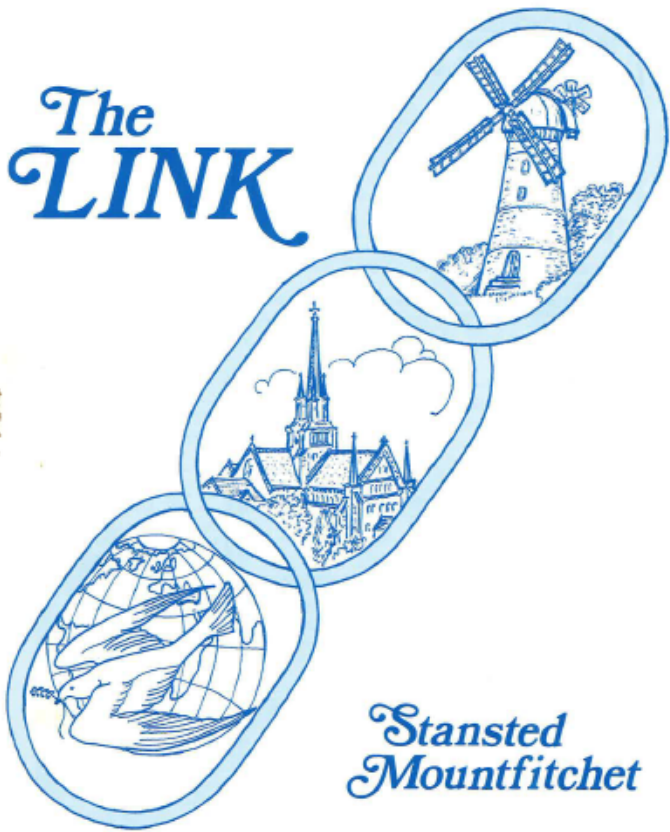


Jul 81

The **LINK**



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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The Link

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

GENEROUS GIVING IN CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1981

The Association expects to send more than £1,000 to Christian Aid when we have received all the money still due from sponsored events and the sale of the Tea Towel.

A MAGNIFICENT EFFORT

Thank you all for your support.

Tea Towels (sample on display in the Library) are still available from the Churches or from Janet Townsend, 58 Chapel Hill.

A Key to the items depicted on the Towel is at the back of this page.

Copy for the August issue should reach 48, St. John's Road by 10th July. It would be very useful if contributors could indicate the number of words contained in their copy.

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

Village News

VILLAGE TRAIL AROUND TEA-CLOTH

Stansted's History from the Norman Conquest to the Present Day

Designed by Bob Ledger

KNIGHT (centre) represents Richard, the last male descendant of the Sire de Monfichet, one of the Norman knights who had assisted William I in his conquest of England and was rewarded with the manors of Stansted and Bentfield Bury. Richard was one of the Barons who forced King John to sign Magna Carta in June 1215. Later that year, King John's supporters destroyed Stansted Castle.

THREE HOUSES (top left) One tiled (of Wealden design, unusual in this part of the world), one thatched, and one half-timbered, are representative of the many delightful examples of centuries-old domestic architecture still to be seen in Stansted.

FOUNTAIN (centre left) was placed at the cross-roads in 1871 by Henry and Walter Gilbey, members of a local family who founded a now famous wine merchanting business.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH (bottom left) encompasses architecture ranging from a Norman arch, a thirteenth century chancel, a brick tower of 1692 to a nave of 1888. Within are a number of interesting memorials of past inhabitants, including that of the first Vicar, Robert de Bokkyng.

STANSTED HALL (top right) A Victorian reproduction of a Jacobean Manor House built by William Fuller-Maitland in 1871. Members of the Fuller-Maitland family lived there for half a century. Thereafter, it was bought by a Glasgow stockbroker who was a spiritualist. Since J. Arthur Findlay's death in 1964, it has been a College for the Advancement of Psychic Science.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH (centre right) was built as a Chapel of Ease in 1889 largely from money donated by the Pulteney family of Hargrave Park. It was designed by the eminent Victorian architect W.D. Caroe. Sir John Betjeman has recently said of this building, "It is the entire and so far unspoilt work of an exceptional and scholarly architect and is a most harmonious composition of delightful detail".

WINDMILL (bottom right) was presented to the parish by the 2nd Lord Blyth of Stansted Mountfitchet in 1935. Originally built by Joseph Linsell in 1787, it is probably the best preserved tower windmill in Essex.

HAWK (top left-hand corner) representing the wild life of Stansted.

BOEING 707 (top right-hand corner) representing the air-port.

(We are indebted to Mr H.I. Sanders for his kind co-operation in ensuring the historical accuracy of the above notes.)

THE ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

News of the Sponsored 'Hippie Walk' held on Sunday 7th June in the Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford.

As you kindly advertised this walk in your magazine 'The Link' I thought that you might like to know that we have raised at least £330!

