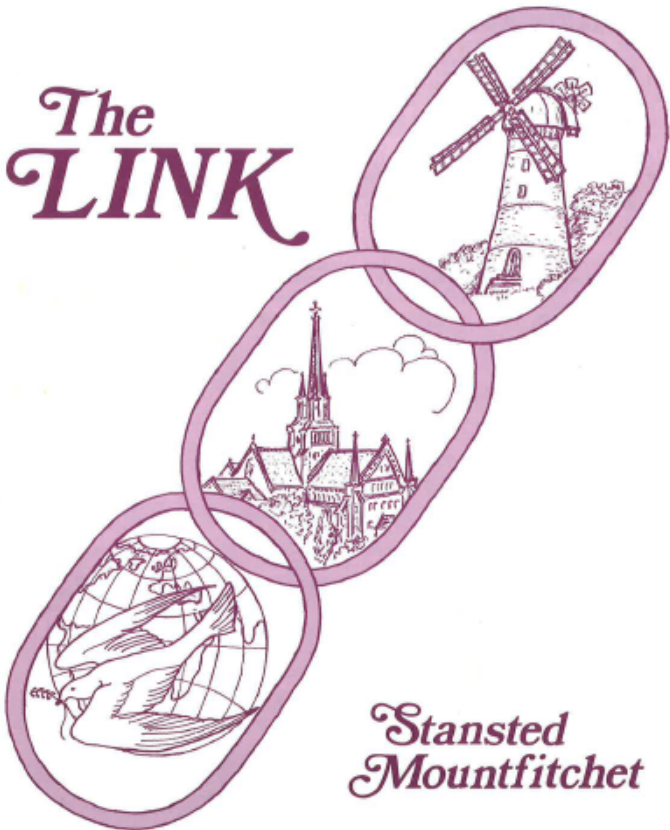


Feb 82

The *LINK*



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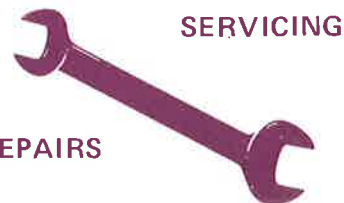
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LIVING WITH CHANGE

All of us have to live with what the Book of Common Prayer calls "the changes and chances of this mortal life". Many changes are helpful and necessary; they bring growth, development, enrichment and thus give us a fuller life and finer character. Some of them are welcome and pleasant. But others are not. This second kind of change usually creates fear, confusion, anger, depression, etc. in our inner being, in mind and spirit. Such changes may or may not add something enriching to our lives; that will be determined largely by the kind of reaction we make to them. But in any case we have to learn to live with unwelcome changes, to come to terms with them, to adjust to them positively, healthily and creatively.

One such change is the discovery that time seems to move at an accelerating pace, particularly in our middle years. We become poignantly aware of how transitory and swift life is. Another change, producing many different changes, is growing old. Another change that brings many changes is bereavement. And then, for all of us, the inevitability of our own death and the prospect of resurrection.

These four matters are not the only occasions of disconcerting change. There are many others. But they are among the most vital. The last one will come to all and the other three will come to nearly all. We can refuse to think about them or pretend they will not happen. And that may simply mean encountering these changes very unprepared, which is likely to add to their trauma severely. Alternatively we can seek to prepare ourselves beforehand, or to come to terms with them, to live with them successfully. Particularly we can meet them serenely and victoriously in the understanding, meaning, strength and spirit of our Christian Faith.

In this year's Lenten Services (arranged by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches) we will be considering the Christian approach to the four experiences of change listed in the second paragraph above. These Services will be on the four Thursdays in March at 8.00 pm. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion over coffee after the Services. The Lenten Series will conclude with an Agape Meal - repeating what was greatly appreciated last year - on 1st April. Other details are announced elsewhere in this magazine. Whether you belong to one of our churches or not we invite you to join us in thinking about these vital areas of human experience.

Harold Fisher

Copy for the March issue of The Link should reach 48 St John's Road by 12th February 1982

STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

We have agreed to help Sue Ryder provide essential food for Poland.

Will you help us?

