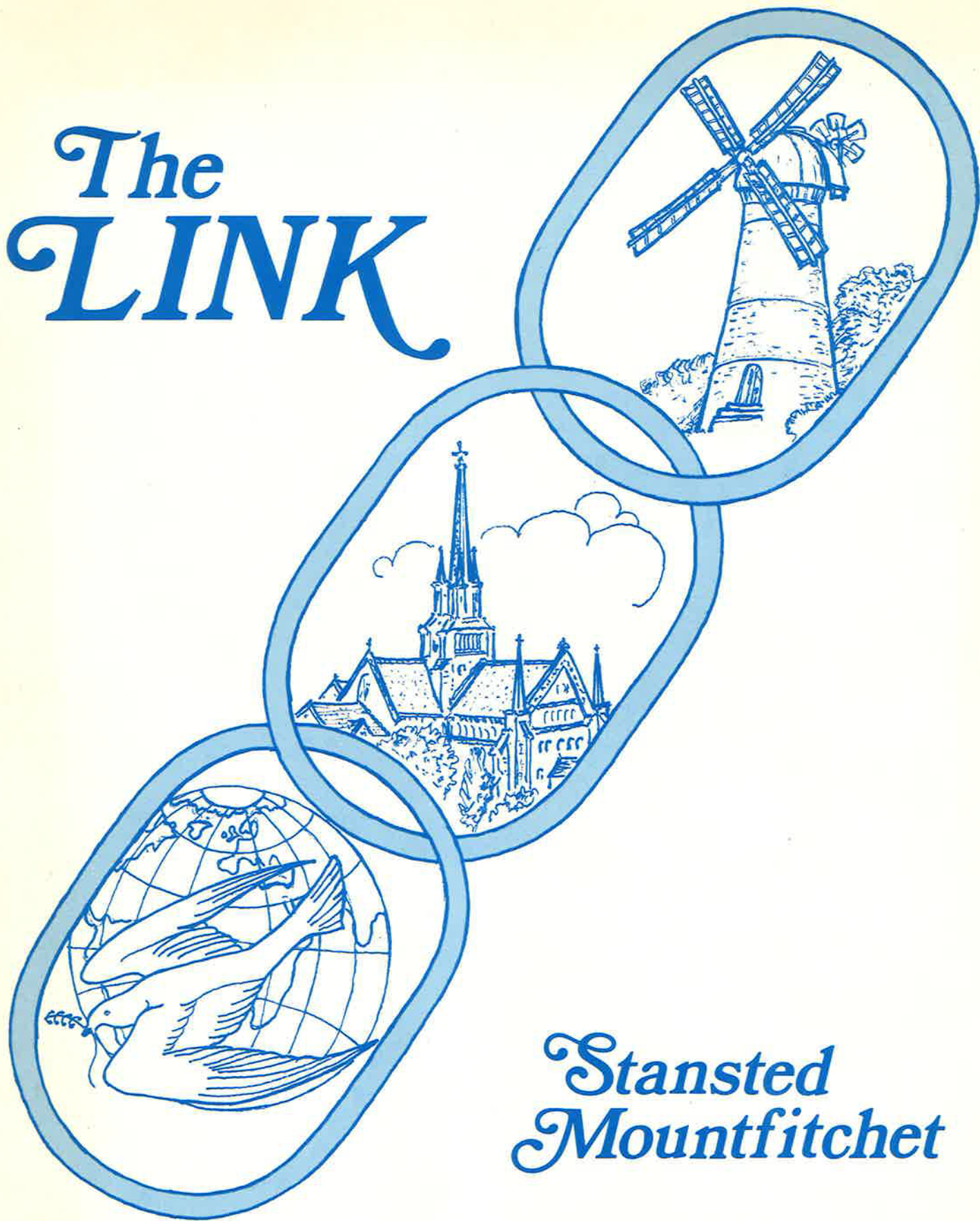


Jul 87

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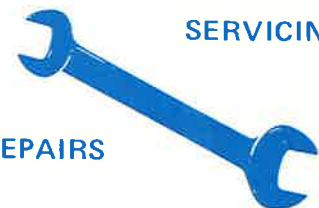
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M. COLLINS Family News

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Chapel Hill Tel. B.S. 812049

The Editorial Committee of THE LINK, which consists of the four local clergy and a representative of the Society of Friends, has been in consultation as a result of certain representations which have been made to it.

Its decision is as follows:-

The Editorial Committee of THE LINK has ruled that as political issues are well covered in the national and local press we shall, from this edition onwards, not accept material which is deemed by the Editorial Committee to have political content. Its decision on this will be final.

Copy should reach 48 St John's Road
by 21 July for the August issue.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo

Note: If organisations contributing to the magazine have decorative headings on their notepaper or any kind of symbol or logo, please send them with your next contribution and we shall try to include them in future issues. And would you please remember to give us the number of words you have written.