Thirteen people took part, the youngest being a 14 year old girl, Caroline Foot from Henham, who had a hip replaced only 7 weeks ago. The oldest walker was a 70 year old, Mr Warwick from Little Hallingbury who walked $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles!

The walkers from Stansted were as follows:

Mrs Saville, Flat C, 6 Cambridge Road
Mr D Turner, 30 Bentfield Road
Mrs R Wright, The Maltings, Brewery Lane
and Mrs A Thompson (Committee), 99 Cambridge Road.

Mrs P Leggett
21 Carrigans (BS 58840)

HUW JOHNSON CLUB
Festival for the Disabled, Wimbish

As our cars sped along the wide tarmac to the parking area at Carver Barracks, we wondered what the day held in store for us. Many cars and coaches had already arrived and we followed the crowd in the direction of the main hangar - with the prospect of the weather being so uncertain it had been decided to hold the festival inside. Khaki coloured chairs had been set out in neat rows and many people were already beginning to take their seats and were tucking into their packed lunches. The disabled people in wheel-chairs were seated in the front - unfortunately, not all the disabled were so lucky and had to be content to sit further back.

Our party decided to have a quick look round the static displays and exhibitions - it was very reassuring and heartening to see that so many associations catered for the needs of the disabled. We decided that maybe we should also have some lunch - seating was becoming scarce as people poured into the hangar. Amazingly, the sun was shining outside when a little later we could hear the band of the 13/18th Hussars piping up. It was real feet-tapping music - those who were able went outside to watch and listen. The band looked very resplendent in their black uniforms and plumed bearskins.

A quick succession of demonstrations and displays followed - a vehicle recovery exercise, gymnastic display, and a self-defence display - all warmly applauded by the huge audience. We were treated once again to some stirring music by the 13/18th Hussars band and then it was almost time for the arrival of HRH Princess Alexandra.

Her Royal Highness had arrived earlier in a red helicopter and had had lunch with two handicapped persons from Cambridgeshire, two from Hertfordshire and five from Essex. There was a fanfare of trumpets followed by eight bars of the National Anthem and Princess Alexandra appeared at the entrance of the hangar looking very elegant in a lovely outfit of deep pink. She was surrounded by cameramen, security and Army personnel as she mingled and chatted with the disabled.

We were very thrilled to learn later that young Timothy Mace, a member of our Club, his mother and grandmother had spoken with HRH.

The moment was over all too soon and we said three cheers as HRH took her leave. It was soon time for tea and this proved a little chaotic! but very enjoyable.

It had been a lovely day and it had been very well organised - the Army taking the major credit together with twenty-three other organisations and associations. Everyone had been most helpful and kind. We saw many familiar faces from Stansted in different uniforms - Red Cross, St John's Ambulance, Guides - even a sprinkling of Deanery Synod! - all helping to make the day so special for so many.

As we drifted slowly to our cars the storm clouds were gathering and the rain came on with a vengeance as we travelled home. But no-one really minded.

Eirwen Butcher

HARGRAVE HOUSE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

At the first annual general meeting of the League, it was announced that over £600 had been raised during the year.

As there is a balance of £551, £400 is being handed over to Mrs M Badham (Officer in Charge) to help with the children's holidays. One group is going to Felixstowe and the other group to Hensby.

The Committee expressed their appreciation of the work of the Chairman, Mr R L Rolfe, the Secretary, Mrs S Osborne and the Treasurer, Miss E Phoenix.

The Coffee Morning held in Hargrave House in May raised a further £60. Our grateful thanks to all who helped.

We plan to hold a Jumble Sale in October.

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST Stansted and District Group

We are continuing with our teabreaks for expectant mothers and mothers of children under one on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. These give you a chance to meet other mothers over a cup of tea. While you're out at the clinic, why not drop in any time between 2 and 4.30pm. The dates this month and next are:

Wednesday 1st July at 40 Croasdaile Road
Wednesday 15th July at The Snuff Box, 22 Bentfield Road
Wednesday 5th August at 40 Croasdaile Road
Wednesday 19th August at The Snuff Box, 22 Bentfield Road

Other meetings for the summer are:

A Flair Separates clothes party at 8pm at 40 Bentfield Gardens on Wednesday 1st July
Open houses: Friday 10th July from 2pm at 19 Longcroft, with a bring and buy children's clothes stall
Wednesday 12th August from 2pm at 26 Spencer Close

We are also organising some coach outings:

Monday 20th July to Audley End for a picnic, cost approx £2, leaving llam back by 2.30-3pm in time to collect children from school
Saturday 3rd October to London Zoo, an outing for the whole family.

For more information please ring Lesley Thomson (812578) or Janice Proud (814463).

THE MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

An early morning thunderstorm was a threat to our outing to Felixstowe on Tuesday 2nd June, but by our departure time at 10am the sun was shining and it remained with us all day. Nearly 100 members had a most enjoyable time.

