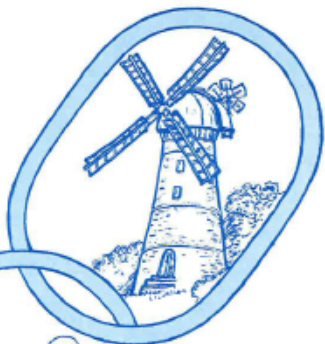


Mar 81

The **LINK**



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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

UNITED SERVICES - LENT 1981

Theme: THE FOUR GREAT LOVES

Thursday 12th March in St Theresa's
Thursday 19th March in St John's
Thursday 26th March in Quaker Meeting House
(service conducted by
Methodists)
Thursday 2nd April in United Reformed Church
Thursday 9th April in United Reformed Hall
An Agape Supper
All Services and the supper at 8.00 pm

An Agape is the name given to a shared religious meal. Arrangements for this will be in next month's Link



Copy for the April issue should reach 48 St John's Road by 9th March: 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.

Village News

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Readers may like to keep the following facts in mind when they attend the Parish Council ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on WEDNESDAY, 18th MARCH 1981 at 8.00 pm in the PETER KIRK SCHOOL Canteen in St John's Road

.....

At present, about £3. is allotted to the Parish Council from each householder's yearly rate.

.....

For 1981/2, major items of expenditure are:

Open Spaces - £7,765: Lighting - £6,068; Administration - £6,000: Finance & General Purposes - £4,845: North-West Essex Preservation Association - £2,500: Airport - £700: Windmill - £400: Civil Defence - £200.

Note: The Parish Council is responsible for lighting where the County Council does not provide it, and has to pay for electricity as well as the repair and replacement of lamps. There are still parts of the village which are unlit; householders and other ratepayers in such areas pay lower rates.

.....

A Parish Council is not allowed to levy rates simply in order to invest them and build up a Capital Fund to be used at some future date. Only for a limited period and for a specific project can it accumulate funds - as has been done in order to buy the new Library building and Crafton Green House for use as a Health Clinic. The balance has been paid for from the sale of the Lower Street site.

The land for the Car Park at Crafton Green has been paid for by the Uttlesford Council; the Parish Council will pay for the development of this site which, it feels, will be an asset for the village in the future.

.....

The Parish Council administers small local funds such as the Summer Show, the Parish Hall Fund, Stansted Charities.

There are legal restraints on the type of investment a Parish Council may make. A high proportion of its funds goes into Local Authority bonds. Accounts are audited yearly by the District Auditor.

.....

We are grateful to Mr Peter Pennington, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, for providing the above information.

RED CROSS YOUTH GROUP

A Youth Group is starting on Tuesday, 3rd March 1981 at 6.00 pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. We would welcome boys and girls over 11 years to join us in courses of first aid, nursing, survival, casualty simulation etc. We shall not only learn about these things but we will also have fun and some social events.

The meetings will take place in term time and will be from 6.00 pm - approximately 7.30 pm. We hope members will be able to help at fetes and other functions where adult members are on duty for first aid.

For more information, please telephone Mrs Janet Rose, BS 812203 or Mr John Warren, BS 814958.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD YOUTH THEATRE

A branch of this organisation meets at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill in Stansted every Thursday night. The session lasts from 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm and is taken by a member of the SNAP Theatre Company. The evening is intended not as a training ground for aspiring young actors and actresses but for all those who show an interest in drama. Through the media of improvisation, mime, speech, song and movement the aim is not only to improve performance skills, but to form a team, who can work together and learn through joint experience. These weekly workshops lead ultimately to performance standard. In addition to this, there are visits to the theatre in London and the members are encouraged to take an active interest in the workings of SNAP itself.

This particular group caters for the age range 11 to 14, although there is a senior workshop for those aged 15 and over, which meets at the Northgate Community Centre, Rye Street in Bishop's Stortford every Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Anyone interested is very welcome to come along; please telephone 504095, if you have any further queries.

W.E.A.

The current course "The makings of the English Landscape" has a class of 30 strong, with a very wide range of ages. It has aroused much interest and very intelligent questions have been asked at question time.

