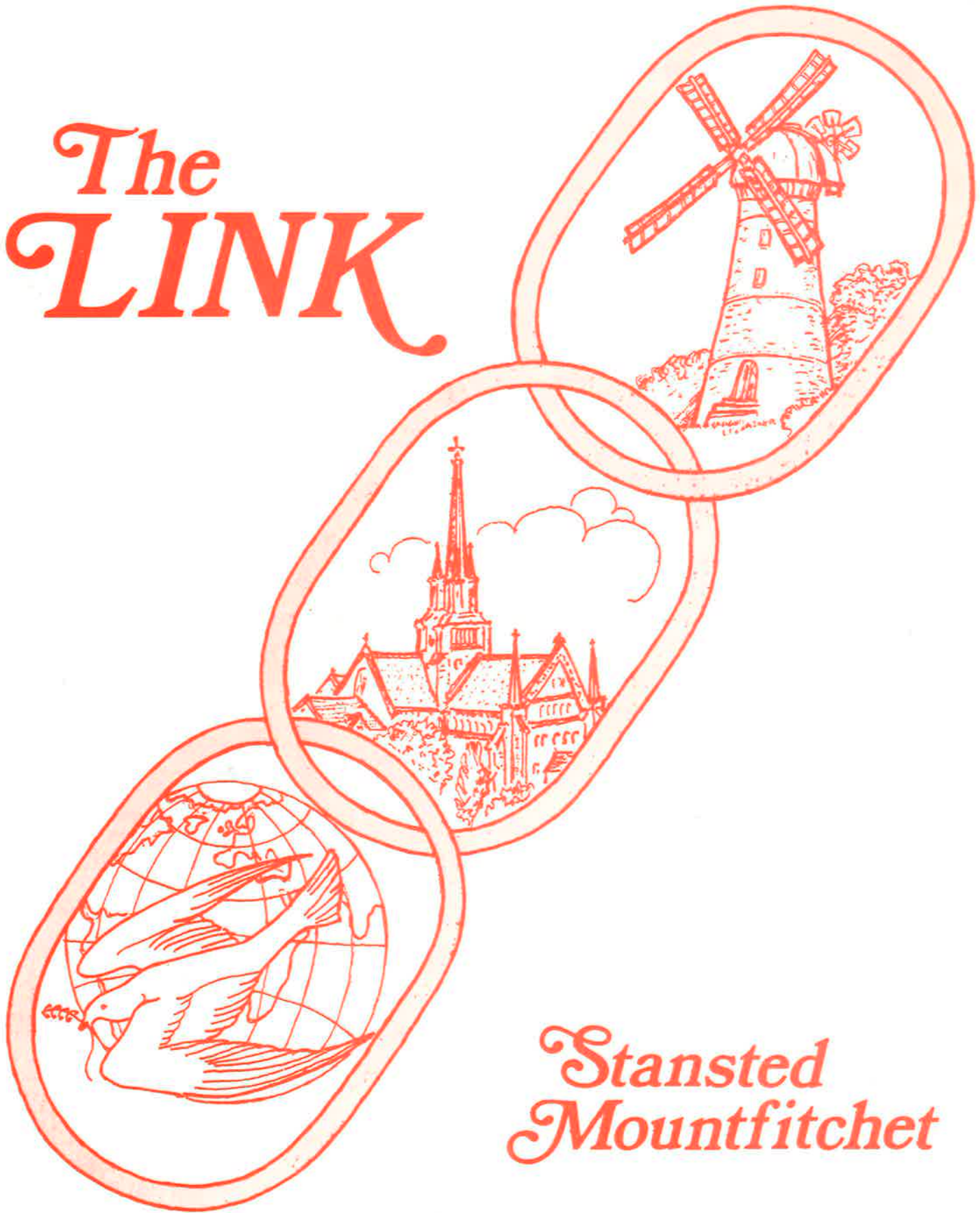


Dec 83

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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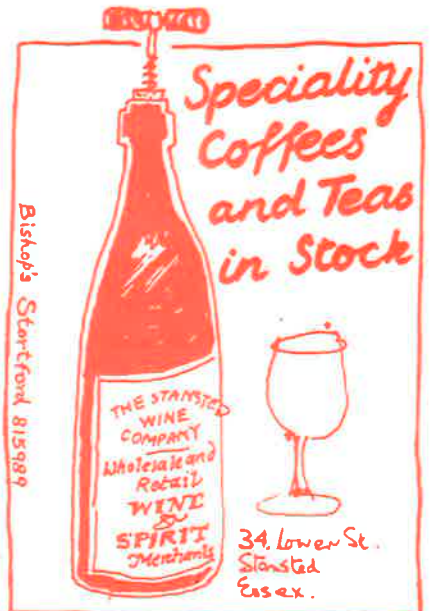
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KING OF PEACE

THE LINK

The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches.
Annual subscription is £1.40. To order a copy please contact
Mrs Jan Taylor, 27 St John's Crescent, Tel: 813891.