Money is needed to purchase food in bulk - or you may like to donate any of the following items of food:

Tinned meat
(spam, ham or
corned beef)

Sardines

Chocolate

Tinned Soup

Tinned fruit

Cocoa

Instant Coffee

Oxo

All gifts may be brought to St John's Hall on Saturday 30th January from 10am to 6pm or to your own church on Sunday 31st January

ESSENTIAL FOOD FOR POLAND

The
SUE RYDER

Foundation

is collecting
TO HELP PURCHASE

FOODS
IN BULK

gifts will be
distributed
directly
by

LADY RYDER OF WARSAW
AND HER COLLEAGUES

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(Interdenominational)

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
2.00 pm

Speaker:
Mrs Jannice Porter
(Missionary from
Indonesia)

MARCH 5th, 1982

THEME: THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Gathered for Worship—Scattered for Service

Collection for Christian Literature Societies
Creche available



Stansted Association of Christian Churches

MONDAY, 8th FEBRUARY 1982 at 8.00 pm

Meeting in the Quaker Meeting House

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Speaker: Margaret Whitelaw

A L L W E L C O M E

THANK YOU to LINK HELPERS

Wine, cheese, savories and mince pies; coffee and an interlude of music arranged by Trevor Hall by a group from the Harlow Operatic Society, were the ingredients for a very successful party organised by the Technical Committee of The Link to say 'Thank you' to all of you who work so hard throughout the year in so many ways to ensure that The Link is published each month. Over forty attended; we'll hope to make it an annual event, so see you there next year.

SPONSORED WALK

Readers may remember that a SACC sponsored walk took place this summer, in aid of the Year of the Disabled. A total of £84.22 was finally collected, and a cheque for £100.00 was recently presented to Hargrave House, the balance being made up by wellwishers! The money will be used to provide facilities for the disabled. Many thanks to all those who took part, either by walking or helping with transport, orange juice or sympathy.

We will be organising a similar walk sometime this spring, a little shorter this time, and not sponsored. If you'd like to join us, blow the dust off your old boots, oil your knees, and watch The Link for further announcements.

Peter Webb

Methodist

Fortnightly Fellowship Meetings:

1st February at 5 St John's Lane

15th February at "Montwille", Recreation Road

1st March at venue to be announced.

Circuit General Purposes Committee on Wednesday, 24th

February at 8 pm at Bishop's Stortford

Circuit Meeting on Monday 8th March at 8.00 pm at Saffron Walden.

Society of Friends

Anthea Lee was one of the Friends who recently attended the conference organised by the Universities Association of Contemporary European Studies.

One of the lecturers dealt with the subject of migratory workers in Europe.

Since the European Community was founded there has been a constant flow of workers from the periphery to the rich industrial centres. Research done in the 60's proves that migrant workers have raised the national income of their host countries and the more than 10 million migrant workers and their families (some short term, some hoping to settle

permanently) who live and work in Europe today have enriched our cultural life and made an essential contribution to our economic growth.

However, although migrant workers were encouraged during the boom years of the 60's and early 70's, now that many countries are in recession, attempts are being made to get rid of them, especially those who have come from outside the Community. Turkish workers come on a job voucher system - many of them to Germany - and they have to reapply for a voucher each year. They can never be sure they will be allowed to stay. France has a migrant population of 4 million (7.5% of the population) and this they plan to reduce to 2 million over the next 20 years by financial inducements and the deportation of anyone who gets into trouble. British immigration regulations have become stricter and the new nationality law says that the children of work permit holders will have to have lived in the UK for 10 years before they acquire citizens' rights.

Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs from the 21 Council of Europe Countries plus Finland and the Holy See met in May 1980 in Strasbourg and adopted policy guidelines, with the aim of giving a fair deal to migrant workers. These included granting immigrants a legal status, stable residence conditions and the same working conditions and fundamental freedoms as nationals. Citizenship should be easier to acquire, those expelled from their host country should have the right of appeal and every effort should be made to promote harmonious relations between migrants and the local population. Migrants should be able to take part in Community decision-making whilst preserving their cultural identity; their children should have the same opportunities as nationals in respect of education, vocational training and equal access to the labour market and they should have instruction in their parents' language and culture.

Actual conditions for migrants fall lamentably short of these rosy recommendations and there are many difficulties. The Germans have begun to teach their Turkish migrant workers their mother tongue and this is made relatively easy because they tend to come from one ethnic group. It would be well-nigh impossible to do this in the UK which has schools housing up to 30 ethnic language groups - eg in Barnet.