Village News

STANSTED'S NEW VENTURE

The Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill
(behind the library)

We now have a date for opening the Day Centre and we are all looking forward to meeting our customers.

We hope to serve our first cup of coffee on TUESDAY July 12th 1983 starting at 10.00am.

Our greatest need is for lots of helpers and it may be useful to give some idea of what this entails. We will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am to 4.00pm.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays 'Meals on Wheels' will be cooked in the Centre, ready for distribution. Don't panic - this does not mean great cauldrons of potatoes. All the main meals will be frozen and will be cooked by Mrs. Gott and myself in the special ovens.

The helpers will serve coffee, tea, toast and snacks such as beans on toast, poached eggs on toast etc. People wanting a proper meal will order in advance by 11.00am on the morning they require it, and again this will be a complete frozen meal, which is popped in the oven.

We are going to have 3 shifts per day 10.00am - 12 noon; 12 noon - 2.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and we would appreciate help on a regular basis, but this could be weekly, fortnightly, monthly or what you will. There will be 3 helpers as well as the organiser per shift, so we will need 27 helpers per week.

The week before we open we will do 'Meals on Wheels' and the Day Centre will be open from 11.30-2.00pm and we would like the helpers to come in to see where everything is kept and how it all works. If you feel you could help I would find it most useful if you would give me your name as soon as possible - BRENDA SCARR 63 LOWER STREET, STANSTED B/S 813080, but if you would prefer to have a look around first, come on Tuesday 5th, Thursday 7th or Friday 8th between 11.30 and 2.00pm and give your name in at the Centre.

The other need is for games such as playing cards, dominoes, draughts, cribbage boards etc. If anyone has any to spare perhaps they would contact me.

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Local Organisers:

Libby Martin 812807
Sharon Frogley 812617

Please contact either of the above if you are interested in learning more about our informal discussion group.



On Wednesday 25th May we had a discussion about elderly relatives. Isabel led the meeting by giving us a full introduction to the problem of caring for elderly relatives. It was a well attended meeting and most of us were able to relate anecdotes from either our own or our parents' experiences, showing how common the problem can be. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, we could not come to a conclusion, accepting the fact that each case has to take into account the people involved.

On Monday 6th June we discussed the book 'Children on the Hill' by Michael Deakin. This is the true story of one woman's dedication to the education of her children which results in four geniuses. We were awed by the personal sacrifice this mother made but felt that although she had developed her children's potential in certain areas to the limit, we felt other areas, perhaps social and emotional, were not fully catered for. This book was written some years ago following a television programme about the family and we all thought it would be interesting to know how the members of the family had developed over the years and whether or not the children's eventual absorption into society would be as problem-free as the mother anticipated.

Future Meetings

Tuesday 5th July We will be discussing a few advancements in medical science and examining the moral and ethical problems that can arise.

Wednesday 20th July Book group evening in which we will be discussing a variety of books; each member can choose her own book based on the life of King Arthur and his times - fact or fiction.

Monday 1st August The meeting planned for this evening has had to be altered. Please contact Libby or Sharon nearer the date for full details.

Libby Martin

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Have you fixed your holidays yet? If not we have the answer. Essex County Council camps have vacancies available for the following:

Bruges (Belgium)	20th/27th August	£60
Cornwall	6th/20th August	£80
Mersea	23rd July/6th August	£95

For further information contact Mrs. Webster, Stansted Youth/Adult Centre.
Tel B/S 813319

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

WOMEN'S SECTION



At our meeting on 19th May our delegate, Mrs. K. Stevens, gave her report on the National Conference at Eastbourne where our Resolution on "Parity of War Pensions" was carried unanimously.

For our entertainment Mrs. Sayers from Bishop's Stortford had brought along part of her large collection of musical boxes. Of the sixty which she showed us there were shapes of violins, grand pianos, bells, clocks, teapots, toby jugs, caravans, vintage cars, windmills etc. She played the tunes of twenty of the boxes and the competition to put titles to these tunes was won by Mrs. Sweet and Miss Winckworth.

At the meeting on 21st July Mr. R. Phillips will be coming to talk to us about "Railways".

Pat Clower

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

The theme for member's day was 'weddings'. This was organized by a group of members with Mrs. Liz Jordan as president for the evening. We began with a glass of sherry and after the minutes were approved, Mrs. Christine Rowley gave her report on the National AGM held recently at the Albert Hall.

Mrs. Jordan introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Stephen James, a professional wedding photographer. He gave us a very enlightened and lively talk on his work commenting on the many mishaps that can happen on a wedding day. His chief aim was to get everybody in the right place at the right time and at the end of it to try and catch the romance of the day! He then showed us some of his wedding slides and explained how he tried to get the photographs in proportion which was sometimes very difficult when one bridesmaid was a foot higher than another.