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.

Copy to reach 48 St. John's Road by
1st December (PLEASE NOTE) for January 1984 issue
12th January for February 1984 issue.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LINK

The colour change, from blue to red, for the front cover of 'The Link' signified the beginning of the fourth year of the production of this magazine. The completion of three successful years was celebrated with a party held in the United Reformed Church Hall early in November.

Over 70 people - the committee, production team, collators and distributors - were invited to a bring and share supper. The tables groaned with the weight of a most remarkable selection of foods - even after everyone ate their fill most people were able to take home a plateful of goodies.

After time for eating, drinking and chatting, the Chairman of the Link Committee, Janet Townsend, gave a short speech of thanks to all concerned with the success of the Link. She thanked especially the retiring Chairman, Derek Honour; also Joan Freeman who is having a well-deserved break from typing and Sheelagh Mercer to whom we sent our best wishes on the birth of her son. We are grateful to their replacements, Hazel Smith and Rita Yates. Special thanks were also given to Mary Warnett for past help with electric stencils and to John Newby for his part in the duplicating of the magazine, which has now been successfully transferred to a commercial printing firm. A small gift was made to Judy Marshall in recognition of her excellent art work on the covers over the years.

Finally, the extremely important part played by our large team of distributors was emphasised. Without them all other efforts would be in vain.

Janet then announced the splended news that the Link had received a generous and welcome donation of £200 from the Art and Craft Market. We are very grateful.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the entertainment - a series of witty sketches and recitations given by Phyllis and Bruce Harrison. Their antics cleverly portrayed people and events concerned in the life of the churches and the production of Link - we all had a good laugh at ourselves!

Although not fully attended the evening was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.



Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Eric McIlwain
18 Cambanks, Union Lane,
Cambridge.
Tel: (0223) 313152

Group Secretary: Miss Dorothy Oswald
3 White Bear
Tel: 814758

Services: 11.00 a.m. each Sunday

For details of services at Clavering, Newport and Widdington please ring the Group Secretary.

DECEMBER SERVICES

- Dec 4th - 11 a.m. - Bible Sunday -
Mr. McIlwain - Holy Communion
- Dec 11th - 11 a.m. 3rd in Advent
- Dec 18th - 10.30 a.m. - Group Christmas
Service - Mr. McIlwain
- Dec 25th - 10.30 a.m. - Family Christmas -
Mr. McIlwain

GIFT SUNDAY is Dec 18th - Sweets are for the Handicapped Scouts and the Special Christmas Offering is for the "Save the Children Fund".

BIBLE SUNDAY is observed on the Second Sunday of Advent each year. This year it falls on December 4th. Special envelopes will be available for you to make a gift to the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Stansted U.R.C. has always supported the Bible Society, especially through the efforts of the late Olive Tunbridge. No-one has come forward to take up the great work that she did but we can still honour that work and her memory by generously supporting the cause which meant so much to her and which means so much to people all over the world who can read the Bible in their own language. The work of translation, printing and distribution is as important today as ever.

U.R.C. "Charity Bazaar" - Some people didn't recognize the U.R.C. Bazaar this year because we called it a Charity Bazaar. That's right - we didn't do it for church funds. Every penny made from the Bazaar will go to the Stansted Tortoise Scouts, the Herts and Essex League of Friends and the similar group of Friends at the Radwinter Hospital in Saffron Walden. In fact our Church Meeting will probably throw in a few extra pounds to round off the figures. On the day the proceeds were some £262.00. Our thanks to all who supported this effort by our Group of Churches (Stansted, Clavering, Widdington and Newport). The prize winners were:

Fluffy Lamb - Mrs. Marion Dyer
Treasure Hunt - Mr. Harry Turner
Smarties in Jar - Michelle Freegard
Weight of Cake - Mrs. Hall

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Minister: The Rev'd Harold Fisher
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford.
Tel: 54475.

