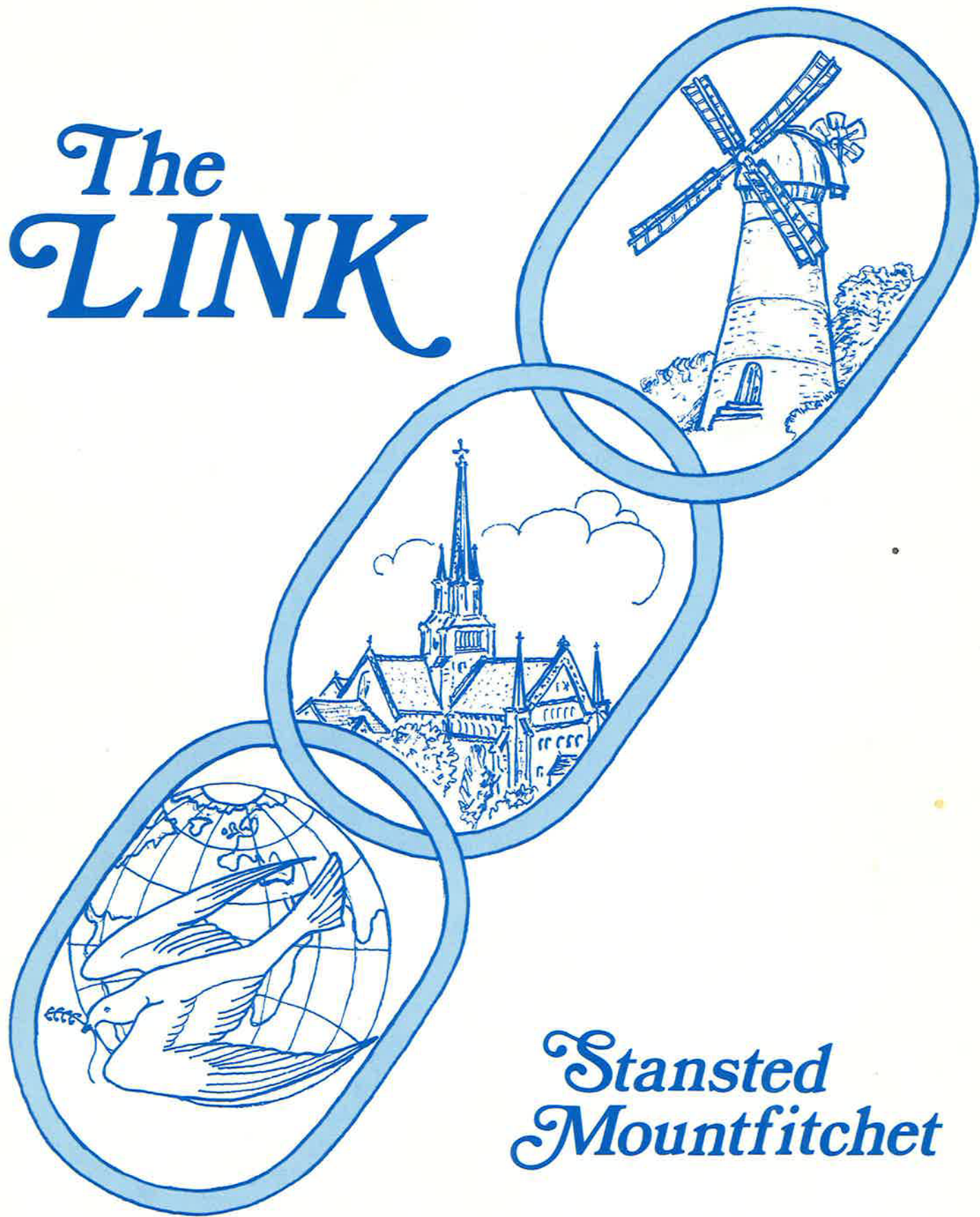


Jun 83

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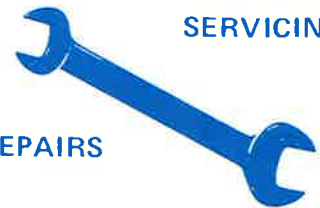
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THE LINK

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, 14, Cawkell Close, 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.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

The Rev'd. Andrew Proud, 43 Gilbey Crescent.
Tel: 814463.