Refreshments were rather special thanks to Mrs. Judy Colliver and Mrs. Marion Pretty who had made some lovely cream gateaux.

The competition 'my favourite wedding snap' was won by Mrs. Liz Jordan and Miss Ann Johnson. Social time was in the form of a wedding quiz and was won by Mrs. Mumford.

DR. BARNARDO'S SUMMER MARKET

The annual Summer Market, in aid of Dr. Barnardo's, will be at 11am on Wednesday 6th July. Apart from the now well-known generous raffle, there will be stalls of cakes, delicatessen, garden produce, fashion accessories, bric-a-brac, 'nearly new' and 'bring and buy'. The lovely gardens of Bentfield Place are a perfect setting and everyone is warmly welcome to come and enjoy themselves in a good cause. Admission 25p including refreshments.



NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Stansted & District Group

Dr. Leek's talk on Pre-Menstrual Tension was well attended and most interesting and informative. He took us through the chain

of hormonal events that occur in all women and showed us what a complicated system worked in our bodies - so that it was no wonder that a large number of women suffered some symptoms of PMT. He indicated that a much smaller number suffered so badly that it caused them some considerable "dis-ease" and that the most acute cases were usually in the over 35 age range, a point disputed by several of the audience. He ran through the symptoms and the ways sufferers could alleviate the effects, both emotional and medical. We would like to thank Dr. Leek for giving up his time to give us such a worthwhile talk. Our thanks also go to the mothers who ran the creche so that others could enjoy the talk in peace. We hope to have morning talks in September and November. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Several of us are much poorer as a result of the Book Fair at our June Open House. There were such a good variety of children's books and books on pregnancy and childcare that most of us were tempted to fill up our bookshelves. It proved a very good opportunity to browse while our children were happily playing.

Starting a family? - then try our First time parents group - Couples meet monthly in the evenings in Stansted. We start with a short talk, followed by open discussion in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. Our next meeting is on the 1st August; please ring Chris on 812757 for more details.

Our diary for July is as follows:

Fri July 1st Under 1's and expectant mums at Theresa's, 14 Poulteney Road 10.30-noon

Fri July 8th Under 1's and expectant mums at Dawn's, 10 Cawkell Close 10.30-noon.

Sat July 9th Family Picnic in Hatfield Forest from noon. Ring Jenny 813958 for details.

Fri July 15th Under 1's and expectant mums at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft 10.30-noon.

Wed July 20th Open House with cream teas at 26 Longcroft 2 - 4 pm.

Thur July 21st Market Stall to raise money for equipment for Princess Alexandra Hospital

Fri July 22nd Under 1's and expectant mums at Chris's, 16 Coltsfield 10.30-noon.

Tues July 26th Post natal support meeting at 49 Gilbey Crescent.

Fri July 29th Under 1's and expectant mums at Chris's, 49 Gilbey Crescent

Contacts: Breastfeeding counsellor - Cathy Leek 813068; Chairman - Hilary Pinder 814218

BROWNIES & GUIDES

The 2nd Stansted Brownies are in urgent need of a large cupboard or small wardrobe. If you have one to spare please ring Christine Hope B.S. 815007.

Do you need a second hand brownie or guide uniform or have you one you wish to dispose of? If so, get in touch with Mrs. Jan Petchey B.S. 813752.

STANSTED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

GOLDEN JUBILEE

SPORTS DAY AND FUN RUN

Saturday 23rd July 1983

To celebrate the Association's Golden Jubilee a bumper Sports Day and fete is planned. The main attraction will be a 10 mile Fun Run on roads around Stansted and Elsenham for the FREDDY WELLS TROPHY and the STANSTED JUNIOR SHIELD. Prizes will also be awarded to the first three finishers in each of three categories, the first three lady finishers, with certificates for all finishers.

Entries for the Fun Run will be restricted to the first 300 entry forms received by the Secretary, and may be obtained from:
Nicholson & Co., Estate Agents, Silver St.
B & R Electrical, Cambridge Road
Peter Wright, Gents Hairdresser, Lower St.
or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the secretary at 99 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

In addition to the Fun Run, there will be events for all, adults, children and toddlers; side shows including a soggy sponge throw at targets who will include a lot of well-known local personalities. Who would YOU like to see there? Chances are you won't be disappointed!

Come along and bring the family - Fun for all! Fun Run starts 2.00pm - other events at 2.30pm.

HARGRAVE PARK SPORTS GROUND - Saturday 23 July

Entrance to the Ground - FREE !!

LOOK OUT for our posters and advertisements

Volunteer helpers desperately wanted. Help us make this an event to be remembered. Names to the Secretary please.