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

So we come to December; chiefly, for Christians, the Christmas month. We celebrate the birth of our Lord, in Whom "the Son of God became the Son of Man to make it possible for the sons of men to become the sons of God". That, it seems to me, fairly sums up what God is about in His dealings with the human race. And as I wrote in last month's Link, such a purpose requires not the almightiness of power, but the almightiness of Love.

If God were to try to achieve the above purpose by the use of supreme and irresistible power, His very methods would pervert and prevent His aims. We know this from our own experience as parents. We are the human instruments used for the creation and birth of our children. But that only makes them our progeny. If they are to become our sons or daughters in a full, rich, filial way, love must be present in us. Only love can work the miracle of turning progeny into sons and daughters. Mere force, in these days of wide freedoms, is likely to alienate our children and drive them from home. And if they remain at home, such force will compel their compliance; it will not inspire their affections. The first reaction produces defiant rebels, the second sullen captives. Force may be physical, emotional, moral or social, but whichever its type mere force cannot create filial relationships. Of course, real love may have to be firm, to refuse, to disagree. But it never has any other attitude than benevolent, enthusiastic goodwill, nor any purpose than the highest good of the one loved.

Such love comes to us in Christ from God. And just as true parental love knows what it is to be deeply and frequently wounded and to have a long, exacting road to take, so does the love of God, only vastly more so. Perhaps we think it would be better, even easier for God Himself, if He used the almightiness of power to force us along the way of sonship. As a result He would have slaves or robots, not sons and daughters. Furthermore, if God used power in a blanket, general way, the responding would be forced as well as the unresponding and some part of His family would be helped at the expense of some other part. So many inevitable evils would arise from blanket use of massive power. Only the kind of love God shows in Christ can do nothing but good.

That love, however, is wounded on an unimaginably vast scale by our human rebellion and evil. Such love has to be able to bear evil and not retaliate with evil, receive pain and not be diminished by it, suffer rejection and yet go on loving. It must have an infinite capacity to overcome evil with good, so dissolving



the evil while redeeming the evil-doer. And when love has to do that for countless millions of human beings amidst the vast complexities of human life and history, then that love simply has to be almighty. I believe that our Lord Jesus Christ shows us that that is God's essential omnipotence - the omnipotence of Love. My love to you.

Harold Fisher

Fortnightly Fellowships:
5th Dec. at 8 p.m. at 56 Rainsford Road
19th Dec. at 7.30 p.m. Christmas Party

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Local Contact: Mair Muir
48 St John's Road.
Tel: 812289.

Meeting for worship: 11am.

Voluntary Youth Work

One evening recently I had one of those experiences that make it all worthwhile. It happened at the Stansted Youth Centre on an occasion that brought together teams from Harlow and Uttlesford Districts to compete in a quiz on general knowledge and sport. During the evening I was greeted warmly by a visitor, a member of another club I used to work in. He was amused to see that it took a few seconds for me to recognise him. He had of course "grown up" during the intervening three years but after bringing me up to date with his job and Youth Club news he said "Why did you leave? We missed you".

Getting to know youngsters in a Youth Club situation is a slow process. It requires the slow build up of trust and acceptance on both sides to form a relationship which is of value to the young person. I went into youth work because I had enjoyed having a house full of teenagers when my daughters were younger. I still enjoy teenagers even though they are sometimes infuriating or disappointing. I have been doing it long enough now to have seen some butterflies emerge. So, on behalf of the caterpillars and chrysalides I'd like to say thank you to all those who give up some of their time to help set up, or take part in, the various Youth Club activities. I would also like to thank the Arts and Crafts weekend for their generous gift to the Youth Club.

Peggy Clark

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd David Chapman
12 Millside (flat above Church).
Tel: 814349.

Services: Sunday Masses - 8am and 10.30am
and at Henham - 9.15am.

Holy Days - 9.15am and 8pm
and at Henham - 7pm.

IN SEARCH OF GOD

Fr. David Chapman takes this theme for a series of four talks to be given as an Advent Retreat.

They will be at 8.00 p.m., in St. Theresa's Church on the Thursday evenings of December (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd).

Everyone is invited, so we look forward to seeing you there on the 1st December, for the first talk.

