATHON OF HOPE.

(Terry received the Order of Canada, Canada's highest award and is undergoing treatment for the lung cancer)

E A McIlwain

STANSTED URC DIARY

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|--|
| 2nd February | 8.00 pm | Stansted Guild - The Vicar,
the Rev Barry Rose |
| 15th February | 6.30 pm | A short evening service in
the Lecture Hall followed by an
informal Congregational meeting |
| 16th February | 8.00 pm | Stansted Guild - The
Caledonians |
| 2nd March | 8.00 pm | Stansted Guild - Your
local policeman P.C. Smith |

Church of England

FROM THE VICAR

Infant Baptism

We have a small group of people meeting to think about the way we prepare families for infant baptism and how we care for them after baptism. A number of recommendations have been made to the PCC and among them is that we should hold an annual Family Service, to which those who have had children baptised, should be invited.



The aims of such a service are that it is a reminder of the decisions and promises made at the time of baptism and the children are encouraged to feel they belong to the Church. We will therefore be holding the first of these services on Sunday, 1st March at 3 pm in St John's. The act of worship will not be long and it will be followed by tea and refreshments in the hall. Parents who have children baptised in this parish will receive invitations but we hope others will come who have moved into the village and who have had their children baptised elsewhere.

Architect to speak

Most people now know that St John's Church is in need of repair and that later on we will be launching an appeal. St John's is a fine Victorian church and to help us appreciate it and to have some of the needed repairs explained to us, I have asked our architect, John Burton, to come and speak at the Parish Communion on Sunday 1st March. I hope many will come and hear what he has to say.

Church Hall

I want to express our thanks to Mr Reginald Wellham who has now retired as our hall secretary. He has done the job thoroughly and with care these last two years and I know he has been assisted by his family. I am glad to say that Mr Brian Green, 10 St John's Crescent, has kindly agreed to be our new hall secretary. Mr Green lived in Hertford for many years, where he was a member of the PCC. He and his wife, Olive, moved to Stansted a year ago.

Off to Southend

Our best wishes to Julia Steed as she moves to Southend to begin training as a S.R.N. We thank her for all she has done in the parish and look forward to her visits home.

Canon Barrow

By the time this magazine is published all will know of the death of Canon John Barrow who was Vicar of this parish for so many years. Nevertheless we ought to record our sympathy to his family and our thanks for his ministry in this place. I myself did not know him although I remember he carried the cross in Chelmsford Cathedral at my ordination. We pray 'May he rest in peace'.

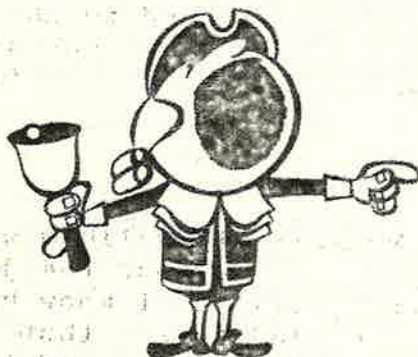
FORUM

On Wednesday, 11th February, the 'Forum' is meeting at 8.00 pm in the Vicarage in order to discuss its future. Should it carry on as it has been in the past, or should it change its format? If you would like to come along and express your views, or contribute new ideas, you would be most welcome.

YOUTHSCOPE

'Friday Youth Group'

After all our activity at the end of last year, we have had a break over Christmas. But before Christmas we went carol singing around the Hargrave estate, and collected £15. for the work of the Church of England Children's Society. It was a cold, wet and windy night, and by 9.00 pm we were well and truly ready for the punch and mince pies that Colin and Hilary Sweeney had waiting in the warmth of their home. Coming events include: Games, Drama, Volleyball, Discussion, an outing to Broxbourne Lido, and many more!