SACC

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

MARKET STALL	£189
STREET COLLECTION	£ 670
BANANA EVENING	£30

Many thanks to all who helped

THINKING AHEAD FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Meeting on the above theme now to be held on Monday 11th July at 8pm at U.R.C. Lecture Hall (postponed from 8th June). Please do come and make it a lively occasion.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

One Act Play

Scene: St. John's Hall transformed by imagination into a Stansted road and then to an unknown Doctor's surgery

Small girl is pushing a pram

Passer by: How is baby today?
(helper)

Girl: Not very well; she has a bad cold

Passer by: I am sorry, I should take her to the doctor, there's lots of chickenpox about

Girl (with enormous grin stretching from ear to ear): Alright, I will

Helper dashes across hall to suitable position and says she is now a doctor. The girl continues to walk around the hall.

Doctor: Aren't you coming to see me?

Girl: I'm waiting for the bell to ring

Doctor: Ding-a-ling. Come in Mrs. Jones
Shrieks of laughter from the girl

Doctor: Mrs. Jones please bring your baby
(sternly) in, I am very busy

More laughter

Doctor: Please, Mrs. Jones, control yourself
(very sternly)

Eventually Mrs. Jones pulls herself together and holds out the baby.

Doctor: What seems to be the trouble, Mrs. Jones?

After another fit of giggles

Mrs. Jones: She has a bad cold
(spluttering)

The Doctor observes that baby is in need of a leg transplant as one is missing; but Mrs. Jones insists there is nothing wrong with Her baby's legs; she has a cold.

Doctor: I'll give you some medicine Mrs. Jones but she must stay in bed for three days

Laughter!

Doctor: Mrs. Jones, are you paying attention?
Louder laughter!

Doctor: Mrs. Jones, I must insist you listen to me

Hysterical laughter!

The Doctor realises that the game must stop otherwise Mrs. Jones, laughing uncontrollably and on the verge of collapse might become a real patient.

It ended with Becky and helper laughing until almost crying. We did have fun.

Betty Lockwood.

ST. MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Infant May festivities

The infants gave a delightful display of dancing to a packed audience of parents during their May festivities afternoon. The girls wore floral headdresses and the boys had floral rosettes. The afternoon began with the crowning of the May Queen - Heidi Worley and May King - Peter Merton by the former head of infants, Mrs. Rosie Armstrong.

Each of the three infant classes sang songs and performed traditional dances. The older children completed the dancing with a Maypole dance. The afternoon ended when the children gathered round their teachers, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Costley and Mrs. Bigland, to sing and clap some lively songs.

Head of Infants

Miss Elizabeth Macgowan has been appointed head of infants and will be joining the staff of St. Mary's in September. At present Miss Macgowan teaches at Waterside Junior School. We look forward to meeting her and hope she will enjoy her work at St. Mary's.

Space Shuttle

Here was an opportunity not to be missed and so the whole school set off to walk to the airport to say farewell to the shuttle. The children, staff and many mums arrived at one minute to ten, just in time to see the shuttle take off and then circle above them. Each of the children was given a souvenir information sheet.

End of Term

The end of term is always very busy and is traditionally the time when the children go on educational visits. This year classes will be visiting St. Albans, Bury St. Edmunds, Linton Zoo and Capel Manor Field Studies Centre.

On Sunday 3rd July in St. John's Church at 9.30am there will be Parish Communion. The children will be joining the congregation of St. John's Church to mark the end of the school year. Coffee will be served after the service in the school where there will be an opportunity to see displays of work by the children on 'Christian Ministry in Stansted Past and Present'.

On Saturday 16th July 2.30-9.00pm the P.T.A. will be holding a super-teams event, with teams of children competing against each other, followed by a 'mums versus dads' rounders' match. Later in the evening there will be a family disco.

The last event in July will be the finals of the talent competition together with an old-fashioned Music Hall. This will take place on July 20th at 7pm. Do come along and join in the sing song at the end. Everyone is very welcome.

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.

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

Members from Stansted Tennis Club took part in a Tournament on the 7th June in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The preliminary rounds were played in the morning at Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Tennis Clubs and on Mrs. Mark Summers' court in Stansted. Lunch was served to players and guests at Bishop's Stortford club and the final rounds were played in the afternoon. A profit of £290 was made.

Our Club T-shirts are now available, printed with our own motif in green and yellow. Adult sizes cost £4 and children's are £3.30. All enquiries to Richard Mott - B/S 812980

Six members were lucky in the Club Draw for Wimbledon tickets. They were: Pam Agar, Richard Eyre, Janet Hollis, Brian MacDonald, Gill Robinson and Frank Warwick.

A team of members are hoping to enter the Uttlesford District Council Sports and Recreation Committee Festival of Sport 1983. It will be held at Carver Barracks, Wimbish on Sunday 31st July starting at 10am.

In July, our President, Richard Shervington is hoping to cycle 600 miles from Paris to Milan, crossing the Alps at 6,000 feet. He has agreed to be sponsored in aid of St. John's Church Appeal. Sponsor forms and enquiries - Janet Hollis B/S 812073.