Dear James,

Welcome back, I hope you had a pleasant holiday; it certainly sounded fantastic.

We take holidays for granted these days, even holidays with pay. However, the concept of holidays is a fairly recent innovation. Centuries ago, when there did not exist the diversity of employment as there is today, the majority of people had to work long hours and most days in order to earn a living. In those days before 'trade unions' it was, believe it or not, the church who championed the rights of workers. One thing the church demanded was that workers should have at least one day a week off work in order to rest and re-create their physical and spiritual strength. In order to give workers other days off work, the church saw excellent opportunities for this, on those days which commemorated some significant occasion in the life of Jesus Christ or someone closely associated with him. The regular weekday holiday was Sunday - the Lord's day, and the other days off work were saints days (a saint - someone closely associated with our Lord), saintliness and holiness are synonymous, consequently holy days or holidays.

I see from your last letter, you say that many of the doubts you had have gone and that they disappeared in a most peculiar way. I assure you James there was nothing peculiar in their disappearance. You say you were sitting quietly and pensively, with an earnest prayerful longing to be freed from whatever it was that chained your thought processes from further enquiry and from groping in the dark. You were longing to see, you yearned for the light and light was given to you. This is what Jesus meant when He said "Ask and it will be given to you, search and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you". I recommend you read thoughtfully the rest of this passage. You will find it in Luke 11.9 and following.

Farewell till next time.

Fr. David

Church of England

Clergy: The Rev'd Barry Rose
The Vicarage, St John's Road
Tel: 812203

The Rev'd Anthony Bundock
43 Gilbey Crescent
Tel: 814463

Deaconess Margaret Booker
Moorlands Cottage, Burton End
Tel: 812684

Services: Held in St John's, St John's Road and St Mary's, Church Road

Holy Communion	- 8am
Family Communion	- 9.30am
Children's Church	- 9.30am
Creche	- 9.30am
Holy Communion (1662) (2nd and 4th Sundays)	- 11.15am
Evensong	- 6.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday	- 7.30pm
Wednesday	- 10am
Thursday	- 7.30am
Friday	- 8am

In summer months some of these services are held in St Mary's. See notice in church porches for further details or ring one of the clergy.

Vicar's Notes

This month we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace. It is a time of hope and optimism when we reflect on birth and the future. Yet we live in such serious times we cannot help wondering what 1984 will bring. We are faced with a world which is torn apart by war, hatred, violence and revenge. Every day we see the vice and the folly of mankind and it is difficult to be optimistic.

The temptation then is to withdraw from the world and retreat into our family and private lives concentrating on enjoying ourselves for tomorrow we may be turned to ash by the bomb.

That, of course, should not be the response of a Christian. The Christian has hope because he believes that in the birth of Jesus Christ God is assuring mankind that despite everything there is still the possibility of man loving God and man loving man. That possibility and that hope can never be taken away. Knowing this does not mean we have a false optimism which says that all will be well and turn out as we wish. What it does mean is that because we have this hope we will never tire of working for peace and justice - in the world, in our country, in our community, in our families and in ourselves. So have a joyful Christmas during which you neither ignore the troubles of the world nor are overcome by them.





Christmas is a time when we like to hear church bells and no doubt Alan and Gina Barber will do their best to have the bells rung at St. Mary's on Christmas Day. But they are finding it increasingly difficult to find enough ringers prepared to have a weekly practice. So for a while our ringers will practice with the Manuden team and indeed in that way new recruits will find it more interesting as it is difficult to ring bells with just 4 or 5 persons. If you want to learn to ring bells please contact me or Alan Barber.

* * * * *

Janet, Tony, Pat and myself wish you all a very happy, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

* * * * *



ST. JOHN'S APPEAL

We are delighted that the Department of the Environment has confirmed a grant of 40% of most of the repair work now in progress. We will now be able to pay the bills although we may have to borrow money before the grant arrives.

Our thanks to those who organised the very successful Art and Craft Market for their donation of £200. We are very grateful for this support.

What we could do with now is some more covenants to help us with the next stage of the work. At least having stopped water coming through the roof we can now pick off the other jobs one by one. We are very much hoping the nave roof will last a few more years although it will eventually need retiling.