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

Holy Communion – 8 a.m.
Family Communion – 9.30 a.m.

Holy Communion (1662) – 11.15 a.m. (2nd & 4th Sundays)
Evensong – 6.30 p.m.

In Summer months some of these services held in
St. Mary's. See notice in church porches for
further details.

METHODIST CHURCH

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Services: Morning Service and Sunday School – 9.15 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Theresa's Church, Millside.

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

Services: Sunday Masses – 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.
and at Henham – 9.15 a.m.
Holy Days – 9.15 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Confessions on Saturday after 10.30 a.m. Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 10.45 a.m.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Chapel Hill.

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

Group Secretary:
Miss Dorothy Oswald, 29 Bentfield Causeway.
Tel: 814758.

Services: Morning Service with Junior Church – 11 a.m.

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

Church of England

FROM THE VICAR Looking at the Diary for June and July is a bit daunting and yet exciting. There is much going on in the parish. Some of the events we have planned but others have been decided for us. Of course, the highlights are the ordination of Tony Bundock and Margaret Booker and the visit by the Bishop of London. But as we focus our prayers and thoughts on the ordained ministry we need to remind ourselves that all Christian persons participate in the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ and so when the Bishop comes we will renew our baptismal promises. I know you will welcome Tony and Pat Bundock and their children David and Jennifer. First impressions are so important and as we are considered by the Diocese to be a training parish we need to realise the responsibility we all have. A future ministry is helped by the first parish being warm and supportive.

I am setting out in this month's LINK a programme of events to help you plan your diaries. Please read carefully and support all you can.

God Bless.

CELEBRATION AND RENEWAL

Friday 24th June

Vigil of Prayer - 7pm-10pm - St John's. Come for a few minutes, or for a longer time, to pray silently for Tony Bundock and Margaret Booker who are to be ordained deacon and deaconess.

Sunday 26th June

Ordination in St James, Colchester - 10.30am.

Preacher: Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron, Canon Missioner for Southwark Diocese.

Coaches leave St John's 8.45am.

Adults £1.50 Children 75p

Admission to service by ticket only. Some tickets may still be available - please ring Vicar - 812203.

Bring picnic lunch.

Coaches leave Colchester 3.30pm.

Services in St John's:

Holy Communion at 8am and 9.30am

Services in St Mary's:

Holy Communion at 11.15am

Parish Tea - Vicarage Garden - 5pm.

Bring and share tea, and everyone is welcome. An opportunity to meet and welcome Tony and Pat Bundock and their children David and Jennifer.

Wednesday 29th June

Holy Communion 10am.

Any Questions - 8pm-9.30pm - St John's.

Led by Canon Peter Morris, Warden of Pleshey Retreat House.

Do you have doubts? Do you find it difficult to pray? How do we exercise a Christian ministry? Here is an opportunity to ask any question which may be written down and sent in before the meeting. A box for your questions will be available at the back of the church.

Saturday 2nd July

The Bradwell Pilgrimage.

Bishops John Trillo and Thomas McMahan invite Anglicans and Roman Catholics to a Celebration of the Word of God at Bradwell in the grounds of the ancient Chapel of St Peter, built by St Cedd in the 7th century.

Cars leave St John's 9am.

Names please to Marion Johnson - 812284.

Sunday 3rd July

Holy Communion 8am.

Parish Communion 9.30am - attended by pupils of St Mary's School. Coffee will be served after the service in the school, where there will be an exhibition by the children on 'Christian Ministry in Stansted - Past and Present'.

Parish Walk - 3pm-5pm.

A leisurely walk around Stansted with naturalist Mr Alfred Ansell.

Assembly at St John's 3pm.

Sung Evensong - 6.30pm - St Mary's.

Holy Communion 7.30pm.

Quiet Hour - 8pm-9pm - St John's.

Conductor: The Rev'd T S Davies.

A time of quiet reflection to prepare ourselves for the renewal of baptismal vows to take place on Wednesday.

Tuesday 5th July



Wednesday 6th July

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.

The service to include a renewal of baptismal vows.

Reception in the Hall after the service.



Friday 8th July

Youth hike and picnic - 8pm-midnight - Hatfield Forest.