'KRUMZ'

Yes, 'Krumz': and no, the curate has not gone off his rocker and forgotten how to spell! Because 'Krumz' is an exciting new magazine for young Christians of all denominations, which is produced in Chelmsford. 'Krumz' costs 20 pence, and comes out every two months; in it are articles on Christian issues, jokes, film reviews, reviews of recent rock albums such as 'After the Fire's' new one, "80-F", and the new one by the Police, "Zenyatta Mondatta". It's pretty exciting stuff, and its got to be seen to be believed. If you think you'd like a copy, then just contact ANDREW on BS 814463 - he'll supply you with the necessary.

CONFIRMATION

A reminder that Confirmation classes are beginning and if anyone wants to consider Confirmation would they please see the Vicar or Fr Andrew.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

11th January Christopher Flogdell, 17 Brewery Lane.

Marriages

20th December William David Robinson, 50 St Albany Crescent
South Woodford and
Robina Rosemary Watson, 50 St Albany Crescent
South Woodford

Departed

31st December Isobel Ethel Mitchell, 10 St Mary's Drive
Aged 57 years

5th January Stanley Ernest Walters, 2 Stoneyfield Drive
Aged 55 years

STANSTED YOUNG WIVES

If you are at a loose end on Tuesday afternoons why not come and join the Young Wives. Our meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month (excluding school holidays) in St John's Church Hall, commencing at 2.00 pm. Generally we have a speaker at each meeting and we cover a wide range of subjects. For those who can arrive a little earlier we serve tea and biscuits from 1.30 pm and this also gives us time for a chat and to get to know other members. If you have children not at school, we have a creche so that you can come and listen to the talk while someone else looks after the little ones. If you would like further information, please ring our Secretary, Kerry Brice on BS 813539.



The following meetings have been arranged for February:-

3rd February. Jane Starling, children's librarian at Bishop's Stortford Library is coming to talk about picture books and first reading books for pre-school children.

17th February. Mrs Sue Forsythe from the N.W. Essex and E. Herts Preservation Association is coming to tell us why the Association feels that Stansted should not be developed as the third London Airport.

We would point out that this does not reflect the views on the subject of members as a whole and we intend to arrange a meeting with a representative from STAG in the near future, to put the opposite view.

An Appreciation by a Parishioner

76 years in Holy Orders

To have had the Bishop of Truro as assistant curate was one of the many happy memories in the life of Canon John Harrison Barrow, M.A., and while he lived at Chelmsford the bishop-to-be and his wife often visited him and Mrs Barrow. Although the years had inevitably taken some toll, Canon Barrow kept in touch with several of his old parishioners and friends in Stansted where he at once effected great improvements in the affairs of the Church on his arrival in 1932 and where he was to become well known in the district until he left for his beloved Chelmsford in 1954.

As a member of the governing body of the former Hockerill Training College and giving service over many years to the Royal Society of Church Music as well as to all the many facets of the life of Chelmsford Cathedral, he was indeed a busy man and he always liked to be just that. He was ever interested in all that happened in Stansted and was always active in thought, word and deed.

Aubrey Levey

DIARY

Holy Communion is celebrated on Tuesday at 7.30 pm, Wednesday at 10.00 am, Thursday at 7.30 am and Friday at 8 am, unless otherwise stated below.

February

- 2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple
- 8th 5th Sunday after Epiphany
- 9th P.C.C.
- 11th 'The Forum' meets in the Vicarage. 'It s future'.
- 15th Septuagesima
- 22nd Sexagesima
- 23rd SACC meets at St Theresa's at 8 pm to discuss BCC membership
- 24th St Matthias, Apostle
- 26th) No celebration of Holy Communion
- 27th)

March

- 1st Quinquagesima. 3 pm service in St John's for the renewal of Baptismal vows.
- 2nd Deanery Synod
- 3rd Shrove Tuesday Social
- 4th Ash Wednesday Communions at 10.00 am and 9.00 pm

Village News

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Afternoon

The last meeting of the year was a particularly happy one when, after the choir had given a much appreciated recital of carols, all members joined in the singing.