C H R I S T M A S S E R V I C E S

18th December	Christingle Service (No Evensong)	<u>3.30pm</u>	St John's
24th December	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	St John's
25th December	Holy Communion	8am	St Mary's
	Family Communion	9.30am	St John's
	Communion and Carols	11am	St Mary's
1st January	Holy Communion	8am	St John's
	Parish Communion	9.30am	St John's
	Nine Lessons and Carols	3pm	St Mary's
	Holy Baptism (No Evensong)	4.30pm	St Mary's



Youth News

THE ROCK

We have received some enquiries since last month for further information about the Youth Club visit to the Rock planned for the weekend 16-18 March 1984.

The Rock is a large house which stands in six acres of grounds. The house accommodates a maximum of 40 people including leaders. There is a requirement that parties should have leaders of over 22 years of age in the ratio of at least one leader to ten young people and that mixed parties should have male and female leaders.

There are seven bedrooms containing double bunks and single beds, each equipped with two blankets and a pillow. Each person should bring sheets or

sleeping bag and a pillow case. There is a fully equipped kitchen and separate dining room and parties are, of course, responsible for their own catering arrangements. There are washing facilities, showers and baths as well as a snooker table, table tennis table, record player and colour TV.

The programme for the weekend will include leisure activities and games, educational activities, prayer and worship as well as a certain amount of free time.

Further information from Fr. Tony (Tel. 814463).



Parish Registers

Baptisms

November 6th Alexa Graham Richardson,
15 St. John's Crescent
David James Dukes,
9 Mount Drive

Confirmation (at all Saints, Springfield)

November 6th Catherine Sally Head,
22 Park Road
Felicity Ann Jordan
58 Old Mill Road,
Saffron Walden
Jean Wilson,
19 St. John's Road

Departed

20th Oct Beatrice Lily Gray
St. George's Hospital,
Hornchurch 91 years
11th Nov Violet Primrose Childs
12 Stoneyfield Drive 79 years

CONFIRMATION 1984

The Bishop of Colchester is coming in June for another Confirmation service. We have a Confirmation Enquiry evening at the Vicarage on Tuesday December 6th at 8 pm. Anyone wishing to know more about Confirmation is welcome to attend. We like young people to be accompanied by at least one of their parents. Please ring the Vicarage if you want a letter of invitation.

Parish Diary

December

6th Confirmation Enquiry Evening -
8 pm - The Vicarage
13th Tiny Tots Party - 2 pm
For Christmas Service please see separate display.

CHURCH HALL

Brian and Olive Green are expecting to move from Stansted in January. Brian has been our Hall Secretary for some years and he has done the job magnificently. Thank you Brian and we wish you and Olive every blessing in your new home.

From January Tom Johnson will be our Hall Letting Secretary. He lives at 6 Park Road and the telephone number is 812284. We are grateful to Tom for taking on this job.



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

December

- 2nd 7 p.m. St. Mary's School Christmas Fair in School Hall
- 3rd 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Home Bake Sale at Day Centre. Proceeds jointly for Day Centre and organ fund of St. George's, Jerusalem
2 - 5 p.m. Bentfield County Primary School Christmas Fair
- 7th 11 a.m. Dr. Barnardo's Christmas Fayre at Bentfield House, Bentfield Bower. Entrance 4Op incl. refreshments.

BLUE CROSS, MISSIONS to SEAMEN AND

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTE

The Autumn Market held on 25 October in aid of the above raised a total of over £450, including the sale of the three charities' Christmas Cards. The organisers wish to express their grateful thanks to all those who supported the Market and to the helpers.

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Since our last entry in the Link, we have had several interesting meetings. The visit of a Medium drew a good number to the early October meeting, and she appeared to have 'messages' for several members.

Our book group met in October also, and having discussed the books just finished chose the following books for the next book group meeting in January:

"Lark Rise to Candleford"
by Flora Thompson

"The Children's Story"
by James Clavell

"The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail"
by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh
and Henry Lincoln.

It is not necessary to read all three books to come to book group meetings.

Another book was the subject of the early November meeting - "The Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse". This was a lively meeting with a frank exchange of views between members. We discussed the role of 'Agony Aunties' at the following meeting. Are they answering a real social need, or just a giggle?

The evening discussing the NHR newsletter, which members receive twice a year, proved an insight into the organisation, and of the people who constitute the membership.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about NHR or in joining an informal discussion group for women of any age or status, please contact either of the local organisers: Libby Martin - 812807
Sharon Fogley - 812617.