At our meeting on 3rd June a beautiful bouquet was presented to Mrs Mabel Robinson, who on Friday 5th celebrated her ninetieth birthday.

We apologise that the names of Mrs Irwin and Mrs Eagleton were left out of the list of the Club's committee members last month.

STANSTED WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (Afternoon)

June is the month we hold our National Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall. Therefore, this month's meeting of the Stansted WI was given over to Institute business, both 'local' and 'general'.

In view of this my report has to be short; however, I will do my best to make up next month!

Mrs C Francis

STANSTED EVENING WI

The May meeting took the form of a discussion of the resolutions put forward for the National AGM held at the Royal Albert Hall in June. Members voted and advised their delegate, Mrs P Wellings, on how to vote.

An account of the County Annual Meeting was given by our delegate, Mrs A Calver. She was thanked by Mrs B Ryan for an entertaining report.

The competition for a spring posy was won by Mrs V Ansell with Mrs S Smith and Mrs M Sprowell runners up.

The next meeting on 9th July will include a talk by Mrs Blyth on 'Cooking with Herbs'. New members are always welcome.

Mrs S M Smith

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion will be holding their annual Barbecue Lunch in association with the Women's Section at Watermill Farm on Sunday 6th September. Further details will be announced in the next edition of 'The Link'.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, WOMEN'S SECTION

The May meeting at St John's Church Hall was opened by the Chairman, Mrs K Stevens.

Mrs S Mumford gave a report on the Diamond Jubilee Conference that she attended at Eastbourne. The Conference was graced by the presence of the Queen Mother.

Miss Stephenson from Saffron Walden gave a very interesting and amusing account of her air trip around the world. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs N Bell.

The raffle winners were Mrs P Clower, Mrs Q Sweet, Miss D Saville, Mrs B Hoffman, Miss Davis, Mrs L Johnson and Mrs K Stevens.

A mini fete is being held at the home of Dr and Mrs Gabb on 5th August at 10.30am. It is hoped you will come and support us.

P Hutley

RAINBOW PLAYGROUP, Lower Street, Stansted

The RAINBOW PLAYGROUP in Lower Street,
Just the place to find your feet.
To learn to play and make new friends,
To make mistakes and make amends.
There's paints and sand and jigsaws too
And lots, lots more for you to do.
We dance, play games, sing nursery rhymes
And of course have storytime.
So if you're coming up to three
Why not come along and see?
Monday to Friday, 9.15 to noon
Let's hope we'll see you soon.
And all you Mums please remember
We have vacancies this September!

by Brenda Cook
Secretary, Rainbow Playgroup
Committee

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

A large number of fathers attended our 'Dads Day' on Saturday 16th May and had an insight into what the children do at play-school. They joined the children in model making, painting etc and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The playschool has been asked by the Carnival Committee to provide and serve refreshments at this forthcoming event. Any offers of help would be most appreciated.

We would like to express our thanks to the dads who have given up their valuable time recently in helping us with a playschool project.

STANSTED AND DISTRICT CND GROUP

Most people probably realise that CND stands for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Its members believe that nuclear weapons represent a very real threat to future world peace. If you are in sympathy with our aims, please join us or support us. You can find out how by telephoning Chris and Liz Lane (813997) or Ann and Pete Webb (812088).

THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Mountfitchet Garden Club held two meetings in June. The first, the usual first Monday of the month meeting at the Youth and Adult Centre Annex, was addressed by Mr Collins of Canfield Nurseries, who advised members in a most amusing manner on various aspects of tomato growing and the care of rubber plants. Before Mr Collins spoke, there was a talk on some of the work involved in running the commercial side of a gardening club by Mr Barnett from the Hatfield Heath Club.

The second meeting took the form of an outing to the garden of Mrs Rosemary Kenrick at 'Great Chalks' in Hatfield Broad Oak, following her 'Open Day' in aid of the Gardeners' Benevolent Fund.

The Mountfitchet Garden Club is very pleased to report that some local traders have agreed to give a discount to club members on production of membership cards. These cards have now been printed and are available to paid-up members.

The next meeting will be on 6th July, and the speaker will be local self-sufficiency expert, Mrs Katie Thear, who will be telling us something about 'Raised Bed Cultivation', also known as 'Chinese Beds'.

STANSTED LADIES NETBALL CLUB

We are in need of some new players ready for next season. We have two teams entered into the Bishop's Stortford League and arrange friendly games too. We came fourth out of twelve teams last season and look forward to the autumn's league fixtures. We practise on Mondays, 7.15pm - 9 pm approx at St Mary's Primary School, St John's Road (Mountfitchet School in winter months). If you are interested come along one Monday or ring Tricia Cuttelle on BS 813770.