The Prudential Grass Roots Tennis Coaching for Juniors started on the 7th June and continues until the 12th July. There are still a few vacancies in the class from 4pm-5pm on Tuesdays.

Coaching for Ladies has been arranged from the 17th June to 8th July (Fridays 10.30am-11.00am). There will also be Adult Coaching on Saturday mornings in the School Summer holidays. All enquiries to Janet Hollis B/S 812073.

THANK YOU JANE FREEMAN

What a flood of memories Jane's article on the school brought to us of 60,70 plus years, and there are quite a few of us still living in Stansted. I went to the "British School" and can remember the opening of the new Girls' School. What a grand opening day we had, all in our best, with white starched pinafores, books open on desks for all to see, country and maypole dancing in the playground.

The backbone of that school was the Wooley family - Mr. Wooley, Headmaster of the Boys School, Miss Wooley, Head of the Girls' School, Miss Fran Wooley looked after the Babies, the word Primary was not in vogue in those days. No hot dinners, no inside toilets, we certainly were brought up the hard way. But no cane, just lines to write instead of play, which I always seemed to be doing.

School opened with a Hymn and Prayer and ended with us all saying a prayer: "Lord keep us safe this night" is all I can remember. Thank you, Jane, for reviving memories.

K.M.Jordan

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



A large attendance of members were transported to California at the June meeting, due to a very interesting talk and slide show on The California Botanic Gardens and Big Trees, given by Mr. P. Orris, Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Cambridge. He also showed slides of the Grand Canyon that delighted the audience. Due to a long standing arrangement, as the Space shuttle was flying to Stansted, the Garden Club members were driving out to the gardens at Wisley in the hot summer sunshine. At 2 o'clock as we entered the Gardens the temperature dropped, the heavens opened and down came torrential rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning which continued until our return, but the Garden Club are a handy lot, and know all about "Be Prepared" and out came macs and one or two umbrellas. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon in the acres of glasshouses, full of exotic and wonderful plants and the restaurant had a bonanza. The only comments when we gathered to return were how much we'd enjoyed it and could a further visit be arranged. Our brave and enterprising driver brought us home via the Airport and we were able to get a good view of the amazing Space Shuttle.

Next month's meeting will again be at the United Reform Church Hall at 8pm on July 4th. The Speaker will be Mr. Hansard.

Gwen Harbridge

ACTION RESEARCH

Chairman: Christine Stiles 813172
Secretary: Catherine Dean 813579

We are having another barbecue on Saturday 23rd July at the Snuff Box, Bentfield Road, Stansted. There will be live music by "Mixed Doubles" and lots of good food. So come along and make it as successful as last year's.

For tickets please contact the chairman or secretary or Katy Dockerill on 812997

FUTURE EVENTS

July

- 6th 11.00am Dr. Barnardo's Summer Market at Bentfield Place. Adm. 25p includes refreshments
- 11th 8.00pm SACC Meeting at U.R.C. Lecture Hall
- 12th 10.00am Day Centre for older people open at Crafton Green. PLEASE respond to the plea for helpers
- 23rd Barbecue at the Snuff Box, Bentfield End, for Action Research

United Reformed

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:** Morning Service with Methodist Church -
9.30am in Quaker Meeting House.

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

My wife and I recently holidayed in Cornwall. We stayed at Marazion in Mount Bay. On the other side of this bay is the Penlee Lifeboat Station. The danger to seamen is dramatically illustrated when you view the spectacular and, for those at sea, terrifying Cornish coastline. Safely in harbour takes on a new meaning when you see the narrow opening into the harbour at Mousehole. The name says it all! So I gladly use our space this month to remind you of SEA SUNDAY July 10th. There are three Missions you may support in addition to the Royal Lifeboat Society - the Apostleship of the Sea (R.C.) - Atlantic House, Hardman St., Liverpool L1 9AT - The British Sailors' Society (Free Church) Commercial Union House, 406/410 Eastern Ave., Ilford, Essex IG2 6NG and the Mission to Seamen (Ang.), St. Michael Pater-noster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL.

Sea Sunday

JULY 10, 1983

is a chance to share in the Church's ministry to seafarers and their families. Seafarers are often forgotten members of the community. Their jobs take them away from their homes and families and everything this means in terms of security and stability. Sea Sunday is aimed at increasing awareness of seafarers, of the vital job they do in bringing us things we need, of their families who are left at home, and of our mission to them.

There are approximately one million merchant seafarers around the world. They not only have to brave the dangers of the sea, but when in port they are often preyed upon and exploited. If they have problems or are in any kind of distress they have to cope alone, possibly thousands of miles from the support of families and friends, and receiving bad news away from home can lead to the worst kind of anxiety and worry.

The Church offers security and stability for seafarers as they move around the world. It is there to welcome them when they arrive in port, to provide help in times of emergency and counselling for those with problems.