Migrant workers from within the Community (eg Italian workers) enjoy the right of free circulation and generally equal treatment with nationals (except voting rights and the possibility of working in public administration) but immigrants from other countries enjoy no such rights. They need work permits which are difficult to obtain and which usually confine them to one kind of job. Many member states reserve certain jobs solely for nationals and non-nationals tend to have to work long hours for low pay. There is here an element of racialism. Usually they cannot be joined by

their families until they have worked for one or sometimes two years; on the other hand, they cannot freely send money back to their country of origin.

Little has been done to protect migrant women: if their marriages break down, they are expelled from their host country.

The Churches' Committee for Migrant Workers in Europe has asked the Quaker Council for European Affairs in Brussels to apply for membership. Friends are hoping to contribute to the future welfare of migrants by working on the following committees - political rights; racialism; and the Christian minorities in Turkey. (These people have been forced to seek asylum in Austria, Switzerland and France because of the lawless conditions in Eastern Turkey.) Our representatives hope they can help interpret EEC legislation on migrants and to set up a network to assist those who are the victims of discrimination. Quakers have historically been connected with peace movements and they hope they will be able to help mitigate the effects of prejudice and racialism in the European Community. Their long term goal is that eventually all the migrants living and working in the EEC will have equal rights with all their fellow workers.

United Reformed

Diary

Monday 8th February 8.00 pm Stansted Guild.
Speaker, Mrs Carver
Tuesday 16th February 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting
Monday 22nd February 8.00 pm Stansted Guild,
Speaker, Mrs Cowan

.....

Our New Year Party arranged for 9th January had to be postponed owing to the very adverse weather conditions, but another date will be arranged as soon as possible.

.....

Thought for the month -

Worry is like a rocking chair - gives you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere.

.....

Speakers for February

Sunday 7th Rev E McIlwain, BA, ED.
14th Mr Doggett of Ugley Green
21st Rev E McIlwain, BA, ED
28th Mr Dyer of Stansted.

Roman Catholic

Christian Message

Marriage was ordained by God from the beginning of mankind, and children grew up learning the crafts of their parents, and often improving them as they learned from experience.

It enabled children growing up to have the security of a communal life; and also gave them their first knowledge of love and affection.

It was only when Christ came on earth and began teaching the way of perfection that marriage began to take on a new dimension. He spoke of the holiness of marriage, of the duties of the partners towards each other, and towards their children; and in order to help them fulfil their promises more lovingly, He made Christian marriage into a Sacrament. This was to stabilise family life - to help husband and wife to be faithful to each other - to have love and concernment for their children - to sacrifice their very selves for their families, since true love does not count the cost.

Jesus knew that this could only be done successfully with God's help, which we can receive in abundance through the Sacrament of Matrimony, if we will only trust God.

Let us pray that we will always trust the grace of God working in us; it needs our co-operation to succeed.

Lord help us to co-operate more fully with Your divine help within us so that we may understand more clearly what perfect love is, and so do our best to put it into practice within our own families and with our fellow human beings in whatever way we can.

Fr Joe Tuohey

PARISH DIARY

First Communion Session Saturday, 6th February 9.30 am in St Theresa's for parents with their children who are due to make their First Communion later this year.

Special School Folk Mass Sunday 7th February 10.30 am in St Theresa's.

Renewing Marriage Vows Sunday 14th February 10.30 am in St Theresa's. Mass during which married couples of all ages will be invited to renew their marriage vows.

Ash Wednesday 24th February - the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. Masses on that day will be at 9.15 am and 8.00 pm in St Theresa's, 7.00 pm in St Anthony's Henham; Blessed Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

First Communion Session Saturday 27th February 9.30 am in St Theresa's for parents with their children who are due to make their First Communion later this year.

Stations of the Cross and Benediction Sunday 28th February 4.00 pm in St Theresa's.

Retreat afternoon. 6th March, details as follows:

On Saturday 6th March there will be a Retreat Afternoon at St Theresa's Church, starting at 3.00 pm and ending with Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm. The speakers on the subject of 'Reconciliation' will be the Rev Harold-Fisher, the Methodist Minister and Fr Donald Donegan of The Holy Cross R.C. Church, Harlow. A warm welcome is extended to all our friends in the Stansted Churches, as we hope to make this a real Ecumenical occasion.