STANSTED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

at

HARGRAVE SPORTS GROUND

SATURDAY 25th JULY 1981

First race at 3.0pm

Races for Toddlers, children of all ages and adults.
Entries on the Field.

5th Annual Cross-Country Run for the 'Freddy Wells' Trophy.

Junior Cross-Country Run for the Sports Association Trophy.

SIDE-SHOWS

COMPETITIONS

RIDES FOR CHILDREN

In connection with Sports Day, a Five-a-Side Football Tournament for Youth Teams (under 11 and under 13) is being arranged. Information from: Mike Simpson 812660.

Semi-Finals and Finals will be played on the evening of Sports Day.

Further information about Sports Day from: Ray Thompson 812337.

STANSTED FIRE BRIGADE

Stansted firemen wish to thank everyone who supported their Jumble Sale on Saturday 6th June - those who gave jumble and those who came to buy.

The marvellous sum of over £200 was raised for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

Methodist

From February 1973 to August 1974 I was Manager of a Day Centre for Physically Handicapped Adults in Leicester. It was a very enriching experience for me. I learned much from the people I tried to help and became a fuller person through working closely with disabled people (many of them severely disabled) day by day. In this International Year of Disabled People it may be helpful if I pass on some of the things I learned concerning the way we react and relate to the physically disabled.

Please do not treat them as mentally sub-normal. Some of them are, no doubt, but the large majority are not. Behind a severely disabled body there is often a fine intelligence. Educational opportunities are usually hindered and restricted by physical disabilities, but that does not result in mental subnormality. Limited powers of communication do not necessarily involve limited powers of understanding. Far from it. Yet, people often shy away from direct contact and conversation with the severely physically disabled, feeling they will not and cannot understand. Questions for them are put to relations or friends, like the famous question, "Does he take sugar?", on the assumption that they cannot answer for themselves. Imagine how humiliating this can be for, say, a highly intelligent spastic teenager, who already has far too many frustrations to bear. You may need help in understanding the way in which the handicapped person communicates and you will often need patience and perseverance. Get rid of your own apprehensions and self-consciousness, be neither fawning nor condescending, relate to the physically handicapped in a normal, natural manner. They are people, real people, and as such we should always treat them.

Another common fault is to shout at physically disabled people as though they are all deaf. A small percentage will be, most will not. Our assumption should be that hearing is normal, which is part of a natural approach. A similar fault is to gesticulate over-much as though the disabled person needs help to understand our words. He does not. Furthermore, he can think for himself, weigh the pros. and cons. of a matter and make decisions. We hinder, annoy and dishonour him if we act as if this were not so. And yet another thing, except in time of illness or very special circumstances, never do for a disabled person what he can do for himself. Indeed, all encouragement and aids possible should be given him to widen and increase his abilities. To make him less dependent on others gives him greater scope in relating to other people and so enhances his humanity.

It is usually desirable, and sometimes necessary, for the able-bodied to make the first approach to the disabled. Physical limitations, limited social opportunities, self-consciousness, mistrust (often justifiable) etc., may prevent the disabled person from approaching you. See him as an individual, someone who needs friends and (just as important) has enriching friendship to give. See him as a fellow-child of God who, in common with all people, is here to enjoy life, to live and mature as a person, to develop deep relationships with other people, to receive and give and share. Note particularly his need to give. It is dehumanizing to be always

receiving and have no chance of giving. Ensure they can do something and give something to you or to others.

One final thing. Some Christians may assume that the disabled person could be healed if only he had faith. Such an assumption - of lack of faith - may well be completely false and voiced gratuitously to the disabled is cruel and hurtful. Many factors can prevent healing and can do so even when the sick person has great trust in God.

Harold Fisher

Christian Aid



PO Box No1, London SW9 8BH

SACC - CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED YOUTH FAST

On Saturday 16th May at 10.00 am about 30 young people from the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic Youth Groups met together to take part in a sponsored fast - proceeds to Christian Aid. It was a daunting prospect - 7 hours without food. To allay temptation, activities were organised throughout the day. On the "Menu" were, music and movement, drama and art and we divided into the group of our choice.

Our understanding of Christian Aid was deepened by 2 films illustrating poverty and the need for a better education in the third world countries. These films, together with posters, which were prepared by one group, gave us a better idea of the help that is needed by these underprivileged people.

Between group activities we sang songs and folk hymns accompanied by guitars and played games which showed the need for communication and sharing. During the afternoon we had a lively game of rounders, after which we returned to the URC Hall where the work we had been doing in our groups was shared with the others in the form of a dance drama, a playlet and a collage.

A beautiful epilogue and hymns led us up to the magic hour of 5.00 pm and food!

Although going without food is hard, at least it gave us some idea of what it is like to be hungry. We raised £170 and all praise must go to those young people who took part. Grateful thanks also to the Youth Leaders who organised the day and to Rev. Eric McIlwain for allowing us to use the hall.