The help the Church offers to seafarers of all races and creeds is both spiritual and material: it is a ministry of practical concern and a ministry of proclamation. The Gospel teaches Christians to care for men and women in their totality and this the Church sets out to do for seafarers.

The Roman Catholic Church carries out its ministry to seafarers through the Apostleship of the Sea. The Anglican Church reaches out to seafarers through The Missions to Seamen. The British Sailors' Society is interdenominational but it largely represents the Reformed Church tradition. In many ports these three societies work together to minister to seafarers. By doing so they show that the mission of the Church is one mission and ensure that the best use is made of limited resources. They also join together to sponsor Sea Sunday.

Methodist/U.R.C. Services for July

All services will be at the Quaker Meeting House at 9.30am with the exception of July 10th which will be at St. John's at 10.00am

- July 3rd Mr. Fisher - Holy Communion
July 10th St. John's
July 17th Mr. McIlwain - Family Service
July 24th The Rev'd D. Youngs
July 31st Mrs. L. Rapkin
August 7th Mr. McIlwain - Holy Communion

EVENING SERVICE at the U.R.C.

July 17th 6.30 The Rev'd J. Logan Armour
(also August 14th and September 18th)

Young people's meetings at U.R.C. Lecture Hall on Sunday evenings.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

We are glad that the Stansted Methodists are returning to our Meeting House for their Sunday morning worship. They are joined by friends from the United Reform Church. Stansted quietly carries on with its practical ecumenical life even though this is not noticed in the national news.

Meeting for Worship from July 3rd will be at 11am - each First Day if we use the now almost forgotten phrase.

Many of our members are engaged in education and like their pupils have been finding themselves shut in by preparation for examinations. July brings the marking and the dreaded 'after exam' time. So much hangs on this, we might at this season put teachers as well as students in our list of people to remember.

Like Friends everywhere, members of Stansted Meeting have been turning their thoughts to the life of the Society as a whole. Some of us were able to be present at our Yearly Meeting in London - the counterpart of the General Assembly or Convocation. "Reporting back" has turned our thoughts at our own Meeting and our Monthly Meeting for business affairs to the problem of what activities we should as a Society pursue and how to tailor our resources realistically. We have to realise that

some needs, traditionally the concern of the Society, are now fortunately met in different ways. This means we have to be ready to change and modest enough to identify the task that is ours to do. So recently we have been somewhat introspective.

Christian Aid Week gave us all, whether living in Stansted or not, a very happy opportunity to join in the united effort of the village. We have to accept a gift FROM the Third World, a time when we can, from all the churches, meet and share a common endeavour. Small congregations like ourselves are particularly glad of such an opportunity to join with others.

Dorothy Stansfield

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.



This New Life

Jesus blessed a piece of bread,
Gave it to his friends
'Take and eat this bread' he said
'Eat for this is me'.

Then he took a cup of wine
Gave it to his friends
'Take and drink this wine' he said
'Drink for this is me'.

Jesus gave his life for us
Taught us how to be
With this strength and this new life
I'll give to others me.

This beautifully simple hymn was sung by our children at their First Holy Communion Mass on 12th June. It summarises all we have tried to teach them during the past months; that Jesus instituted the sacrament just before he died for us at the end of his years of teaching and how, with his help, we can 'give' our lives to others by caring and sharing, by loving and forgiving, by being happy and saying thankyou.

We have used simple words and everyday examples so that the children may learn something of the great mystery of this sacrament.

These are the ten children who made their First Holy Communion in St. Theresa's church:

Jonathan Blaker	Tara Catton
Alain Hosley	Siobhan Collins
Michael Ketley	Joanna Field
James Mears	Elizabeth Hope
Guy Shapland	Kate Orgar

Congratulations to them and to their families.

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 with United
Reformed Church - 9.30am.

One of John Donne's greatest poems, in my judgement, is 'The Litany' and in that poem one of the most perceptive verses is this:

From being anxious, or secure,
Dead clods of sadness, or light squibs
of mirth,
From thinking that great courts immure
All, or no happiness, or that this earth
Is only for our prison fram'd
Or that thou art covetous
To them whom thou lovest, or that they
are maim'd
From reaching this world's sweet, who
seek thee thus,
With all their might, Good Lord deliver
us.

In the true Christian disposition and life-style there is an essential balance of opposites. We are not meant, as the children of God, to live in persistent crippling anxiety. If we do faith has been weakened too much by fear, hope has lost its buoyancy and love its trust. Vision has lost its broad and far horizons, and been narrowed down to things too close, too imminent and personal. Self-regarding heed has too large a hold. On the other hand we are not meant to live in a shallow, naive optimism, merrily rolling along as if nothing could threaten us. We live in a very wonderful but imperfect world, where challenge, risk and danger are part of the package. So much good potential in our human nature would be stunted or denied if we lived in a perfectly secure world. (Though it has to be admitted that human folly and sin enormously increase our insecurity, putting an incalculable overplus of risk into the human situation.)