For details contact Roger Ardern - 814892.

Sunday 10th July

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

In order that we can all come together for this one service, there will be no other Holy Communion service today.

Sung Evensong - 6.30pm - St Mary's.

5th June Space Shuttle in Stansted

We are serving refreshments in aid of the Appeal. Can you help? Ring Peter Pavitt on 812567

11th June Bier Keller with Harlow Band

Tickets £2.50p. Ring Cathy Clay on 812751 - you might be lucky.

17th July OUTING TO WICKSTEED PARK - Coach leaves St John's after Parish Communion. Details from Ann Conroy 812457 NO Evensong on this day.

18th June A YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY



Presented by our Adventurers' Club - in association with U.N.I.C.E.F. and World Children's Day. St John's Church Grounds 10.00 am - 6.00 pm. Theme: 'CHILDREN IN THE THIRD WORLD'

Stalls - exhibitions - art and craft projects - fun and games - film shows - African singing and dancing - treasure hunt - talent competitions - food of other lands - a Victorian Costume - bring and share picnic.

18th June Please support our MARKET STALL at Bishop's Stortford. The stall will be situated behind the Corn Exchange and will be open from 8.30 am. Cakes, plants and items for sale needed and may be left at 7 St John's Road or The Vicarage not later than 17th. If you have anything you would like collected, please ring Susan Robinson, 813629.



CONFIRMATION BY THE BISHOP OF COLCHESTER
ST JOHN'S - 10.00 am
(not 9.30 am).

19th June

LETTER FROM FATHER ALLARD

Dear Friends of Stansted,

Thank you for the many messages I have received on the occasion of my dear Norah's death which have been a source of strength to our daughters and me.

The tributes paid to my wife's memory have made me proud and humbled that one with her endearing qualities was happy to have shared the greater part of her life with me involving herself with the daily duties which are the lot of both schoolmaster and priest.

Margaret and Lilly join me in thanking you for your sympathy and prayers which have meant so much to us.

In love and affection

Fr Victor.

The STANSTED ADVENTURERS' CLUB was formed in February and now has over thirty members. The children meet every Friday evening in St John's Hall. We do not forget that we are the fortunate ones. Two-thirds of the world's children live in poverty. We cannot close our eyes to this - we need to know - so that we can understand - and by understanding, help.

We would like you to know about our work and the work of other groups who care about the third world. So the theme of our ACTIVITY DAY on 18th June is 'Children of The Third World'. Why not come along, spend the day or just an hour with us, child or adult, everyone is welcome. Further details can be found in this magazine or at any Adventurers' Evening; remember, every Friday 7.00 - 9.30 pm, St John's Hall.

Many thanks for your support and understanding.

Brian Wallis.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

14 May Stephen George Jacklin,
Great Oakley, Essex.
22 May Sarah Elizabeth Stone,
Biloxi, Mississippi, USA

Marriages

30 April Ian Gilbert Mason, 19 Cannons Mead,
and Ann Elizabeth Pepper, 14 Church Manor,
Bishop's Stortford.

Departed

26 April Geoffrey Charles Hills,
1 Meadowcroft, aged 61 years.
9th May Frederick James Fuell,
27 Mountfitchet Road, aged 69 years.
17th May Elizabeth Linney,
20 Wethersfield, aged 91 years.

.....

ST JOHN'S APPEAL



There is a maxim that the half-way stage of any course sorts out the optimistic from the pessimistic. The Appeal has reached that equidistant point - £40,000 and there is cause for optimism; but above all realism.

Work costing about £25,000 will shortly begin - which will be evident to the whole village as the tower is such a focal point. We shall have a cash shortage until Government grant is received sometime after completion of the work. In fact the Appeal Fund will have to borrow about £6,000 to cover that temporary cash shortfall - UNLESS, of course, any benefactors would lend the money to tide us over until the Government grant is received?

Looking to the future, and allowing for grants receivable, we need to raise only about another £15,000 by activities and efforts to achieve our target. That puts it very much within reach - cause for optimism, indeed.

We still hope for more support by way of donations and especially covenanted giving. Look at St John's tower - and ask yourself "What does the church mean to me?" It may only be as an aesthetic feature, but it is still well worth preserving for generations to come.