The result of the A.G.M. held on Monday, 23rd February will be given in the April issue of THE LINK.

Mr H Griggs (Chairman) 813525

Tricia Johnson (Secretary) 812797

SENIOR CITIZENS

How to Keep Young

The Mountfitchet Seniors Club had their Christmas party on 17th December which was also Mrs Page's Golden Wedding party. St Mary's School came to entertain us.

In January we had a play written and acted by members followed by games and in February we much enjoyed an exhibition of keep-fit brought to us by Mrs Kimberley.

STANSTED WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
(Afternoon)

On the 14th January the Stansted WI held their New Year Party. As the President, Mrs Scarr, could not attend, her deputy, Mrs Edwards, stood in for her. All agreed that she did so very well.

The Committee arrived at the Youth Centre early in order to get all ready for the arrival of their fellow members. Each brought with them a small raffle prize, a table decoration, cakes, sandwiches etc.

The business of the meeting was quickly despatched. Mrs Frecknall had made the birthday posies but as it was her own birthday month, she was presented with a special posy! A game "Give us a Clue" followed and then tea was served. After more games, the meeting was closed and the raffle was drawn. All those who attended agreed that it had been a very happy afternoon - and we would all like to congratulate Mrs Christine King on becoming a grandmother!

Mrs C Francis

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the January meeting Mr Bill Mortimer gave a talk on collecting antiques and brought along a selection of his own favourites to show us.

After refreshments members discussed ideas for next year's programme. At the meeting on 12th March there will be a talk on Egypt.

THE STANSTED ACTION GROUP OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY

Through the Bible-a-month Club, which now has over 5,000 members the Society has been able to respond to the appeal from the Christians in Zaire for a translation of the New Testament that will be more easily understood by the million Zandes in Zaire, Sudan and Central Africa. The translation has already been completed, but although the type set up by computer takes about two weeks, to post the proofs back and forth to Zaire, takes much longer. The New Testament will however be ready by April and will be speedily despatched and distributed. The Stansted Branch hopes to make a substantial contribution to the work of the Bible Society this year and is arranging to hold its Annual Coffee Morning on 7th May at Bentfield Place by kind invitation of Mrs A Thompson, when all readers of The Link will be welcome.

There are four members of the Bible-a-month in our Action Group, two juniors and two adults. Information concerning membership of this club is available.

O. Tunbridge - Secretary Stansted Action Group

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The sixth A.G.M. took place on 4th February and it was reported that last year was fairly satisfactory in all ways. It is expected that the number of members will continue to grow. We are hoping for an increase in our band of merry men and women (known as drivers and helpers) to enable us to cope.

After the business was concluded Mr Phillips, Headmaster of the Peter Kirk school, gave a very interesting talk about teaching methods he and his staff use. We all wanted to hear more.

/continued

Huw Johnson Club, continued

As we now have a few musical instruments such as small drums, toy xylophone and a tambourine, club evenings will probably get even livelier. How about calling in St John's Hall on a Thursday evening 5.45 - 7.15 pm? You may hear classical, folk, pop or jazz music; any lack of musical talent is made up for by unlimited enthusiasm.

Betty Lockwood

THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

Arthritis is the greatest cause of disability in this country. One-third of the registered disabled suffer from it and we who support the ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL are redoubling our efforts during the next twelve months to help prevent more and more people from becoming disabled through the rheumatic diseases.

The Council exists to find the cause and cure of arthritis and rheumatism through its research programme, and the local Branch will be helping to raise the three million pounds needed this year for that research.

Through the year, A.R.C. is proposing to hold a number of sponsored Walks for those people who have had replacement joints of any kind. The main event will be in Hyde Park on Sunday, 7th June 1981. The Bishop's Stortford branch would like to organise a walk locally on the same day. We would like to hear from anyone who has had a replacement joint to relieve their disability, and may be interested in taking part.