Church of England

FROM THE VICAR

Joe Burton, who has been our treasurer for six year, decided early last year that it was time someone else took over the job as from January this year. Joe has been a marvellous treasurer - efficient and doing what is required of all treasurers, keeping a careful watch on expenditure. He has worked very hard indeed and we are very grateful indeed for all that he has done. We have been fortunate in obtaining a new treasurer, Mr Jeremy Wagener of Fairfields, Silver Street, who has been co-opted on to the PCC and duly elected into office. He will be assisted in some of the work by Tony and Eirwen Butcher. We thank Jeremy, Tony and Eirwen for agreeing to help the Church in this way.

After 17 years organising the flowers in St John's, Mrs Diane Cooper feels it is time to hand the job over to someone else. Diane has been doing a fantastic job all these years and we thank her for the time and expertise she has given to us all. Fortunately she will continue to arrange flowers for us. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Jean Robinson and Jackie Corbishley and they will in future be responsible for the flower rota for St John's. I am sure they would love to hear of anyone who would like to arrange flowers, as indeed would Susan Spencer-Smith who is responsible for the flowers in St Mary's.

Over this past month Olive Sugars from Maitland Road and Dora Bass from Burton End have died. They were both quiet supporters of the work of God's church and I am grateful for having known them. So often it is the experience of the priest that when he goes to visit the elderly he is ministered to rather than ministering. This was certainly true of Olive and Dora. May light perpetual shine upon them.

CHILDREN - PRESENTS - AND MOTHERING SUNDAY

So often children pay a great deal for presents for their mother on Mothering Sunday. Susan Robinson has come up with a great idea. She has various small items which make suitable gifts and she will sell them at very reasonable prices on Sunday, 14th March, after the Family Communion service, the week before Mothering Sunday. So, children, why not buy your mother's gift from us and support St John's Appeal Fund?

With Lent in mind

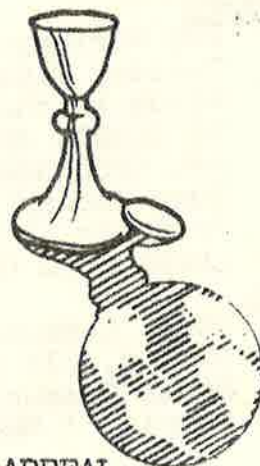
This year our Lenten programme has been planned to inform us about the work of the Church in other places so that we can reflect and think about the work of the Church in Stansted. On Sunday mornings we have invited four preachers to speak to us of their experiences in various parishes, as follows:

- 28th February - Canon Michael Yorke - 'The Church in Rural Areas'
7th March - Rev'd Stephen Lowe - 'The Church in East Ham'
14th March - Mr Martin Booth - 'The Church in Thamesmead'
28th March - Rev'd John Abdy - 'The Church in South Woodham Ferrers'

On Sunday evenings, 7th, 14th and 21st we will be thinking of the work of the Church overseas, using audio visual aids.

We are also planning a series of house communions to take place in homes throughout the parish at which informal discussion will take place concerning the work of the Church in Stansted.

For more details about our Lenten programme, please pick up a leaflet at the back of the Church.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH APPEAL

Money has been coming in over the past few months and we were delighted to receive £150 from the Stansted Art and Craft Market and £40 from the Third Stansted Brownie Pack.

The Department of the Environment have also indicated that we should receive a grant of £7,500 this year. The Friends of Essex Churches have also promised us a grant of £500.

So with the money raised and promised we now have £27,000 towards our target of £80,000.

SONGS OF PRAISE

On Sunday, 28th February, we will have a service of Songs of Praise. If you have a favourite hymn you wish to be sung, please let the Vicar know.

STANSTED YOUNG WIVES

On Tuesday 16th February there will be a Bemix Fresh Food Demonstration by Consumer Concern Ltd. This will begin at 1.45 pm to enable the demonstration to be completed within the time available to us. On 2nd March, Mrs Rita Humphreys, of Stansted Parish Council, is to give us a talk on the work of the Council, with particular emphasis on the role of women councillors.



F O R U M

On Wednesday, 10th February, we will have a talk by Mr John Oliver on his work as a dentist in Africa. The meeting will take place in the Vicarage at 8.00 pm and all are welcome.