Evening

A cookery demonstration with an eye on Christmas entertaining was given by Mrs Irene Walker at the December meeting. The buffet supper, which she had prepared, together with a glass of wine, brought the evening to a festive end.

On 12 February, there will be more about food - this time a talk by a representative of the National Dairy Council on classic cheeses of England and Wales.

oOoOoOoOo

Local organisers of the National Housewives Register are:- Liz Lane, 62 Cambridge Road, Tel. 813997 and Frances O'Connor, 3 Churchill Corner BS 813603. Either will give further information to prospective members.



The final meeting of 1980 was a discussion of the magazine 'Spare Rib', and of feminism generally - certainly a topic on which everyone had strong views, one way or another.

In January we had a social evening at a local hostelry; at another meeting one of our members, who works for the Inland Revenue, spoke on Income Tax. On 3rd February we meet to learn more about the artist Salvador Dali. Several members have looked in detail at aspects of his work and we shall bring them together at this meeting.

Religions and their sub-divisions are the theme for 19th February, when we shall consider Christian Science, Buddhism, the Quakers and the Salvation Army.

If you are female and in danger of becoming submerged in the daily round, come and join us. We do our best to choose stimulating themes for meetings and at least start with the intention of avoiding things domestic.

oOoOoOoOo

As 1981 has been designated THE YEAR OF THE DISABLED the following three items are of particular interest in helping us to know what is already being done in our community.

.....
HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Thursday, 18th December, was a day of great excitement - our Christmas party. After some games including "pass the parcel", which was hilarious as there were three parcels being passed, it was time for tea. The tables were laden with traditional fare and everyone tucked in with great gusto.

"Uncle Ken" then entertained with an amusing sketch about wallpapering and then led the children in singing.

While this was taking place, the members went in turn to see Father Christmas and came back bright eyed clutching their presents. The time went all too quickly and after more games, Father Christmas joined us in the hall, ringing his bell and giving out tangerines, which delighted the younger people, who followed him around the hall until he rivalled the Pied Piper.

Then it was time to go home, another party over, but Christmas to look forward to and in the New Year "Club night" to come back to.

We would like to wish all our friends and supporters a very Happy New Year.

Betty Lockwood

HARGRAVE HOUSE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

The League has gone ahead with its fund raising efforts and is pleased to report that £120 was made at the jumble sale in November and just over £200 from the Christmas draw. Many thanks to all who helped.

The cassette-radio is now installed in the Home's mini-bus and a polaroid colour camera has been purchased. Further equipment will be purchased in the near future. A cheese and wine party is to be held at Hargrave House on FRIDAY, 20th MARCH. Tickets £1.00.

If you would like to join the League and help us with our efforts to help these severely handicapped children, please telephone Mr Rolfe, BS. 314157.

THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

This is a service for blind and partially sighted people to enable them to keep up to date with local news. Items are selected from the two local newspapers and other sources and recorded on cassette tapes so that the recipients can play them back at their leisure.

We are sure that contributors to THE LINK will be glad to know that our magazine is now to be included among the journals from which items are selected.

continued/

The Talking Newspaper, continued

The venture was initiated in 1973 by the Bishop's Stortford Rotary Club's Community Service Committee when, under the chairmanship of Brian Purkiss, it was decided to raise money for equipping a Talking Newspaper. Supported by other organisations, the Rotary Club raised £9,000. As a result, recording equipment was installed in a "portakabin" in the grounds of the Herts & Essex Hospital.

The 'studio' was first used in February 1980 to serve 54 listeners. There are now 114.

To produce the Talking Newspaper (quite apart from the Management Committee) a considerable team of helpers is required so that the workload does not fall too heavily on any one group. There are 12 editorial staff, ten technicians and 8 circulation staff. The 20 people who actually record the news items operate in groups of four - two men and two women - so that the monotony of a single voice is avoided.