If there are readers who would like to help us during the International Year of Disabled People or who would like more details of the Council and its work, would they please contact me at the address below:

Mrs P Leggett
Press Officer, Bishop's Stortford A.R.C.
21 Carrigans, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: BS 52340

A PLEA TO MOTOR-CAR and MOTOR-BIKE OWNERS

Many people use roads in Stansted as short-cuts without realising that their upkeep must be paid for out of the pockets of the people who live in those roads. The following is a list of the fifteen roads which are NOT maintained by the County Council but which cannot, because of a quirk of the law, be closed to the public by their frontagers:

Brewery Lane, Brook Road, Clarence Road,
Millfields, Millside, Normans Way, Park
Road, Recreation Ground, St John's Crescent,
St John's Road, St John's Lane, Stoney Common,
Sunnyside, Woodfields, Woodfield Terrace and
the far end of Water Lane.

Some of these roads are very narrow; none of them were constructed to take heavy modern traffic. For safety's sake as well as reducing the wear and tear on the surface, it would be a great help if drivers would DRIVE VERY SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY along them.

Greenfields is a private road and can be denied to the public.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION held its January meeting in St John's Hall. Mrs Violet Sparrow spoke on the history of china. Mrs Sparrow and her husband run a china store, so she was able to bring pieces of china to illustrate her talk. Members were able to ask questions about their own china samples. Mrs Betty Little proposed the vote of thanks.

Members were advised of an outing to the theatre at Chelmsford on 4th March. Competition prizewinners were Mrs B Hoffman, Mrs Clower, Mrs J Brace, Mrs C Whall and Mrs Ellis.

THE STANSTED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FUND

The Coffee Morning organised by Sheila Stebbings raised a further £9.50 for the Fund. As well as being a financial success, it was a pleasant social occasion enhanced by Sheila's tempting baking.

We are very grateful to the anonymous donor of £10.00 which was paid into the account before Christmas.

Peggy Honour, Judy Goddard, Peter Clark.

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at the Old Bell Public House on Monday 23 March at 8.00 pm. The weather has been very kind to us this winter and between a dozen and twenty members continue to play tennis on Sunday mornings. We switch to Sunday afternoons from 1st April when the new season officially starts and a date will be arranged for an opening Tournament. All enquiries to: Mrs Janet Hollis - BS 812073.

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

This is a non-profit making service run by the teachers and a committee of parents of children attending the school. There are at present ten mothers on the Committee plus four teachers. The Chairman is June Walker, 37, Gilbey Crescent, the Treasurer is Marion Dyke, 79 Rainsford Road, the Secretary, Lindsey Collingwood, 8 The Campions and members Sarah Ledger, 41 Sunnyside, Sheila Bellamy, 15 Longcroft, Sue Pollard, 44 Croasdaile Road, Sue Archer, 40 Gilbey Crescent, Pat Hounsell, 23 Wetherfield, Joy Brearley, 16 Rainsford Road and Wena Bosley, 6 Clarence Road. The teachers are Janice Wray, 22 Longcroft, Mary Burgess, 21 Summerhill Road, Saffron Walden, Helen Pausey, 9 St John's Road, and Gwenda Tucker, 14 Pellam Road, Clavering.

In addition to the sponsored swim, there will be other fund-raising events during each term, the proceeds of which are used entirely on new equipment or on replacement of worn out equipment. Janice Wray (BS 815817) will be pleased to hear from anyone interested in the Nursery School.

CHAPEL HILL PLAYGROUP (Quaker Meeting House)

On 4th APRIL we are having a Spring Sale in the United Reformed Church Hall. There will be lots of bargains for everyone so come and have a browse at our gifts, good-as-new, bric-a-brac etc. or a rummage through our jumble.

If anyone has any jumble, bric-a-brac etc. they wish to dispose of, please ring 818624 or 813400 when arrangements will be made to collect.

Christian Aid



STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

During Lent we are having four "Hunger Lunches" in people's homes. We ask you to come and have a frugal meal and give the cost of what you would have spent on a meal, towards the work of Christian Aid in the Third World.

Tuesday March 10 with Mrs Ann Webb, 29 Burnell's Way

Tuesday March 17 with Mr & Mrs C Muir, 48 St John's Road

Tuesday March 24 with Mr & Mrs F Boyd, 5 St John's Lane

Tuesday March 31 with Revd & Mrs A Proud 43 Gilbey Crescent

Come between 12.15 - 1.15 pm

.....