As for the programme for fund raising activities, the following are planned:

4th SEPTEMBER - SEPTEMBER SPECTACULAR

22nd OCTOBER - CONCERT

10th DECEMBER - MUSIC HALL

In the NEW YEAR - a 50/50 AUCTION

Watch out for further information!

Many people have said they would like the opportunity to participate in a major sponsored event. What about getting out your bikes? On the 23rd July an event is being organised by the Friends of Essex Churches and will take place all over the Diocese. We shall be participating locally - and individuals can attempt as much or as little as they can - all ages. This is a truly worthwhile event - 50% of the (local) proceeds will go to the Appeal and 50% to the Friends, who help pay for the repair of Essex churches wherever money is needed. They gave £500 to our Appeal.

What about giving a push to this tandem? What a challenge - what a good idea! Further information from the Vicarage.

Peter Pavitt
Appeal Chairman

United Reformed

It isn't often that an issue of THE LINK corresponds with an item of 'hot-off-the-press news'.

We are happy to report that, as our 4-month period of worship with the Methodist folk draws to an end, we have accepted their invitation to join them for a further 3 months at the Quaker Meeting House.

This will involve another change of time - to 9.30 am - and suspension of morning services at the U.R.C. from July 3rd through to September 17th. Because of a prior commitment we must be back at the U.R.C. on 25th September for the Annual Harvest Service with the Rev Charles Martin of Gloucester as guest minister.

Another variation in the schedule comes on 10th July when Methodists and U.R.C.s join with St John's at St John's for a concelebration of Holy Communion. In addition, because a church completely closed for three months is never a happy idea, there will be one evening service a month at the U.R.C.

The joint Methodist/U.R.C. youth Group will continue to meet on Sunday evening at the U.R.C. and will share in the evening services.

Scripture Examination Awards

Each year a number of children write the Scripture Examination. This year the subject was "Jesus, the King". On Sunday 15th May, awards of books and Certificates of Merit were given to Paula Wilson, Tony Lidster, James Marston, Jody Morris, Natalie Smith, Michelle Trundle.

Methodist/U.R.C. Services for June at the U.R.C. 10.00am

5th June Rev E McIlwain - Holy Communion
12th June Mr A Jamieson of Stansted
19th June Rev H Fisher
26th June Rev A MacLeod of Cambridge
3 July (9.30) - at the Quaker Meeting House
10th July (10.00) - at St John's



Society of Friends

SHELTERED WORK PROJECT: PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL AREA

There is a need in the area for special help for those affected by mental illness who have, at present, very little chance of work of any kind. The need for a work scheme was originally raised at the end of 1981 by the staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital when people who had been treated, worked successfully in the Occupational Therapy Department, then passed on to an existing Work Centre or returned home to no employment. The existing work opportunities, though excellent, are unable to offer the dignity of earning a living wage. Lack of work opportunities in this category has led to people languishing at home, which could cause a deterioration in their mental health.

As a result, a group of people with a variety of skills in business, finance, legal and other fields have come together under the chairmanship of Dr Walter, a local psychiatrist. The aim is to provide a scheme independent of the Local Authority or the Health Service and equally available to anyone living in Hertfordshire or Essex. It is intended that the project should be built on a sound business footing producing a product or providing a service which a feasibility study shows to be viable. An intention of the scheme is that it should be able to offer permanent work opportunities and it is hoped a few people may be enabled to move into open employment.

The position reached is that charitable status for the scheme is now being sought and in the meantime a feasibility study will be carried out to investigate which types of work could be undertaken.

The scheme has the support of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and there are two Flag Days, one in Harlow on Saturday 25th June and one in Bishop's Stortford on Saturday, 9th July. The National Society has agreed that the proceeds of these two flag days will be earmarked for the Sheltered Work Scheme Fund.

Peter Gavin

Roman Catholic

Dear James

Did you ever do a jig-saw? The way to do it is this. Ideally you should not see the picture on the box, not even for a moment. So, when you empty the pieces onto the table and eventually turn all the pieces face upwards you really do not have a precise image of the finished picture. Bits and pieces, sky, water, bits of a boat, can give you a vague indication - but that is all. So how do you set about the task of putting all the pieces together correctly?