On the whole, particularly in Western Christendom, Christians have been too ready to be "dead clods of sadness", seeing our Lord chiefly as a "Man of Sorrows", this world as a "Vale of Tears", and our duty mostly that of mortifying and denying ourselves. We have overdone this aspect. On the other hand there is the opposite danger of being "light squibs of mirth", thinking "We're O.K., we're saved, we're on our way to heaven. We have nothing to worry about". Well, thank God, we can and should know a sense of ultimate security in the Love of God. That is our only sure security. But even so there's plenty in this world that we have to treat with great seriousness, that demands our concern, compassion, thought and action. To be otherwise is to be unthinking, insensitive, hard and selfish.

And how easy it is to think that "great courts", the rich and famous and successful have, according to our viewpoint, either all the happiness there is or none at all. Whether such enrichments bring happiness or not will depend upon the way in which our inner spirit regards and uses them. Seen as means of giving love, those who possess them both receive and dispense happiness.

How often Christians, particularly, perhaps, Non-conformist ones, have seen "this earth -- only for our prison fram'd" and that if we seek God "with all our might" we are bound to be "maim'd from reaching this

world's sweets". We are, it seems to me, most emphatically, not the better Christians for refusing to enjoy the good things God has given us. Of course at times there are good reasons for denying ourselves and occasions when it is desirable to do so. That is part of the necessary Christian balance. But we are not meant to be ascetic miserics.

There's an old Jewish maxim which warns: "God will call us to account for every good thing we have refused to enjoy". That is worth pondering. As is the rest of John Donne's poem, 'The Litany'. I commend it to you. Have a good holiday and God bless you.

Harold Fisher

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

Holy Communion (1662) - 11:15am (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Evensong - 6.30pm.

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.

FROM THE VICAR

A Christian from overseas was asked what was his main impression of the Church in England. He replied, "The services always start on time even when the Spirit has not arrived".

There is no doubt that our overseas visitors, especially those from the new Churches, think that our worship and Christian fellowship is lacking in joy and enthusiasm. Do we not have to admit that there is some truth in their reaction to us? Recently someone told me that when they moved into a new parish they worshipped at the parish church for 3 months and yet not a single person came up to them to speak - she had to go up to others and begin the conversation.

Well perhaps we cannot expect to imitate overseas churches where worship is exuberant and lasts for hours; and where the cultural background is so different from our own, (we are a reserved people!) - nevertheless, lifeless worship and inward looking congregations always go hand in hand.

Sometimes we behave as though the Church belonged to us and that it is there for our benefit. How wrong can you be. The truth is, God founded the Church and it is His - and it exists to serve mankind. As William Temple once reminded us, the Church is the one organisation which exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.

Earlier in the year 80 members of our congregation met in house groups to think about why the Church is here and what it should be doing as a Christian congregation. We are about to publish our findings which have been adopted by our elected Parochial

Church Council as parish policy. Spare copies of our document are available at the back of the church. Just as important as the findings of the groups was the fact that people met together to discuss the Church, and in November we plan to have house groups again meeting on just two occasions.

I believe that if a congregation is trying to understand that it has a vision of life to share with others, then, the chances are greatly increased that worship and fellowship will reveal that the Holy Spirit is at least around. That can lead to continual renewal.

God Bless.



PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

5th June Sam Nicholas Snelling
20 Woodfields
22nd June Eleanor Jane Slowther
27 Chapel Hill

Confirmed

19th June by the Bishop of Colchester:
Christopher Ardern, Anna-Marie Barker, Fiona Bulley, Stephen Clay, Melissa Denne, Karen Hawkes Zoe Hawkes, Amanda Kettle, Ian Lauder, Sarah Lodge, Sarah Mercer Adrian Peck, Yvonne Peck, Terence Reed, Julia Shervington, Fenton Trewick and Marina Wallis

Marriages

4th June Simon Howard Weeks, 3 Gawlers,
Berden and
Dawn Michelle Brandon 82 Rainsford
Road
11th June Jeremy John Barrett, Homebush,
Normans Way and
Amanda Jane Gover, Ryders, Burton
End

Departed

31st May Maud Agnes Louisa Waterman, 34 Bent-
field Causeway 81 years
8th June Richard Sidney Felstead, 18 Stoney
Common 52 years
10th June Dora Mary Francis, 20 Mountfitchet
Road 84 years
15th June Thomas Charles Goodsen, 4 Stoney-
field Drive 80 years

ST. JOHN'S APPEAL

Work on the spire and tower and the roofs of the south aisle, south transept, south chancel and Lady chapel are due to begin on the 4th July. The builder is David Lodge and Son. This is phase 2 of the repairs and constitutes a major part of the proposed work that needs to be done.