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK WILL SOON BE HERE!

MAY 10th - 16th

On Saturday May 16th 10.00 - 12.30 - A MARKET STALL

We require Good-as-New Clothes - Books - White Elephant-Furniture - and Cakes - Plants - Produce.

Offers of goods or help to:

Margaret Burton, 814279

-

5a Blythwood Gardens

Margaret Booker, 812684

-

Moorlands Cottage,
Burton End

Please remember us when you Spring Clean!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(Interdenominational)

ST THERESA'S

MARCH 6th 1981



THEME: THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

(Psalm 24:1)

2.00 pm

Speaker - Sister Agnes Roche
from Brentwood

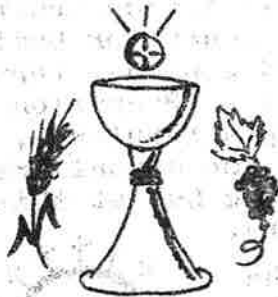
Creche at 53 Recreation Road

(The Church Car Park connects Recreation Road to the Church)

Church of England

VICAR'S NOTES

We have had a very good group meeting to plan our Lenten programme and we have produced a leaflet setting out the details. We hope you will pick up one from the back of the church. We are organising three worship workshops, three Songs of Praise, the Office of Compline every Friday at 9 pm and on Sunday mornings our sermons will be based on questions concerning the Christian Faith that are handed in beforehand. Lent is the time when we take time to get our priorities right and I hope it will be an enriching experience for us all. The Bishop of Chelmsford has urged us to read Richard Holloway's book 'A New Heaven' and I have copies of this for sale at £1.12p.



* * * * *

We are launching an appeal for St John's on Friday, 24th April at 8 pm. I am glad that Lord Butler has agreed to be a patron for the appeal together with Sir John Betjeman and the Bishops of Chelmsford and Truro. The meeting will take place in St John's Church and be followed by refreshments in the hall where we hope to have a small exhibition. We do hope you will be able to come along.

* * * * *

COME AND SING

We invite you to come to St John's Church for Songs of Praise on Sundays 8th and 22nd March, and 5th April. The services will begin at 6.30 pm and if you would like to suggest a hymn we should sing please see one of the clergy. These services will last for 45 minutes and be followed by coffee for those who want to stay on and have a chat.

CHURCH HALL

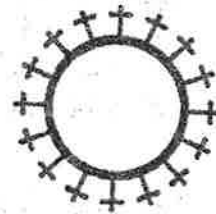
The church hall is used by many organisations and we are glad that it is providing an amenity in the village. It has also been let out for parties and wedding receptions. Most times everything goes smoothly but once or twice last year damage was done in the hall and it was left in a bad state. We are thinking how we can continue to let the hall for these occasions and yet make sure it is not abused. The hall committee is discussing all this but in the meantime we have ceased to book parties and receptions. If we are able to make provision for suitable supervision and so let the hall again, we will make it known through The Link.

LEPROSY

Leprosy is a common disease in rural India - not only disfiguring but also contagious, and desperately feared and so the students of the Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary, Arasaradi are keen to start a project for them. The Seminary recently bought thirty acres of land which can be farmed by some leprosy patients and where small-scale industries can be set up for others.

Patients will continue their treatment through the leprosy clinic attached to the Seminary's own medico-pastoral centre, and the work of the clinic and the rehabilitation centre will be co-ordinated. But the Seminary needs money for buildings - for dormitories, small houses for married couples, farm machinery and equipment for cottage industries. Provision must be made for digging walls, providing simple furniture, medicines and seed for the farm. Eventually the organisers of this scheme expect it to be self-supporting but at this stage they need £40,000 over the next five years.

The proceeds from our Lent boxes are to be given for this project and we hope that we can continue to support this work and adopt it as a project. In return we will receive news and information and in this way will forge a link with the Seminary. The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has suggested this project to us as one needing our support and prayers.



USPG

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union meet in St John's Hall on 25th March when we welcome Andrew Proud to talk to us. The party held in January was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the committee for hard work in providing a wonderful tea.