STANSTED DISTRICT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

A Christmas House Party will be held at "West Winds", Normans Way, Stansted, on Saturday, 10 December 1983. Enquiries and tickets by 'phoning B/Stortford 814405 or 813579.

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

The first evening meeting was on Monday, 7 November, at Stansted Football Club.

A most interesting and enjoyable talk, with slides, was given by Martin Phillips, the Headmaster of the Peter Kirk School, about many aspects of life and activities at the School.

Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month during the Winter and Spring, up to 14 May. Speakers will include a senior Police Officer and an expert on oriental carpets.

All enquires to: Alan Corbishley, 813040
Martin Cowan, 814596.

Next meeting - Monday, 12 December.

STANSTED SINK-A-WELL APPEAL

During One World Week (23-29 October) a leaflet went out to each of the 1,800 Stansted households for our appeal to help dig fresh water wells in Thailand. This wasn't a door-to-door collection but relied on people making the effort to send in donations. Our committee was not sure whether our technique was the right one, but our fears were unfounded; at the time of writing, over 50 donations have been received totalling over £200 and we are well on our way to paying for digging our third well (£175 each). The appeal will close on 31 December so there is still time to send your gift to the undersigned.

In the meantime, thanks to all who have already sent donations. Further information about the Stansted World Development Movement will be sent in the New Year to those who requested it.

Alan Dean
Treasurer
49 Recreation Ground, Stansted.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We had a club evening at the school recently which is quite fun for the members as they can use some of the apparatus. Good use was made of the vaulting horses and landing mats.

Also there was a cooking session on and the dish of the evening was rock cakes. Our Michelle had been told she was going to do some cooking and from the moment she arrived could think of nothing else. She kept going to the kitchen door and peering in anxiously. Finally, everything was ready and Michelle was the first to make her cakes.

Jean, who was in charge of the proceedings asked for an egg to be broken into a basin. It was! Michelle thumped it into that basin with great energy - it was very much a case of "so smash an egg". I might add it was a great improvement on the TV advert.

Then came the mixing and piling into heaps on the baking tray, all done with great effort and concentration and then the long, long wait while they were cooking. Michelle, looking like little Miss Muffet, cleaned the bowl in traditional manner by scraping and licking the spoon. She enjoyed it so much that everyone was cheering her on.

It seemed a long time and incurred many trips back to the kitchen before the cakes were taken from the oven looking and smelling delicious. Then, when cooled sufficiently, came the moment of triumph and satisfaction, when Michelle sat down and took her first bite - a very proud and happy young lady.

Several other members were all waiting their turns and I should think that Jean won't want to see a rock cake for some time!

Everyone in the Club wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Betty Lockwood

BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classes 7 and 8 spent a very profitable four days each at the Flatford Mill Field Study Centre as part of their work on John Constable. I know from my own experience just how much can be achieved during a stay such as this and the children worked very hard under the expert guidance of the Centre staff and the teachers and parents who accompanied them. They slept in Willy Lott's cottage and took responsibility for themselves, making their own packed lunches, tidying their rooms and making the beds, serving and clearing away at mealtimes and preparing their equipment for the day's work. The teachers received many compliments from other students and staff at the Centre on how well the children had conducted themselves. I went on a five mile walk with them, following John Constable's footsteps to his school in Dedham and looking for the subjects of some of his paintings on the way. It was a long walk for me, but none of the children complained at all and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

The pupils and teachers are now busy preparing for the Christmas Concerts. The Juniors are to perform a new musical play by

John Canwell called "Rikki's Dream Journey" and as the angel Gabriel is played with an Irish accent, I can't wait to see it.

We shall be carol singing around the Hargrave Estate again this year on Thursday, 15 December, at 7.30 pm. Our collection will go to the Red Cross Toy Library and we hope you will come out and listen to us and perhaps join in. Gina Barber has offered to tutor some of us in the art of handbell ringing to accompany some of the carols. So, please don't think it's a demented ice-cream man coming along the road - it's just us.

Our Christmas Fair this year will be in the school hall on Saturday, 3 December, at 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm. We do hope you will come along and join us. Father Christmas will be there again, and I hear his wife is to accompany him again this year. She proved a very popular asset last year when she felt that Father Christmas needed her help for the afternoon as he had been so busy. We will have lots to do and buy including new and secondhand toys, a handicrafts stall, cakes and biscuits, Tombola, a super raffle plus lots of games, etc.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Janice Wray

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION | WOMEN'S SECTION

Our Harvest Sale was well attended and auctioneer Mrs Mumford encouraged some brisk bidding resulting in takings of £38.