We are hoping that when parishioners see the spire being reshingled some will make a covenant for the appeal. As we receive a Department of the Environment grant £100 given by deed of covenant means that we can receive for the appeal £235. Please help if you can and remember that a covenant can be given as a lump sum.

Meanwhile fund raising activities abound. The Bier Keller raised £415 and the Market Stall £200. We are still calculating the profit on selling refreshments during the space shuttle visit as we still have a stock of drinks, crisps and sausage rolls.

Our thanks to all who have worked so magnificently for the appeal.

St. John's Appeal, cont'd



Do not forget the sponsored cycle ride to take place on 23rd July organised by the Friends of Essex churches. The ride can be as long or as short as you like and simply means cycling to various churches to have your sponsor form signed. Half the proceeds go to the Friends of Essex churches - an

organisation which has provided us with a grant - and half to our Appeal Fund.

Our next event is the September Spectacular on Sunday 4th September.

PEOPLE

This month two of our communicants have died - Maud Waterman and Dora Francis. Both had been receiving communion in their homes in recent years. Our sympathy to Peggy Waterman and Mary Francis.

Ethel Bateson, who is now home from hospital, wishes to thank all those who have been praying for her and she has received much strength in recent months from this verse:

Life is a book of volumes three
The past - the present - and yet to be
The first is hidden and laid away,
The second we are living day by day,
But the third and last of the yet to
be

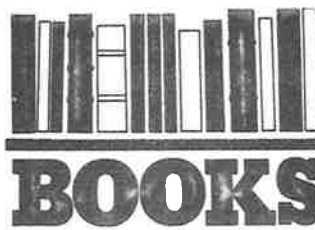
Is yet to come - God holds the key.

Our congratulations to Leslie Fyrm of Burton End on his retirement. We wish him and Jeanette many peaceful and yet active years.

PARISH DIARY

July

- 5th Quiet Hour 8pm to 9pm - led by the Rev
Rev'd T.S. Davies
-
- 6th SUNG EUCHARIST - 8pm - ST. JOHN'S
Celebrant and Preacher:
THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, The Rt Rev'd
Graham Leonard, at one
time a curate here in
Stansted. Renewal of
baptism vows. Reception
in the hall.
-
- 8th Youth hike and picnic - 8pm to mid-
night
- 10th PARISH COMMUNION - 10am St. John's
We will be joined by our friends from
the Methodist and United Reformed
Churches.
Preacher: The Rev'd Harold Fisher
Prayers: The Rev'd Eric McIlwain
(Please note there are no other com-
munion services on this day)
- 12th Tuesday Club 7pm - The Vicarage
- 13th Children's Church Leaders' Meeting
- 17th Preacher at Parish Communion - The
Rev'd Esar Budhu from Barbados
- 17th Children's Church outing to Wicksteed
Park. Coach leaves St. John's after
Parish Communion. Details from Ann
Conroy 812457. NO EVENSONG ON THIS DAY.
- 18th PCC Meeting - 8pm - 6 Park Road
- 23rd Sponsored Cycle Ride
- 27th Mothers' Union Garden Party



Have you visited the Church bookstall recently? We have a good selection of books and prayer cards.

Deanery Retreat - 10th-12th June

A weekend of peace and tranquility at the Diocesan House of Retreat at Pleshey. That is what three members of our parish experienced this month. On arrival at Pleshey on Friday evening we were welcomed by the Warden, Canon Peter Morris, one-time vicar of Sawbridgeworth. Having been shown our rooms we were given supper, which provided an opportunity to meet the man who was to conduct the retreat, the Rev'd Colin Travers, Vicar of Waltham Abbey.

After Compline on Friday evening we went into silence, which lasted until lunch on Sunday. This may sound strange to some readers who have not experienced a retreat, but I can assure you that it is not difficult. Saturday began with breakfast at 8.45am; prayers and an address in the beautiful chapel at 10.00am Eucharist at 12 noon, lunch at 12.45, after which we were left to explore the surrounding countryside or to enjoy the lovely gardens, to read or just to sit until 5.00pm, when we had Evensong and another address. After supper there was the last address of the day.

The theme of our retreat was "Open to God". During each of his addresses to us, our conductor took a Bible passage and then spoke on one of the senses and how we should always be open. He spoke of Christians having the eye of thankfulness, the eye of faith and the eye of love. In the talk on hearing we were reminded that God speaks to us through Bible reading, through other people, through the Sacraments and through Prayer. Our lips should be used to speak as evangelists. We each have something to say, bearing testimony to what God has done for us. We need to be open to change, to new ways of worshipping God. Our thinking needs to be constantly "opened up". We should have open hearts, open minds and open hands. The 12 noon Eucharist on Sunday ended with us all exchanging the Peace, which also broke our silence.

I can thoroughly recommend a weekend retreat at Pleshey to anyone, young or old, who wants some time and space just to be with God.



Are you joining in the Sponsored Cycle Ride? Details from the Vicar.

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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