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Society of Friends

".... leave your spears at the door...."

I have visited numerous English Parish Churches, even a few mosques and a Hindu temple, but I shall always have a special place in my memory for Kapedo Finnish Mission Church.

Kapedo is a small trading centre in the northern part of the Kenya rift valley, a harsh, arid land of lava, sand and thorn scrub. The Turkana tribe live there, herding their goats, cows and camels from one waterhole to the next. The men are rarely seen without their two spears, the eight inch long blades kept razor sharp, and used, too, to settle intertribal disputes. The women wear beads piled high round their necks. Not only are their ears pierced, so are their noses and lower lips, and from all these hangs metal and ivory jewellery.

Close by the trading centre is the mission station, where two Finnish Mission Sisters lived, with their few trained helpers. They ran a small primary school, and a hospital, and on Sunday mornings there was Church. The building itself was long and low, with a thatched roof, and planks for pews. The windows were large spaces in the walls, the floor was beaten earth.

On Sundays, the Turkana would assemble outside the church soon after dawn. Sister Anna would open the doors at 9.00 am, and soon the air would be full of her shrill cries of "No spears in church; leave your spears at the door." Eventually, the congregation would be disarmed, and the church filled. Sister would open the Service with a chorus in which all lustily joined, with that characteristic harmony which is only heard in Africa.

Now many of the Turkana have chesty coughs, because their herds are not tuberculin tested, and TB is not uncommon. As each chorus died away, Sister would yell "not on the floor, through the windows!" Immediately there would be a rush for the windows, throats would be noisily cleared, and there would be an unmentionable but enthusiastic volley through the windows. Men and women would file back to their places, and the service would resume.

After church, the congregation would noisily disperse, shouting greetings, farewells, and even occasional threats. The dust would hover in the still hot air for a few minutes, and even the noise seemed to linger, though the crowd had gone.

Peter Webb

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United Reformed

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COFFEE PARTY - 'Pennington View' garden - Saturday, July 11 -
3.00 pm on - hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Thomas.

CHURCH MEETING - Tuesday, July 21, 7.30 pm - Lecture Hall.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 - 11.00 am service withdrawn! - worship with
Bishop's Stortford to hear CWM delegates -

6.30 pm service in Lecture Hall, followed
by congregational meeting and social time.

PILOTS - (girls and boys aged 9 - 13) meet Mondays, 5.30 in
Lecture Hall during term.

SINGING DOWN THE AGES

"Since the early days of Christianity, a crowning glory of the Church of God has been the place and power of spiritual song in her worship and life. The Church has 'come singing down the ages'. Through this gracious medium her people, generation after generation, have lifted up their hearts and voices in adoring praise." (from the Preface - United Church of Canada Hymnary)

One of the joys of our ecumenical services in Stansted is the singing of hymns! Hymns and hymn-tunes have bridged church divisions, crossed oceans and spanned centuries. Our hymnbooks reflect the Psalms of David, the early Latin and Greek Church, Reformation and Catholic tradition (eg. John Newton's 'Amazing Grace' and John Henry Newman's 'Lead, Kindly Light'), Europe and America and, more recently, India, Africa and China. Watts, Wesley, St. Francis, Luther, Xavier and Zinzendorf appear in every hymnbook.

It is a sign of hope in the church today that more hymns have been written in the last 20 years than since Victorian times; perhaps even since Wesley and Watts in the 18th century. Singing has always accompanied revival and renewal. Welcome, then to Fred Kaan, Sydney Carter and Brian Wren - to Micklem, Quinn and Kum ba yah!

As we struggle with the new hymns we might remember that 'O, for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise' (Wesley) and 'When I survey the wondrous cross' (Watts) were once NEW HYMNS. Wesley's advice on hymn-singing applies today as much as it did 200 years ago:

"Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half-dead or half-asleep, but lift up your voice with strength. Be not ashamed of your voice, or afraid of its being heard.

Sing modestly. Do not bawl . . . above . . . the rest of the congregation, but strive to . . . make one clear, melodious sound.

Sing in time. Whatever . . . is sung, be sure to keep with it. . . and take care not to sing too slow. This dawdling way naturally steals on . . . and it is high time to drive it out from among us.

Above all, sing spirituall. Have an eye to God in every word you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the SOUND, but offered to God continually. So shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of." (Wesley quote from St. Columba's Newsletter, Cambridge)

Church of England

FROM THE VICAR

THE EUCHARIST



Sometimes we enjoy a film which we saw many years ago. Recently I saw a film on the Church in Guyana which I had first seen when a curate. The message from the film was clear enough - there was such a shortage of priests that congregations could only attend the Eucharist and make their communion once every 3 months. Looking back perhaps

this film played a part in my going to work in the West Indies for in Dominica, where I stayed for 3 years, one of our congregations had only one Communion Service a month because of the long and difficult journey involved.