The district which the Newspaper serves includes the area between Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden, as well as the Hadhams, Sawbridgeworth, Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broad Oak and the Great Dunmow area.

Unless they already have a machine or wish to purchase one, every new reader is given a cassette player free of charge. Nor is any charge made for the weekly 90-minute tape.

Do you know of any visually handicapped person who would enjoy the Talking Newspaper?

Please contact MRS TERESA CLAXTON - 722223

.....

Readers of THE LINK as well as listeners to the talking newspaper may be interested to know that in the 1930's, Helen Keller, the famous blind and deaf American lady was in Stansted on several occasions while she was either staying at Berden with Jean and Augustus Muir or at Trout Hall, Wendens Ambo, which she rented.

She was a visitor at a house in St John's Crescent, then occupied by the Rev. Walter Muir, a retired Scottish Presbyterian parson. On one occasion, he placed on her lap an old and heavy book. Without knowing anything of its history, Helen Keller immediately said in the stange monotone voice which she had learned to produce with great difficulty over many years - "I smell burning".

The curious thing was that the book, nearly two hundred years previously, had been on a bonfire. That it had not been burned altogether was somewhat of a miracle.

The book was, in fact, the pulpit Bible of the Parish Church of Tranent, a village near Edinburgh and situated just above the battlefield of Prestonpans. It was there in 1745 that Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Highlanders won a notable victory against the British Army.

Many of the men of the Highland clans were Roman Catholics and had been brought up to believe that the Protestants had sinned in translating the Bible from Latin into English and thus making it intelligible to the man in the pew. A Highland soldier had taken the pulpit Bible from the Church and thrown it on a

bonfire where other religious books were burning. It was heavy and kept falling off. The Highlander threw it back and struck it with his broadsword to keep it in place. At last, it seemed to be safely lodged and he went off, leaving it to burn.

What he did not know was that he was being watched from behind a wall by the little maidservant of the Tranent minister. As soon as he was out of sight she rushed over and rescued the Bible.

Generations of her descendants treasured the heirloom until at last only one of the family was left and it was presented to the Rev. Walter Muir, then a minister in Edinburgh.

It may seem strange that Helen Keller was aware of that smell of burning. She often seemed to her sighted and hearing companions to have some miraculous "sixth sense". What had really happened was that she had intensified the use of the senses that remained to her.

oooOooo

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Domini Blythe, one-time pupil of the Herts & Essex School, whose parents live in Blythwood House, is a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-on-Avon after having been at Stratford, Ontario, for eight years? She is playing the Queen in both Richard II and Richard III to Alan Howard's King. The Company will later be coming to the Aldwych Theatre in London.

oooOooo

STANSTED WOMEN'S OWN

The members all sang carols at the last meeting before Christmas, and we were joined by a number of children from St Mary's School who sang most beautifully.

We are now starting our new year and have arranged a good speaker for each Monday - so do come and hear them - 2.45 pm at the Lecture Hall, just for an hour and a cup of tea!

WEA in STANSTED

Our current course "The Making of the English Landscape" is now in progress, and we are holding our first AGM on Monday, 23rd February, following the lecture, at the Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill.

Everyone interested is welcome at the AGM, and we hope to decide then the sort of course to follow in the autumn, and also which weekday evening is most convenient. If you can't make either the lectures or the AGM, or just require further information, ring TRICIA JOHNSON 812797 (Secretary) or Mr Griggs 813525 (Chairman) with your questions or points of view.

"THE WAR GAME"

The film "THE WAR GAME" is being shown at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, Stansted, on Wednesday, February 4th at 7.30 pm. There will be opportunity for discussion after the film has been shown. This film was originally made for the BBC, but has never been shown publicly on T.V.