STANSTED YOUNG WIVES

I am sure that you will all be pleased to know that our Great Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale raised the sum of £115 for the Year of the Disabled People.

Our meetings for March are as follows:

3rd March - We hope to have a WPC from Harlow Constabulary to talk about the duties and role of a woman in the Police.

17th March - Rochfords Nurseries are sending Mrs J Read to talk to us on the care and feeding of houseplants. Bring along any questions, and even your ailing specimens.

We hope to start the actual talk as close to 1.30 as possible on this date, because we have heard that it is so interesting we may not have enough time to fit everything in.

There will only be one meeting in April, on the 7th, because of the school holidays.

ST MARY'S BELLRINGERS

We are pleased to report that our local band was successful in ringing a quarter peal on Friday, 30th January in 44 minutes. It was the first quarter for both John St Aubyn and Stefan Farnell and the first on an 'inside' bell for Roy Holman.

Stefan Farnell is proving to be a great help to us since he moved to Stansted whilst the progress of our two latest recruits, Margaret Bickerton and Hilary Snudden is pleasing.

On the evening of Saturday 28th March the North-West district of the Essex Association of Ringers will be visiting St Mary's for their monthly meeting.

If anyone would like to find out more about bellringing even if they do not wish to 'take it up', they will be welcome to join us on any practice night (Mondays 7 pm - 9 pm) and we will be pleased to 'show them the ropes'.

YOUTHSCOPE

Sunday Youth Group

Over the week-end of 6th - 8th March, we are going away to spend time together in a converted church on the Essex coast. The church is the former church of St Lawrence, at Asheldham, not too far from Bradwell where St Cedd is reputed to have come ashore in his mission to the people of East Anglia. Asheldham is a well used church conversion consisting of a quiet area, a relaxation and games area, bedrooms and a kitchen. We shall be doing our own catering and using the time for walks, games, planning something for May (details will be released later). Let's hope that the winter remains fairly mild!



ASHELDHAM

If you are interested in joining either group, please contact Fr Andrew, BS 814463.

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SHROVE TUESDAY

Our customary Shrove Tuesday party will be in St John's Hall - 3rd March at 8.00 pm. Further details will be found in the weekly newsheet.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptised:

1 February Kirsty Louise Massey 8 Water Lane

Departed

22 January Nora Marie Wells 49 Lower Street

CALENDAR AND DIARY

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm, Wednesdays at 10.00 am, Thursdays at 7.30 am and Fridays at 8.00 am, unless otherwise stated below.

March

- 1 7th Sunday before Easter The Preacher at the 9.30 am Parish Communion will be John Burton, our Architect, who will be telling us about the merits of our Church building.
Also
at 3.00 pm, instead of Evensong, there will be a service in Church for the parents of children who have been Baptised in the Parish over the last five years, followed by tea.
- 2 Deanery Synod
- 4 Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist 8.00 pm, St John's
- 6 The Sunday Youth Group go to Asheldham for the weekend.
P.C.C.
- 9 2nd Sunday in Lent
- 15 St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 3rd Sunday in Lent
- 25 Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 29 4th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday

Roman Catholic

LENT

The season of Lent is a special time for us to prepare for the big Christian feast of Easter. It comprises of forty days (excluding Sundays) which was the number of days Christ fasted in the desert before starting his active life of preaching, teaching and working miracles. So just as Christ spent time preparing himself by mortifying the body, Lent gives us the opportunity of doing a little mortification. Ash Wednesday, so called because on that day we receive blessed ashes on our foreheads to remind us from what we came, DUST; 'Remember man that you are dust, and into dust you will return.' Those are the words that the priest says to remind us of our humble origin, and help us have a truly penitent spirit as we enter this Holy Season. It is a time when we are encouraged to show our love of God by our sacrifices; e.g. by our taking a more active part in the liturgy, being more considerate in our family life, and in doing more good works for our neighbour. In this way we are preparing ourselves first to partake in the Passion of Christ, and then to rejoice with him at Easter (His Resurrection).

Let us pray as we are about to enter the holy season of Lent, for a better understanding of our Christian commitment, knowing that the more that we sincerely are trying to do this, so much the more is God's grace working in us.