I am thinking of all this on the Feast of Corpus Christi when I am celebrating the Eucharist 4 times in our parish. I am also writing this at the time when our PCC is trying to get to grips with what is the real task of the Church in our village and how we should order our pattern of worship. The danger may be that we shall fall over backwards in trying to please everyone and so diminish in our minds that what is really important is that the Eucharist is celebrated here in Stansted.

Someone remarked some months ago (not too seriously?) that perhaps we should consider worshipping in the church hall over the winter months to save fuel. It may be that to even contemplate such a thing, and also, to think of our brother Christians throughout the world who can rarely attend the Eucharist because of the shortage of clergy, helps us to get our priorities right. What we must grasp is that God calls us to celebrate the Holy Communion, the Eucharist, with our fellow Christians. This is our joy and privilege.

* * * * *

Mrs Margaret Gabb has cleaned the silver in our parish over many years. She has done this job loyally and quietly. Now she feels it is time to hand over to someone else. I want to express my sincere thanks for all that she has done.

* * * * *

I do hope you will be able to get away for a holiday and that wherever you are you will attend an act of worship. I always look forward to worshipping in a new church and this year I will be taking services in a small village in Cumberland where a former curate of mine is now Vicar.

* * * * *

We shall miss Ethel and John Frecknall who have left Stansted to live in Ross-on-Wye. Ethel helped a great deal in many ways. We hope they will be very happy in their new home.

TINY TOTS SERVICE

We have started our Tiny Tots services in St John's Church on Tuesdays but they are still very much in the experimental stage! Nevertheless, we are learning by our experience and we have decided to meet fortnightly, to fit-in with the Young Wi group. Our meetings will thus be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Future dates are as follows:

July	14th & 28th
August	11th & 25th
September	8th & 22nd
October	13th & 27th
November	10th & 24th
December	8th & 22nd

Why not come along on one of these dates and bring a friend and children with you? You'd be very welcome. The service is quite short. It doesn't matter how much noise your little one makes, or how adventurous they become. Then stay and have a cup of tea meet other mums and let the children play together.

Hope to see you soon

Andrew Proud

ooo0000000ooo

YOUTHSCOPE

After the successful Sponsored Fast that the Ecumenical Youth Groups of the village put on in May, we are planning something else! A sponsored walk, in aid of a local charity, with the emphasis upon the International Year of the Disabled. The walk will take place on Tuesday 28th July and will start at 9.00 am sharp. We hope to be walking 17½ miles, and providing staging posts for those who want to drop-out to do so. Watch out for details or even members of the Youth Groups calling on you for Sponsorship!

Andrew Proud

ooo0000000ooo

PARISH DIARY

JULY

- 5th Sponsored Stroll in aid of St John's Appeal Fund.
- 11th Friends of Essex Churches AGM in St John's 3pm
- 12th Children's Church outing to London
- 13th PCC Meeting 8pm.
- 19th St Mary's School attend Family Communion 9.30am.
- 20th PCC Meeting 8pm.
- 21st Prayer Group meets in Vicarage 8.30pm.
- 22nd S Mary Magdalene - Holy Communion 10am

LETTER OF THANKS

"I wish to thank the congregations of St Mary's and St John's, Stansted who very kindly contributed to my gift token to spend at the Cambridge Music Shop.

As most of you know, I did not feel that I should be formerly thanked, but rather that I should give thanks for the enjoyment and fulfilment that the twenty two years meant to me, however, I appreciate your kindness very much.

I am, of course, a bit like "a fish out of water" and I am missing the work very much, but I am helping out at a number of local churches and therefore the gift token will come in very useful, as music is so expensive these days.

Thankyou once again for your generosity."

Keith Turner



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

The St John's Appeal Fund has benefited from money raised through the enterprise of numbers of people - acting either collectively or individually. Appreciable sums have been gathered in through a sponsored "knit-in", two lads undertaking a sponsored cycling marathon, and one lady doing a sponsored "slim". This sort of initiative is just what is needed to keep the Fund rolling.

There are many splendid gardens in Stansted - grand and more modest, which would be an attraction to the public. If a series of open days could be arranged the results would be "rosey" indeed. Probably next summer would be better - to allow time for publicity and planning Will any generous "garden owners" kindly offer to hold an open-day?

Offers please to: Peter Pavitt tel: 812567
Stuart Ayres tel: 814706

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THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES



The Friends of Essex Churches and the Essex Churches Trust are holding their AGM in St John's on Saturday July 11th. At this meeting there will be a talk on St John's Church and on Victorian architecture by Laurence King the well known architect. There will also be a visit to Newport Church before returning to Stansted for tea in the church hall at 5.15pm. The meeting begins at 3pm and we hope many from Stansted will be there.