The AGM in October marked our first meeting in the Day Centre which proved to be just the right size for our numbers and where we all felt quite at home. The officers elected for the coming year are:-

President	- Mrs R Gabb
Vice Presidents	- Mrs S Mumford, Mrs E Prior, Miss G Trott
Chairman	- Mrs K Stevens
Vice-Chairman	- Mrs E Little
Treasurer	- Mrs V Levey
Secretary	- Mrs C Whall
Standard Bearer	- Mrs V Szyszkowski
Committee	- Mrs J Bugg, Mrs J Brace, Mrs P Clower, Mrs Q Sweet, Miss E Tame, Miss D Wiffen, Miss E Winckworth.

Members then heard a very informative talk by Mr Palmer, Area Organizer of the Royal British Legion, which he illustrated with about 100 slides. He told us that the first Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11 November 1921 and raised £106,000. In 1982 £6 million was raised from which some 50,000 people benefited.

Pat Clower



STANSTED SINK A WELL FUND WATER EXHIBITION

On Saturday, 22 October, the Stansted Sink A Well Fund held a Water Exhibition at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, in aid of bringing water to Thailand and also to bring to the attention of the public the need for water in third world countries. The day started at 10 am and coffee and biscuits were served all morning.

Inside, pens and keyrings were sold and there were interesting video and information displays. Outside, the bucket brigade was hard at work. This involved people carrying buckets of water up Chapel Hill to fill a bath at the Quaker Meeting House. This proved to be very successful as the bath was nearly full by midday. The Super Car Wash raised a lot of money as many people brought their cars to be washed for £1. We were washing cars from 10 am until 12.30 pm, and it was a job well done!

Hannah Warnett

DR BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The annual Christmas Fayre in aid of Dr Barnardo's will be held at 11 am on Wednesday, 7 December, at the home of Mrs Browne, Bentfield House, Bentfield Bower, Stansted. As well as the well-known generous raffle, there will be stalls of cakes, delicatessen, Christmas gifts, Bring & Buy, etc, and 'Guessing the Weight' of a turkey and a cake. Come and enjoy yourself in a good cause. Entrance 40p, including refreshments.

STANSTED ART & CRAFT MARKET

We have been unable to contact one raffle prize winner. The ticket is beige No 393. The telephone number written on the back is 814822. Unfortunately this number is unobtainable. Would anyone who has this ticket, please contact Alan Dean, Tel: 813579.

STANSTED AFTERNOON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the November meeting our President and Committee were elected for 1984. Reports were read and approved. Mrs Watson, on behalf of the members, expressed thanks to the Committee for the work done to make the year so enjoyable. Mrs Palmer won the Competition Cup for 1983. A very interesting account of the Half Yearly Council was given by Mrs Patmore.

This month's competition, "An Item made for the Christmas Stall" was won by Mrs Gibson. It was decided that our project for 1984 would be for the RSPCC.

Our future meetings will be held in the Day Centre on the second Wednesday in the month at 2.30 pm. New members would be most welcome. Come and give us a try.

May Jordan

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

Would any adult who may be interested in Tennis Coaching at weekends during the Winter, please contact Janet Hollis, B/Stortford 812073.

The Tennis Club Christmas Dinner has been arranged for Wednesday, 7 December. Please contact Janet Hollis for details.

MOUNTFITCHET

GARDEN CLUB



The speaker in November was Mr M Lilley from Harlow who gave a talk on 'Growing Vines'. He traced the history of vine growing in this country from their introduction by the Roman invaders. The Normans in their turn brought over different vines and these flourished on large private and ecclesiastical estates throughout the early mediaeval period. However, climatic changes, together with the dissolution of the monasteries and the administration of the Bordeaux and Loire regions of France by the English Crown led to a decline in vine growing in this country. Although the vine at Hampton Court is thought to be over 200 years old, most vines now grown here have been only recently introduced. The grapes from all commercially grown English vines go to winemaking, all table grapes being imported, except for those in vineries on large estates, such as Chatsworth.

To encourage the growth of further privately owned vines, Mr Lilley then gave a practical demonstration of pruning to encourage maximum fruit-bearing. The results of the demonstration were handed around to members. Perhaps in the next few years the wines exhibited at our September Shows will be home-grown as well as home-made.