Father Joe Tuohy

PARISH DIARY

- 4th March ASH WEDNESDAY THE beginning of LENT and a day of fasting and abstinence.
- 6th March Friday. Women's Day of Prayer - Service in St Theresa's 2.00 pm. Speaker - Sister Agnes Roche B.R.E.S.
- 7th March Saturday. Youth House Mass 7.30 pm at 'Cordonnier' Old Mead Lane, Eisenham.
- 8th March Sunday. Stations of the Cross at St Anthony's Henham 6.00 pm
- 11th March Wednesday. Deanery Mass with the Bishop at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Harlow - 8.00 pm. The Bishop will concelebrate Mass with the priests of the deanery, and afterwards meet the people.
- 12th March Thursday - the first of our Lenten United Services in St Theresa's - 8.00 pm
- 14th March Saturday - First Communion Group (parents and children) Teaching Session at 9.30 am - 11 am Mass
- 15th March Sunday - Stations of the Cross at St Theresa's 6.00 pm
- 19th March Thursday - Feast of St Joseph - United Lenten Service in St John's at 8.00 pm
- 21st March Saturday. Youth Disco at St Theresa's 7 pm - 9 pm
- 22nd March Sunday - Stations of the Cross at St Theresa's 6.00 pm
- 23rd March Monday. Discussion Group at 46 Blythwood Gardens 8.00 pm
- 26th March Thursday. United Lenten Service held by the Methodists in the Friends Meeting House 8.00 pm
- 28th March Saturday. First Communion Group (Parents and children) 9.30 am in St Theresa's - Special Service
- 29th March Sunday. Stations of the Cross in St Theresa's 6.00 pm



THE SEASON OF LENT

During the six weeks of Lent the Liturgy of the Word, both in the eucharist and the prayer of the hours, is especially abundant and varied. We have but to listen to it, reflect on it in our hearts and allow it to act on us.

Prayer is a dialogue in which listening is as important as speaking. As partners in the dialogue, we must be sensitive and receptive to the voice of GOD. This has been described as the art of conversing with JESUS, the imitation of Christ, and there is a prayer in the new Roman missal which expresses this concisely and with feeling. It is from the second Sunday of Lent and is obviously inspired by the gospel of the day which tells of the transfiguration of Christ:

God our Father
you bid us listen to your Son, the well beloved.
Nourish our hearts on your word,
purify the eyes of our mind.

What Christ asks of us may be difficult: we may be required

continued

to renounce this or to undertake that. The word of GOD is indeed a "two-edged sword", that is why we may be afraid of prayer. The fact that it is demanding makes it an effective part of our penance. True conversion of heart presupposes a willingness on our part to hear and to heed what GOD asks of us. Our attitude should be: "speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

In a season of penance it is natural that we should pray for pardon, pardon for our own sins and for those of others. We make our own the humble admission of guilt which Daniel uttered on behalf of his people: We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly, we have betrayed your commandments and your ordinances, (read at Mass on Monday of the second week.)

The season of Lent is especially suitable for the celebration of the sacrament of penance, for on Ash Wednesday the faithful are admonished: "Repent and believe the Gospel." It is appropriate, therefore, to arrange for frequent penitential services during Lent, so that all the faithful might be offered the opportunity of being reconciled to God and their brothers and of celebrating the paschal mystery with renewed heart during the holy triduum.

The sacrament of penance has been instituted expressly for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the priest, who acts in the name of Christ and through his power, God's pardon is bestowed on the penitent who confesses his sins and is rightly disposed.

Liturgical Committee

Methodist

HAVE A CARE FOR THE EIGHTIES!

(Methodist Homes for the Aged)

"I only hope no one puts me in a Home" said my husband as I treated him to another lurid account of my years working in "an O.P. Home"....weeping into the worn-out washer, candidly cursed by the Cook, ticked off by the Trade Unionists for turning up tardily at tea-break. One had to laugh at the rows: one could have cried at the patient devotion of some 18-year old staff to the dying, the distressed and the distracted. Distracted I was often myself, muttering "Excuse me" to Richard Baker and his news-bulletin as I trailed the Hoover across the empty T.V. lounge at night: but what a rewarding job ... and, dare I say it, some Homes are better than others ...