STANSTED YOUNG WIVES

Our meeting on 2nd June with Mr Derek Winters, Public Relations Manager at Stansted Airport was very interesting. Mr Winters gave the British Airports Authority's reasons for the plans to expand the Airport as they will be presented to the Public Enquiry in September. There was a short period for questions at the end of his talk. Mr Winters donated the gift we gave him for speaking to us to the Church Restoration Fund.

The Planning Meeting which was to be held on Tuesday 16th June had to be brought forward to the Monday due to Bentfield County Primary School holding its Sports Day on the Tuesday. We apologise to anyone who turned up on the Tuesday expecting to contribute to this important meeting.

Our only date in July is Tuesday 7th at 1.30 pm when we'll hold our annual Picnic on Bentfield Green Recreation Ground (in the event of rain it will be in the Church Hall). We'll be charging 15p for each family group as we provide all the food (bring your own drinks though). We always seem to have many more people at the picnic than at an ordinary meeting!! See you there!

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PARISH REGISTERS

Baptised

7th June Thomas Alan Maitland, 9 Chapel Hill.
Jancis Eleanor Vaughan, 3 Rochford Cottages.

Confirmed

7th June Susan and Mary Durling, 23 Blythwood Gardens
Maureen Travis, 40 Bentfield Gardens
Ann Shirley Baldock, 10 Clarence Road
Clifford and Pauline Snow, 56 Bentfield Gardens
Anne Pirie, 21 Spencer Close
Dorothy Salmon, 56 Pear Tree Cottages
Florence and Gary West, 20 Stoneyfield Drive
Mary Stoddart, 38 Sunnyside
Jennifer Kettle, 23 Priory Drive
Julia Harris, 1 Mary McArthur Place
Vanessa Childs, 3 Brook Cottages
Clare and Helen Wagener, Fairfield, Silver Street
Jane Robinson, 7 Longcroft
Penelope Davidson, 3 Greenfields
Lena Shrimpton, 26 Croasdaile Road
Ian Osborne, 2 Meadow Croft
Lucinda Stone, 42 Stoneyfield Drive
David Ardern, 55 Bentfield Gardens
Angela Shuter, 3 Croasdaile Road
Alexa Richardson, 15 St John's Crescent

Married

13th June Terrence Rex Routledge, Matching Tye and
Barbara Partlett, 11 Cannons Mead.

Departed

20th May Winifred Fanny Sumption, Bridgwater, Somerset. 94years
3rd June Charles Feix, Saffron Walden, 72years
5th June Lillian Ash, Carshalton, Surrey, 84years
12th June George Edward Hollis, 27, Burnells Way, 77years.

Roman Catholic

IT'S ABOUT SHARING A MEAL

For the past nine months a significant event in the lives of our children has been anticipated and lovingly prepared. Twenty-three children, their parents, their catechists (teachers) and their priest have joined together regularly to find out, through learning, praying and praising what the Eucharist is all about.

We have discovered that it is about belonging to a family, about celebrating, about making peace, about listening to God's word, about caring and about giving thanks. And, finally on the 21st June, the day of their First Holy Communion, that it is about sharing a meal.

Eating and drinking are not merely necessities in our life, things we have to do simply to remain alive. They are signs of companionship and unity, times for sharing interests and life.

Eating and drinking together seems always to have had this meaning. It was certainly so in the time of Jesus. We know this from looking at the celebration of the First Eucharist, the Last Supper. This was a meal but was obviously also a gathering of close friends to share food and drink for a purpose beyond the purely utilitarian. Through it, Jesus announced His death and resurrection, through its commemoration we recall our deliverance in Christ from sin and death. The sharing of food and drink was central, through it the followers of Christ shared in Him and were united with Him.

Now, in every eucharistic celebration, we share in the bread and wine which nourish God's people bodily. But, by his power, they are transformed to provide spiritual nourishment. In these sacred elements we genuinely partake of the risen Lord, receive Him as our food, for He is really and entirely present in them. He is the Bread of Life. By assimilating one and the same Jesus as our food, we all become, in Him, one body together - the Church.

There should always be joy in sharing the meal of the Eucharist - it was especially joyful to be able to share with the children in their first communion.

Ann Webb

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PARISH DIARY - JULY 1981

Thursday 2nd July, 7.45pm

Friday 2nd July, 3.00 pm

Sunday 5th July, 10.30 am

Thursday 9th July, 7.45 pm

BRES course in St. Theresa's.

Service for the elderly at Cannons Mead.

St. Thomas More School Mass in

St. Theresa's.

BRES course - final session - in

St. Theresa's.

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BAPTISMS

Congratulations to the Shaw family on the baptism of their baby son Oliver John last month.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Holy Communion on Sunday 21st June last.

This parish of all my dreams

by SHEILA LIVINGSTONE

Attractive

Nothing was dog-eared. A positive effort had been made to select and display pamphlets linked to the main — and sometimes controversial — issues, such as aspects of our Faith, Inter-Church relationships, nuclear weapons, racism, and social justice. It looked bright, and its appearance attracted one.