First you must get a frame in which you build the picture. Hence you pick out the four corners and straight edges. Having made the frame you may approach it in several ways, such as top downwards, or bottom upwards, or make clusters of interlocking bits; probably you will do it without any fixed plan. As long as you get one piece to lock correctly onto another, that is what really matters.

Gradually you begin to see the picture. Near its completion you will probably be convinced that there are some pieces missing. Not till the last piece is inserted can you admire the complete picture.

I apologise for this rigmarole, but it really is a good comparison with the process of gaining some understanding as to the meaning and purpose of life.

You should build a secure and strong frame. This should be a knowledge of yourself. I advise you to spend some time in the study of human physiology. Find out what makes you tick. You are after all the end product of millions of years of evolution - you are unique. You, together with other humans, may possibly be the most stupendous creature in the galaxy, if not the universe. I strongly advise you to

acquire a good insight into psychology. Discover, insofar as that is possible, how your brain works, the origin of your "moods and feelings." I would in fact encourage you to acquire at all times knowledge of the truth, scientific truth, what exists within you and outside of you. The search is endless. There will always be many pieces of the jigsaw missing. The picture keeps developing. However, occasionally, very occasionally, it is possible to get a vague glimpse at the picture.

One of my favourite sayings of Jesus Christ is this: "The truth will make you free" Now that is something to think about. And another extraordinary thought is his claim: "I am the truth, the way and the life."

Well, I really have set you enough for a life time, whereas we have not even begun to fill in the frame.

By knowing the truth about yourself, or at least some of it, you should realise what a fantastic creature you are, and you should appreciate and use wisely the complexity of faculties and functions you possess.

Sow an act, reap a habit
Sow a habit, reap a character
Sow a character, reap a destiny.

God bless you, James,

Sincerely

Fr Chapman

Methodist

In this run-up to a General Election I feel I have to confess that I am not very much of a political animal. At least not a party political animal. In my time I have voted for all the main political parties at one time or another. A friend and fellow minister once rebuked me for this and insisted that I should have a clear and specific commitment. The ensuing conversation made it clear that he felt my party colour should be the same as his! I remained and remain unrepentant!

I have a feeling that people like me - "floating voters" - are essential to real democracy. (So, of course, are political parties and their organisations and their devotees. Without them we would have either chaotic anarchy or totalitarian oligarchy.) If everyone was unalterably committed then, short of the unlikely state of an exact dead-heat, we would have the same political party in power ad infinitum. And ad nauseum! Such a state of affairs would not only be sickening but also dangerous. For the certainty of continuing power, human nature being what it is, would almost certainly lead to the fulfilment of Lord Acton's dictum that all power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The "floating voter" exercising his judgements on what he believes the nation most needs and on which party programme and ethos will best meet those needs, ensures that real choice remains and that every party must have respect for the needs and will of the people.

I hasten to assure you that I am not trying to influence you on how you should vote on 9th June. I have yet to make up my mind. I have far better reasons for writing the above. It is a prelude to saying that though I am not a party political animal, I am very much a political one. And I believe this is part of our Christian responsibility. It cannot be otherwise since politics, fundamentally, is concerned with the ordering of the life of society at local, regional, national and international levels. It is bound to impinge upon us all. I am delighted when Christians join political parties and become involved in government and decision-making, at whatever level of society. Their Christianity means they have loyalties and standards which lift them above narrow self-interest or sectional interest, above political dogma and party machinery or prejudice. The more people we have like this in party politics the better. And of course Christians do

not have a monopoly of such virtue. But their religion should ensure it. They should have our supporting prayers and encouragement.

The Christian is called to love God and his neighbour. If he does not love God, his love of his neighbour is likely to be very defective. If he does not love his neighbour, his love of God is 'phoney'. When your needy neighbour is close by your love can often be shown by direct, personal compassion and service. But if he lives a long way off or has needs that personal, direct help cannot meet, then our love may have to reach him via political action. For instance, if the Good Samaritan had gone on week after week finding travellers mugged on the Jerusalem to Jericho Road he should have sought to rouse the community to do something about it, like providing an effective police force - political action and concern. If he had found that the muggers had resorted to their way of life because of dire poverty and exploitation, then political concern and action on their behalf would have been called for.