ENTRANCE FEE - COLLECTION

For those unable to attend on 4th February, it may be of interest to know that the film is also being shown at Bishop's Stortford on 11th February, Wednesday, at Triad, 7.30 pm.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

It has been agreed that for a 12 month experimental period from 1st January the Council Offices will be open to the public on Tuesday and Friday mornings. On other mornings please ring the Parish Clerk on BS 813214. For the same experimental period the Council is adopting a new system of council and committee meetings using a 6-weekly cycle instead of the present 4-weekly one. The dates of the major committee and full council meetings are as follows:

FULL COUNCIL;- 11th February, 25th March, 6th May, 17th June, 22nd July, 9th September, 21st October, 2nd December, 13th January 1982.

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:- 13th February, 1st April, 13th May, 24th June, 29th July, 16th September, 28th October, 9th December

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:- 25th February, 8th April, 20th May, 1st July, 5th August, 23rd September, 4th November, 16th December.

Both the experiments are being launched in the interests of increased economy and efficiency

At the full council Meetings members of the public are allowed to participate for the first 15 minutes, while they may be present during all committee and council meetings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18 March 1981

The Meeting is held so that electors can discuss parish matters with the members they elected to serve on the Parish Council.

The right of the Parish Meeting to discuss parish affairs extends to any public matter of a parochial nature. It is an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views and every elector should try to attend the meeting. Watch the public notice boards and local papers, as well as THE LLNK, for the venue and time.

ALL ELECTORS NOTE THIS DATE - 18 MARCH 1981

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Did You Know That

Richard Pennington, who lives in St John's Road, is the current Editor of "The Monk-Jones Herald", which is the Day Boy House Magazine of the Prep School at Bishop's Stortford College? The last issue had a number of jokes in it. Perhaps "The Link" should follow suit.

RED CROSS.FIRST AID COURSE

A course of eight lectures is to be held on Tuesdays at 7.30 from 10 February (except 24 February)
at

The Quaker Meeting House

Each session will last about 2½ hours. Cost of Full Course: £7.50 including optional examination fee. First Aid Manual: £1.50, if required. Further details from Mrs B Scarr, 63 Lower Street, TEL: 813080

ST MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

IT WAS A GOOD CHRISTMAS, WASN'T IT?

The St Mary's Drama Club had another rousing success² in their production of the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". They played to full houses on both days at both matinee and evening performances. The cast included well over half the school with leading parts being played by LUCINDA STONE (Jack), MATTHEW BUTCHER (Jack's Mother), EDWARD HANDLEY (Jack's Aunt). The Giant was played by ANDREW HILL and the Giant's wife, GILLIAN WOOD.

The cast were also ably supported by a batch of wicked witches and a gang of evil goblins. The production was under the experienced guidance of MARION JOHNSON who was ably supported by the other members of the teaching staff. Many parents helped weeks in advance with the making of the costumes and also on the nights with scenery and make-up. The parent-teacher association had also helped by paying for the materials for the costumes.

Towards the end of term the two Infant classes held their Christmas festivities to a packed audience of mothers and fathers in the school hall. The children beautifully performed a Nativity play and sang some modern and traditional carols together with dancing. Once again the parents had helped with the making of costumes.

During the last week of term the Junior children held their Christmas Carol Concert in St John's Church. Many of the traditional carols were sung together with some new ones sung by the school choir. The children illustrated the Christmas story in the form of a tableau, the highlight of which was a candlelit procession to the stable.

PETER COMPTON

CAROL SINGING

It didn't rain. It didn't snow. It wasn't foggy or cold. Altogether it was good carol singing weather and many singers and collectors turned out. Thank you. The Stansted Medical Equipment Fund benefited by £167.66. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

That is not the end of the story. By the time this is printed, Sheila Stebbings of Blythwood Gardens will have had a coffee morning to increase the Fund still more to pay for the repair of the electrocardiograph machine. Thank you, Sheila.

If anyone would like to organise a similar event or give a donation, the account numbered 91424297 is at Barclays Bank, Stansted

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