"It's time we went to see Ethel A." we both said. Ethel A moved from London in her seventies to a cottage in the north midlands to be near her only younger relatives. Sadly, the friendship wore thin, her only sister died and, now in her eighties, Ethel found the care of her little home

/continued

Methodists (continued)

too much. She found a place at the nearest Methodist Home for the Aged ... "Come and see me soon in my lovely new home" she wrote.

We can reach her in 3½ hours non-stop. Drive through woodland gardens to the grand front porch and find our way to Ethel in the new wing: bed-sitter with cloakroom 'en suite', as the agents say. Ethel has had a fall so she stays lying on the bed. "you know where my things are" - we do, and take cups and old lace cloth to the table, then make tea in the little open kitchen-bay just outside (safety first for old people with kettles!) off the corridor and settle down for a long talk.

"I am so glad to have no more worries about a house ... my village friends can visit me in half-an hour by car ..." The handyman comes in to fix a light bulb, see to a stiff window. (It's Saturday afternoon!) "The staff are so kind..." She chats on - news from the paper, what's on in town, in her old village, in the Home (choirs, handwork, sales, visits from Brownies and Cubs, wedding groups photographed in the grounds) AND (it's 1980, remember) the OLYMPIC GAMES.

"Let's look in your top drawer, Ethel" we say. What do you think this bent old lady is hiding there? - A 1908 Olympic Bronze Medal (Did she really jump once upon a time?) which she won as a member of the British Girl Gymnasts' Team!

It is worth visiting Ethel to hold an Olympic medal in your hand.

.....

It is worth visiting a Methodist Home (your nearest Hitchin, Dovercourt, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Muswell Hill) to see why they are winning "GOLDS" for care of the aged.

.....

There are 35 Methodist Homes for the Aged, one for every year since the first in 1945. And now the "80s" are "in" yes, there will be nearly 1,000,000 of them in Britain in the eighties.

Did you know -

that a quarter of those over 65 have no relatives to care or who do care for them?

that the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs has pledged its members to helping M.H.A. with its 1980 - 1982 Pace-maker Project, raising funds for bleep-systems, medic-baths, wheelchairs, laundry equipment?

that commercial firms are beginning to sponsor, not just cricket, opera, car-racing...but M.H.A.? They are so worthwhile supporting.

that Janet Baker made M.H.A. her Christmas appeal, and that the Speaker of the House of Commons is our Patron?

that the latest "opening" at 14 Park Road, Ipswich, is the former home of the Bishops of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich?

(cont. Methodists News)

"We are very proud and thankful that God will continue to use this house in this new way", writes Bishop Leslie Brown, who now lives "just down the road". He will still share the private chapel in the Home with the residents.

.....

Now, a new home is being build this year, in Penrith. Already the scholars of the school next door have taken on the job of keeping the grounds tidy: "Caring for the 80's in the 80s" - grand! ... and Cumbrian Methodists are pledged to raise £83,000 by 1983.

Next will come Chester and Lancaster - sites already purchased, and, with Government funds to help, a whole new venture in sheltered housing. 3 new projects, including Day Centres, are planned through M.H.A.'s "Eighties Land Bank". Caring for the 80's in the 80s, that's the way!

Have you a relative needing a home? Like National Children's Home, M.H.A. does not cater 'just for Methodists'.

Have you a home you can't manage, which would make a home for retired staff?

Have you a calling to work with the elderly: as matron, assistant, gardener, cook?

If so, speak to the Methodist minister, or phone M.H.A. 11 Tufton Street, London, SW1, Tel: 01.222.0511, or if you wish to be as anonymous as me, phone BS 813535. We will tell you where the Homes are.

And just by the way - do you know someone in the 80's who needs your personal help?

HAVE A CARE FOR THE EIGHTIES!

.....

A date for your diary:

Saturday, 23th March, 7.30 pm
Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill
(by kind courtesy of Stansted Friends)
PIANO and SONG RECITAL

in aid of

Methodist Homes for the Aged and Save the Children Fund

.....