PARISH DIARY

February

- 1st PCC Meeting 8.00 pm
- 9th Tuesday Club at 8.00 pm in the Vicarage
- 10th Forum in the Vicarage at 8.00 pm
- 19th St John's Appeal Committee Meeting 8.00 pm
- 24th Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion 10.00 am.
Sung Eucharist 8.00 pm
- 28th Preacher at 9.30 am Canon Michael Yorke of
Chelmsford Cathedral

March

- 2nd House Communion at the home of Bill and Christine Stiles, Old Lane House, Church Road. 8.00 pm
- 3rd House Communion at the home of Peter and Carole Harris, 1 Mary McArthur Place, 8.00 pm.

PARISH REGISTERS

Departed

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 21st December 1981 | Mabel Lillian Dewberry 73 years
7 Woodside Close |
| 22nd December 1981 | David Jesse Elliott 45 years
20 St Mary's Drive |
| 7th January 1982 | Olive Maud Sugars, 83 years
9 Maitland Road |
| 8th January 1982 | Frederick James Felstead 72 years
44 Bentfield Green |
| 13th January 1982 | Dora Bass, 83 years "South View"
Burton End, Stansted. |

Youth News



After a break over Christmas, and a very successful Christmas party, we are now beginning to look ahead to 1982. Once the weather changes and the evenings start drawing out a little, we plan to go out and do things together rather more. In the meantime, however, we are meeting in the Hall each week, and trying to get the group themselves to think of new things to do. - With the proceeds of the Christmas party, and some existing club funds, we bought ourselves a table football game; I am sure that with the weather being what it is we will have a whole horde of experts in no time. Later on this year, we are hoping to take the first, second and third years (of the Senior Schools that is), away to Asheldham, the Diocesan Youth Church. And once 'O' levels are over, we hope to arrange to take the older ones to Norfolk for a few days in the middle of the week. We are always glad of new ideas and new leadership; so if you feel that you have anything to contribute, please don't hesitate to contact me; Fr Andrew on BS 814463.

SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER

St John's Hall

23rd February 1982

8.00 pm to 10 pm

Adults 75p

Accompanied Children 25p

Tiny Tots

If you have pre-school age children, of any age and would like them to come to Church for a simple childrens' service, with you, then why not come along to St John's on the second or fourth Tuesday in each month at 2.00 pm, to our Tiny Tots service? The service usually lasts for half an hour, after which we go across to the Hall for a cup of tea and squash and a biscuit for the children. It's a good opportunity for your child to get used to being in Church (often children are over-awed when they first go to Church), in an atmosphere which is relaxed and friendly ... in other words, we don't mind how much noise they make, as long as you don't! Do come along, even if you haven't been to Church for a while; you'll all enjoy it.



STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

We will be performing Stainer's Crucifixion on a Sunday evening just before Easter and we would welcome singers from other churches and groups to join us. Practices will be at 8.15 pm on Thursdays and begin on February 11th. For further information please ring Susan Robinson (813629) or Alan Cornishley (813040).

Village News

FEBRUARY DIARY

- 3rd Huw Johnson Club - A.G.M.
20th Evening WI Jumble Sale -
 St John's Hall, 2.30 pm
27th Stansted Preservation Association - Old
 Time Music Hall at Mountfitchet School.

STANSTED PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

A very successful New Year Dance was held on 2nd January at Stansted Hall. Almost two hundred people dined and danced 'till 1.00 am and over a thousand pounds was raised. This will be donated to the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association's Airport Fighting Fund.

Grateful thanks to all who worked so hard, especially Bridget Gott and the catering committee for the delicious buffet supper and John Summers for his planning and hard work. The garlands of holly and candles made the occasion seasonally festive.

The next event, which is being arranged by the Conservative Association, will be an Old Time Music Hall on 27th February at Stansted Mountfitchet School. Funds from the event are being given to the Stansted Preservation Association's anti-Airport Fighting Fund.

If you are interested in fighting the Airport development - can offer help, e.g. transport to the inquiry, cooking, fund raising etc. or would like to know more about the inquiry and its progress, please contact:

Mrs C Rowley - 813514

Mr P Jones - 813252

Mrs S Collecott 814399

Traidcraft provides a practical and immediate opportunity for everyone to help directly the poor of the Third World. It is assisting 26 different craft and commodity producing groups in the less developed countries. Today over 1,000 million people in the world live in appalling poverty. For them hunger, sickness, squalor and death are daily facts of life.

Emergency aid isn't the long term solution to these problems. Traidcraft encourages the people in these countries to help themselves to establish a true and lasting solution.