Within society love often has to express itself by seeking to establish justice as fully and as widely as possible. And to do that peacefully and freely involves us in political concern, debate, action and decision. So whether we are involved in party politics or not, we are inevitably involved in the politics of the ordering of all our social relationships and concerns. Before 9th June we shall need to ask ourselves how we ought to cast our vote so that our love of God and of people will more readily be manifested in our national government. I shall be asking myself, in this order of priority, which candidate, which party programme, which political party is likely to put God's love into action where the need is greatest and for the largest number of people both in this nation and in others.

Harold Fisher

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS:

13 June - 2 Spencer Close
26 June - 5 St John's Lane

Annual Garden Party

Stansted Methodist Church is to donate the proceeds of the Annual Garden Party to the "Home Farm Trust" Orford House, Ugley. The venue is at the home of Fred and Ann Boyd, 5 St John's Lane, on SATURDAY 18th JUNE at 6.00 pm.

In case of rain the venue will be in the Quaker Meeting House. Tickets available from 5 St John's Lane (812148), price £2.00p for adults and £1.00p for children. No extras.



STANSTED CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 25th JUNE

FLOAT PROCESSION ASSEMBLES AT BENTFIELD GREEN, MOVING OFF AT 2.00 pm GATES OPEN AT MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL AT 2.30 pm

STALLS, SIDESHOWS, AMUSEMENTS, ARENA DISPLAYS, TUG-OF-WAR, FANCY DRESS COMPETITION, 5-ASIDE FOOTBALL, PONY RIDES, GRAND DRAW.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY

A Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Day Centre will be held at Stansted House, Elsenham Road, at 10.30 am on Wednesday, 15 June by the kind invitation of Mrs B M Thornton.

Brenda Scarr

OoOoOoOoOoOo

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

Mr P Brown came to the meeting on 4th May to speak on Old Stansted, and he brought with him most delightful slides, several showing Stansted in the past, and some of the many bridges in the area over the River Stort and others over the railway. He had some interesting stories of past local history, of the activities of Sunday school children, and 49 choir boys going by train to Yarmouth. The reception the audience gave him showed how much all enjoyed the visit.

Now we are looking forward to our outing to Yarmouth on 7th June, and hope for a sunny day!

STANSTED WINDMILL APPEAL

About £10,000 is needed to replace the sails, and various fund raising events are taking place.

One of the most energetic efforts is being made by Graham Bickerton of 9 Spencer Close who is attempting to cycle the 300 miles from London to Land's End in July, on a sponsored basis.

The Stansted Millers will shortly be approaching local residents with the intention of enrolling them as sponsors. Please, if approached, be generous.

The Windmill belongs to the people of Stansted and is one of the finest remaining in the country.

PLEASE HELP TO PRESERVE YOUR WINDMILL

Enquiries to: Pat Bickerton 812411
Tony Wellings 814977

ST MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Malham and Stansted Projects

A group of fourth year children have returned to school from their environmental field studies course in Malham, Yorkshire. They stayed at 'Beck House' Malham, a comfortable Guest House. Each day they were kept busy, visiting places of interest, exploring and getting the feel of the rugged and sometimes wet Yorkshire countryside. Each pupil kept a daily diary and made sketches and paintings of the area. It was a great experience for all the children. One child was so overwhelmed at the sight of Goredale Scarr, that seeing the beautiful waterfall said to Mr Compton "It's lovely Mr Compton, was it here last year?"!

The children paid particular attention to the environment, to the nature of the countryside as part of a comparative study with Stansted in which groups of children will be visiting the airport. Further groups are involved in the history and Ministry of St John's Church to which end they have written to the Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

An exhibition of the children's work will be on display on Wednesday 13th July which is also open evening.

All are very welcome to the exhibition.

Deputy Headmaster

Mr David Birch has been appointed as the new deputy Headmaster. He is at present teaching in Harlow and will join the staff of St Mary's in September. Mr Birch is a keen and enthusiastic sportsman and is particularly interested in football and athletics. He also has a great interest in micro-computers. We all wish him success in his new appointment.

Folk Dancing

A group of seven children from Mrs Johnson's class joined forces to partner seven children from the Peter Kirk school to take part in the Folk Dancing Festival at Braintree. The children danced traditional English folk dances.