Fellowship Meetings - Mondays at 8.00 pm
9th March - 56 Rainsford Road
23rd March - 14 Spencer Close

Society of Friends

QUAKERS IN BRUSSELS

With Quaker representatives already installed at the United Nations and in Geneva, about two years ago, a group of Friends of varying nationalities felt it was time to establish a Quaker centre, with a residential representative, in Brussels, the seat of the European Economic Council and Commission as well as of NATO and SHAPE. Brussels is considered by many people to be a "rich men's club", but decisions are being made there which will affect the lives not only of Europeans but also of millions of people throughout the world. The group considered it might well become a focal point for decision on the right sharing of the world's resources - a place where Friends believed they might "speak truth to power".

The first move was the purchase of a tall, narrow, terraced house in central Brussels, a few minutes walk from the Berlaymont building, home of the E.E.C. Commission. I went there when renovation was in full swing and I was able to help paint, sew curtain hems and clear the cellar. Friends benefitted from the fact that, in Brussels, old furniture is not often sold but is advertised so that people can take it away. The house was therefore furnished cheaply and it was divided up into four flats - one for the Representative, one for visiting Friends and two to be let to make ends meet.

After intense activity by Friends all over Europe to find the necessary funds, the newly-formed Quaker Council for European Affairs was able to appoint Pat and Brian Stapleton to pioneer the establishment of a Quaker office in Brussels. The Stapletons had been living in one of the remoter parts of Northern Nigeria, Pat working for the Save the Children Fund and Brian at a local university, so it was a big change for them.

They see one of their main functions as keeping Friends informed about events in Brussels and there is now a monthly news sheet available for £5. per annum, called "Around Europe", edited by Navis Kelly, a Friend from Dumfries.

Since the number of issues for which Friends have a concern is very wide, the Stapletons have had to be selective, but already they have been able to provide evidence for a report on the position of Conscientious Objectors in Europe and have co-operated with Scandinavian Friends to help Turkish refugees. Limitation of the sale of arms with the consequent reconstruction of the arms industry to peaceful production as well as the ever-present need to guard human rights all over the world are subjects which constantly occupy them. They act increasingly as "facilitators"

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by passing on information, making personal contacts themselves and effecting them between others, while the Brussels Quaker house makes an informal setting where civil servants from Council, Commission and Parliament can meet with diplomats, Members of the European Parliament and with experts and advisors from all over Europe.

When they arrived in Brussels, the Stapletons sent a letter to all Quaker Meetings in Britain stressing their need for support - "Whatever we do here must be based on strength coming from Friends themselves wherever they may be."

We all hope and pray their work in Brussels will be fruitful.

Anthea Lea

United Reformed

THE FIRE-LIGHTERS OF ANGOLA

International Church Groups have established a teenage girls' camping programme in Angola. The African campers, 'Firelighters', are from various small villages, and fellowship with girls from other villages is extremely new to them. The Firelighters centre their camping day around Bible study, worship, group singing and dancing, play, and camp chores. They also learn about Christian life and the dignity of the individual. Each Firelighter novice pledges to take care of her body, to search for the truth, to grow in the knowledge of God, and to serve others. The camp fire, besides providing light for the camp, also gives each girl fire for a torch. Burning in the black African night, these torches become a symbol of the Firelighters' task to help enlighten the rest of Africa. At a recent Guild meeting we had an opportunity to view a colour film produced by the United Church of Canada, showing the similarity between the Firelighters and our own youth organisation, the 'Pilots', both striving to develop Christian Fellowship among young people.

Peter Trundle

DIARY

- Monday 2nd March 8.00 pm Stansted Guild - Your local policeman P.C. Smith
- Friday 6th March 2.00 pm Women's World Day of Prayer
St. Theresa's Church
- Monday 16th March Stansted Guild - Outing to Saffron Walden to attend performance of "Carmen". Coach leaves at 6.45 pm onwards from various points in the village.
- Monday 30th March Stansted Guild - 8.00 pm - Choir from Abbey Lane Church, Saffron Walden.

BAPTISM

- 18th January Craig Alan Lipley, son of Mr and Mrs Lipley of 48 Birchanger Lane.

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