On 7 December, the speaker will be Mr Wicks, who will talk on 'Raising Pot Plants'.

Ros. Allen

NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

The toy party given by Cadeaux Toys, proved most popular and solved a lot of Christmas present problems for us, as there was a wide variety of goodies for all ages and at most competitive prices.

Our new venture giving families the opportunity to 'pop-in' to the Day Centre on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of the month for a 'cuppa' has proved very popular. Many mums combined a visit to the library or clinic with a chance to meet other people with children for a chat in a relaxed atmosphere. We have decided to alter the timing to 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm, by popular request, as it reduces the rush at lunch-time. The next dates are 7 December and 21 December - do feel free to come and join us.

Mr De Barr from De Barr's shoe shop in Saffron Walden came and gave a most interesting talk about "Shoes for our Children". We should care for our feet from birth, long before we need shoes. We were told how feet develop right through a child's life and how feet are best without any restrictions.

Our Antenatal Classes for couples are now in session. If you would like to join the next class and your baby is due after the middle of March, please ring me on 813958 as soon as possible. Space limits us to 8 couples and places get filled very quickly. In association with the classes we have a morning for Bra fitting and ordering underwear and nightdresses suitable for breast-feeding.

We have now a regular milk run established when breast milk is collected from your own home on Sunday and Thursday evenings and taken to the special care unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow. If you would like to donate milk or want to talk about breast-feeding, please contact Cathy Leek on 813068.

On 9 December from 3.15 pm - 4.45 pm we join in the festive spirit by holding a children's Christmas party. There will be entertainment, games, Father Christmas and tea in St John's Hall. If you would like tickets, please ring me on 813958. Children 75p, adults 25p inclusive.

We have lots of events planned for the New Year - look out for notices nearer the time about Open Houses where we hope to have a hairdresser, a children's clothes party and an easter egg party. Topics for morning talks include "Play" and "Preparing your Child for School". The under-ones and expectant mums continues on Friday mornings and we welcome any new people who come along.

We also have booked another stall in Bishop's Stortford market in April. If you have any children's clothes or bric-a-brac, please let me know.

Jenny Adamson

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

Sideways has certainly had a busy time of late. The fun started with the visit of a magician at the children's afternoon on the wettest Saturday in October. Whether it was the anticipation of lots of fun or the miserable weather, we do not know, but the laughter within drowned the sounds of the deluge outside. Mr Pollard kindly took charge and showed a selection of cartoons and we would like to thank him for giving us his time so freely.

Just prior to firework night we were very pleased to have a visit from the local Constabulary. Apart from making friends with the policemen, the children were warned of the possible dangers of mishandling fireworks. We hope that they will come again so that our motoring enthusiasts can 'drive' the police car.

The AGM was well attended. Parents welcomed the opportunity to speak with representatives from the two schools. The subject in question was how to prepare

the rising fives for school. I am sure we all found the talk to be most helpful and we thank St Mary's and Bentfield Schools for coming and giving us the benefit of their wider experiences.

By the time this goes to print we will have had a visit from a member of the medical profession. Our children may delight in playing doctors and nurses but when thoughts of a spell in hospital crops up, many parents view the episode with trepidation. Our nurse visitor will, hopefully, do much to dispel many fears little minds conjure up - parents can then take comfort in the fact that the children yet again perceive more than we!

For the next event - our Christmas party will soon be taking place. The two nursery groups will combine for an afternoon of fun and games, of which the highlight will surely be the visit of Father Christmas.

We, the committee, thank all the people who have helped with the busy time and join together in wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.

Sideways Committee

Stansted and District C.N.D. Group

You are invited to a Coffee Morning on 3rd December, from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Quaker Meeting House.

Further meetings of the Group will be held at 8.15 p.m. on 5th December and at 10.00 a.m. on 15th December.

Phone 813997 for venues and details.

Society Opposing Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament

There will be a meeting of our organising group on Wednesday, 14th December to consider and discuss the programme for 1984.

All enquiries to:-
Richard Shervington, 812022, or
Janet Hollis, 812073



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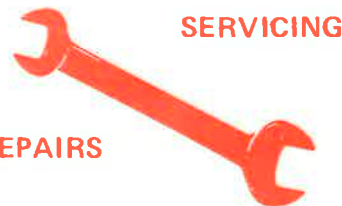
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