You can help by ordering tea and coffee. Our two orders so far have totalled £150.00. Another order will be sent around mid-February (before, if the orders come rolling in) so please ring Jackie Corbishley on 813040:

Tea	3 x 125 g	£1.13
Instant Coffee	100g	£1.10
Ground Coffee	8 oz.	£1.25
Filter Coffee	8 oz	£1.25.

STANSTED ART & CRAFT MARKET

The third Stansted Art and Craft Market was held on the weekend of 17th and 18th October 1981 and many readers of "The Link" will have helped the Market to build on the successes of the previous years by assisting in various ways or perhaps just by attending. Local organisations also rallied round and Magnet & Southern, Sparline Shipping and the Arthur Findlay College deserve special mention.

Despite poor weather on the Saturday afternoon, attendance generally was higher than previously and income from all sources increased, as unfortunately did the expenses. Although any event of this nature has to have an element of commercialism if it is to survive, it should be noted that all the organisation is carried out voluntarily and all profits are donated to worthy causes.

The distributable funds this year totalled £550, and at an informal gathering at the Three Colts on 1st December the following organisations received the amounts mentioned:

St John's Church Appeal	£150
Stansted Windmill Appeal	£150
Youth & Adult Centre	£75
Red Cross Toy Library	£75
Peter Kirk School	£75
Bishop's Stortford Talking Newspaper for the Blind	£75

The Committee of the Art & Craft Market was pleased to be able to make these donations and the varied nature reflects the wish of the Committee that the Market should be an event acceptable to, and supported by, all the local people and should be seen to be a true village effort in its aims and achievements. With good will all round this will come about.

The 1982 Market has been provisionally fixed for 16th and 17th October and the Committee would welcome constructive ideas and offers of help. For example, further supplies of handbills and/or posters will be available to anyone willing to distribute them at their local place of work or perhaps to arrange for display on works or office noticeboards. Please contact any one of the following:

Martin Cown	814596
Arthur Law	813573
Greg Snow	813051
Geoff Wright	812599
Eric Barber	813560
Alan Dean	813579

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Stansted Evening

Just about everyone is glad to get back to normal after the extended Christmas and New Year festivities and so in the W.I. we look forward to our regular monthly meetings with interesting speakers and good company.

In February Mrs Russell will talk about "Gemstones and Polished Pebbles" so make a note of the venue which for this month will be the Quaker Meeting House in Chapel Hill.

/continued

Stansted Evening WI, continued:

We are already thinking of next year's programme and a meeting to discuss possible speakers and demonstrators has been held. More news on this as and when it arrives.

Fund raising this year commences with a Jumble Sale at St John's Hall on 20th February at 2.30 pm. Items for sale may be taken to the Hall between 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm on the day or a 'phone call to me on 813614 will see a collector call on you.

To Jumble addicts - Happy Jumblin.

Stansted Afternoon

Pearl Wellings

At the December meeting next year's Committee were introduced to the members, but most of the afternoon was devoted to enjoying carol singing - many old favourites were sung. - the game of "Feel and Smell", and then tea with mince pies, of course! Mr and Mrs Williams were our Christmas guests of honour, and Mr Williams, very sportingly, played the carols' accompaniment.

I would like to take this opportunity to let ladies know that we have a very happy membership and that we have some very interesting and entertaining speakers; also, we have a competition each month for which a prize can be won! Sometimes we have theatre visits and outings - our last was a day trip to Lincoln.

New members are always welcome and so are new ideas!

We would like to thank the members of the retiring Committee and wish the new one a happy year in office.

C Francis

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES' REGISTER

Local Organisers are:

Katy Dockerill, The Snuff Box, 22 Bentfield Road, Tel: 812997
Libby Martin, 44 Bentfield Causeway, Tel: 812807

Information about the organisation and future meetings can be obtained from either.

We started 1982 in a very confused state, learning that $1 + 1$ does not always equal 2! On 5th January Liz Lane gave us an introduction to modern maths and we left hoping we could understand our childrens problems a bit better. The Book Group met on 14th January to discuss "The Hobbit", "The French Lieutenants Woman", and "For the Love of Ann". We had a lively discussion on all three books despite the fact that not all of us had managed to read all three.

Future meetings include:

2nd February: A member of the Staff of Hargrave House will give a talk on the work done at the Home.

18th February: This meeting will take Humour as its theme. Come and tell us what makes you laugh.