On the other side was a different notice board on which people pinned up notices about goods wanted or for sale: push-chairs, old furniture, couples seeking or selling prams, cars, bikes, clothes, old toys. It was a kind of market noticeboard.

It didn't cost anything to pin up a notice but there was a box alongside for donations and people were encouraged to put in a percentage of what they got for a sale.

It wasn't offensive or out of place, and it was clearly helpful and useful in building up a parish feeling (several notices were appeals for baby-sitters).

Another section gave all the details of church organisations, but here again someone was clearly keeping an eye on its appearance because there were no out of date notices, nothing was tatty. All looked efficient and clear-cut.

Inside, was a typical parish church lay-out. The altar was clearly visible from all over, there was a crying room, and the use of flowers and the liturgical colours were painstakingly and effectively done.

There were enough Mass sheets and hymn books for all.

I enjoyed the Mass immensely. It was Communications Sunday, and the priest explained briefly at the outset what it was all about and had obviously done his homework.

The loud-speakers around the church all worked beautifully and although I was halfway down the church I could hear every word.

Clarity

The singing was loud and enthusiastic, with modern tunes of great gusto, and I felt a strong sense of community, of deep devotion, of joy, and I felt all my weekday tension and hassles diminish or drop away.

The readings were carried out by a woman and read with feeling and expression, free from the halting I-am-seeing-this-for-the-first-time-because-Father-collared-me-on-the-way-in performance that one sometimes winces at.

The Gospel was also delivered with great clarity, and the bidding prayers were read by the editor of the local paper, a local radio station broadcaster and another journalist who worked in London but who lived in the town.

The priest introduced each one and each had prepared bidding prayers (Prayers of the Faithful) linked to his own area of life and work.

I must say that it was the most delightful experience at the Sign of Peace to find the people on each side of me, bearing a welcome, and shaking hands with great cordiality. Families embraced.

Brisk sermon

The sermon was fittingly short, brisk and apt. The preacher said something of the Church's work in radio, TV and the press, urged a constructive attitude to the media as a whole, said that people should make their views known, both good and bad, and with charity as Our Lord would wish.

Our people should be mature enough to understand and permit vigorous debate on Church matters in the Catholic press and to appreciate (despite some fallaciousness and zany behaviour) that the press and media freedoms we enjoyed was so important in these days of power blocs and impersonal bureaucracy.

He asked for prayers and financial support and made it clear that the communications collection was at the end and not the mid-Mass collection which was for the parish.

When the Mass ended to another shake-the-roof hymn, I was staggered to find the three clergy at the door shaking hands with their people and conversing.

Duplicated

There was a notice outside the church door directing people to the nearby church hall where there was tea, coffee and biscuits, and a great throng had gathered. Very young children were looked after by volunteers in a play area, and the rest talked and laughed and mingled.

Every now and again an appeal was made from a platform for a meeting of an organisation or some similar function, but all such verbal announcements were duplicated by written notices on the boards in the hall and church.

In the room was a TV set and a continuous programme of missionary-appeal "shorts" were shown: brief and lively and very effective, and appropriate on World Communications Day.

Off they went, re-charged and smiling, and one felt that they really would try and carry the spirit of the Mass into their daily lives.

And then I woke up.

IT'S always a pleasure when staying in a new town to seek out the local church and to see how Mass is offered there and what the atmosphere is like.

I found the noticeboard in my hotel and there was a prominent, attractively designed poster which gave me the location of the five main parishes, their names, times of Masses, details of how to get there, plus an arrow saying "you are here" and clear-cut directions about walking, going by bus or where to get a taxi.

The church of St. Pancras — who used to be the patron saint of Scots leaving London — was the nearest so I set out for that.

I must say that it looked very welcoming.

The railings and gates were freshly painted, flowers and shrubs flourished in the courtyard, and people were smiling at one another and greeting one another as they entered.

Just inside the entrance there was a large framed board, clearly lettered, which told one who St. Pancras was, and his significance, and the dates of the parish church.

There were some other notices at the side, and one of these gave

the names of the clergy, the parish phone number and urged people to call.

I particularly liked the touch which stressed that the clergy were busy men and often out but if anyone called with a pastoral problem, Catholic or non-Catholic, they were to leave a note and the priest would seek them out. But they would be welcome.

Someone had had the good sense to ensure that a publicity and piety stall was prominent, well-laid out and of such a design that one could browse without blocking traffic in and out of the church. It sold all the Catholic weeklies, and the CTS section was obviously well cared for.

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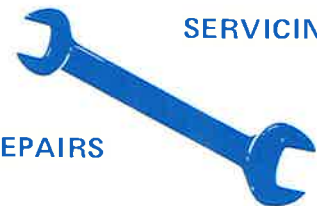
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