Libby Martin

BROWNIES AND GUIDES CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday, 13th December, the Stansted District of the Brownies and Guides held a Carol Service in St John's Church, to end their Year of the Disabled. We invited members of the Huw Johnson Club and Hargrave House. In spite of the dreadful weather with threatening blizzards we had a very good attendance.

The service was led by Mrs Mary Warnett, District Commissioner, with Rev Andrew Proud officiating. The music was provided by guitars and recorders. A number of folk carols were sung and the service was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

During the service a special collection was made and the amount of £15 was split and a cheque sent to the Huw Johnson Club and Hargrave House with our sincere good wishes for the future.

Our grateful thanks to Rev Barry Rose, who allowed us to use his beautifully warm church for the occasion.

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

Because of the bad weather before Christmas our Christmas party had to be postponed and it took place on Thursday 7th January - just before the next attack of "white fluffy bits".

Everyone had a good time; they played games to start with, then ate an enormous tea finishing with ice cream when it seemed there couldn't possibly be any more room inside!

After tea, Uncle Ken, a very splendid clown, entertained with slapstick and plenty of custard starts which was very popular. Then because Father Christmas thought his work was finished and he had gone to sleep, he had to be shouted at and woken up. The noise almost lifted the roof and it looked as if the hall as well as the church would need an appeal fund. After the fourth tremendous shout - success - Father Christmas entered drawing a sledge piled high with presents.

There was much excitement while the members waited to be called to receive their present, and then frantic ripping off of wrapping paper to see what was inside. Father Christmas left and after one last chorus of "Jingle Bells" the members went home after a very happy evening.

Betty Lockwood

PS PLEASE TRY AND COME TO THE A.G.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd
FEBRUARY

STANSTED & DISTRICT CND

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th February at 8.00 pm. Phone 813997 for venue.

Coffee and information mornings are held at regular intervals throughout the year. The next one will be at the Quaker Meeting House on 30th January from 10.30 am - 12 noon.

MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

Entertainment by children is always a source of great pleasure to our Seniors' Club and this year's visit by pupils from St Mary's Primary School was no exception. Their carol singing, music and dancing delighted us all and reflected the hard work of their teachers and the enjoyment of the children.

Our last meeting of the year had to be cancelled owing to deep snow and icy roads but the New Year started well with a controversial talk by Mr Peter King, a member of 'Friends of the Earth', covering endangered species and resource use which included a light-hearted attack on our 'throw-away' society.

THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

After finishing 1981 on a high note, with a sherry party, following a fascinating talk on ground-cover plants by Mrs Milne from Steeple Morden, the Mountfitchet Garden Club started the New Year with a smaller than usual number of members at the January meeting.

The absentees missed a very interesting and entertaining talk by Mr Michael Atkins, of Rochfords Nurseries; starting with a brief history of the company, Mr Atkins then told us something about the plants he had brought with him (which were later sold or raffled), and answered queries raised by members about their own house-plant problems. He concluded his talk with some amusing behind-the-scenes anecdotes about the Chelsea Flower Show.

The meeting on Monday, 1st February will be a 'Gardeners' Forum' with a panel of experts to help us solve our gardening problems, and on 1st March, Mr D J Neate will tell us all we ever wanted to know about propagation by cuttings.

OoOoOoOoO

CRIME PREVENTION

If you would like the Crime Prevention Officer to give a talk to your organisation or would like some personal advice, please

get in touch with:

Sergeant Hesketh

on

Harlow 29500, Ext. 330

In the meantime, don't leave doors unlocked and windows unfastened when you are out of the house. And keep your key with you. It's not a good idea to put it under the mat!

OoOoOoOoO

RED CROSS TOY LIBRARY

The Toy Library was extremely pleased to receive a much needed boost to their sadly depleted funds from the recently held local Art & Craft Market. Our grateful thanks to the organisers. The Toy Library operates from the Sir Peter Kirk School (Canteen, St John's Road) every Thursday from 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm during term time and parents of handicapped children are invited to come along to any of our sessions. If you would like more information, please contact Sue Reed, Chairman (812461) or Brenda Scarr (813080).

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Mill is open between 2.30 and 7.00 pm on the first Sunday each month from April to October and every Sunday in August. Also open at the same times on the Sunday and Monday of the three Bank Holidays. Admission is 20p for adults and 10p for accompanied children. Parties can be catered for at other times—Ring B.S. 813159 for details.

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