PTA Barbecue and Barn Dance

The PTA are holding a Barbecue and Barn Dance on Friday 17th June from 8.00 pm - midnight. This has always proved a successful event. Tickets are £2.50 each and are limited. So hurry and buy yours - available from Committee members Mrs L Kelsey, Mrs C Dean, Mrs C Williams, Mrs S Reed, Mr I Poole, Mr A Trueman, and the School office.

THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Mountfitchet Garden Club saw a slide-show entitled 'Some Great British Gardens' at their May meeting in Stansted Youth Centre Annexe. The slides, which were borrowed from the Royal Horticultural Society, showed some of the wide range of beautiful gardens we have all over the British mainland. Many of them form part

of properties run by the National Trust, and all are open to the public. The commentary was given by Mr A Humphreys.

Next month's meeting will be held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Stansted, on 6th June, when Mr P Orriss of Cambridge Botanic Garden will talk about 'Californian Botanic Gardens and the Big Trees.'

BROWNIE/GUIDE - CUB SCOUT FETE

The Fete held at Bentfield Place on Bank Holiday Monday was a great success, despite the dull weather. A great many stalls and sideshows attracted over 800 people.

Many thanks to the fete committee and the leaders for all their hard work. Thank you also to the following traders who gave prizes for the Grand Draw - Buntings, Hailes DIY, Les Oldfield, Mary Austin, Family Newspapers, Scriveners

Off-Licence, Mount Pharmacy, Ruth's Stores and the Dog & Duck. Congratulations to the brownies, guides, cubs and scouts who sold all the raffle tickets and who helped to man the stalls.

The final sum of £1012 was collected and divided between the two organisations.

We hope all of you who braved the unpredictable weather enjoyed the event and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Christine Hope.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We had a lot of budding cooks and chefs at a club evening recently. Not quite to the standard of Mrs Beeton or Robert Carrier but much more exuberant. The recipe of the day was sweets.

A helper melted the chocolate which had to be poured into paper cases. These were thrust from all directions as members were all trying to work the hardest and get most cases filled; the fun had started.

Marshmallows were then cut into pieces and dozens of hands were stretching out (I'm sure each child had six hands) to grab pieces which were then placed on the chocolate. The final touch was a smartie right on the top, and very nice they looked. The fact that some had smarties at odd angles didn't matter, then some had two or even three smarties; but some had no smarties at all - I wonder where they went?

The children enjoyed it because they do like to make or 'do' something themselves. What is a simple task to us is a real achievement to them. But of course the best bit was when they tasted the results; it didn't take too long for the disappearing act.

I would like to finish off with a Thank-you for the response to our appeal in last month's Link. As I forecast, help was given without delay and is much appreciated.

Betty Lockwood

BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our young footballers have added another victory to their record of successes. They recently won the Dunmow and District 6-a-Side Football Trophy. Simon Needham scored the winning goal to take them to a 2-1 victory. Well done boys.

The PTA are all busy getting ready for our ANIMAL FAIR on Saturday, 11th June, from 1 pm to 5 pm. We are arranging all kinds of entertainment for you including a dog parade, fancy dress competition, an exhibition of pupil's pets (I might bring my tarantulas along), a competition to make an animal from a cotton reel and Punch and Judy. The variety of stalls and sideshows gets greater every year and you might try your hand at guessing the weight of the pig, throwing an egg or winning a teddy bear on the Tombola.

We will have a creche area where you can leave your little ones if you wish, and we hope the children will bring along their teddy bears and participate in the Teddy Bear's Picnic area, complete with honey sandwiches.

We have hired a marquee this year as insurance against a rainy Saturday, and in any case the Meteorological Office tell me that their seaweed definitely predicts a sunny Saturday on the 11th. Hope to see you all there.

Janice Wray

NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Do you have a safe kitchen? Where are your detergents? Can your child get at the kettle? Those of us who watched the video of Jimmy Saville's safety programmes have immediately modified our homes in the hope that we can avoid a nasty accident. By the end of the video we were all rather too stunned to talk very much, but we're looking forward to the next talk at the clinic - "The development of Language" given by a speech therapist. It will be on Tuesday, 14th June at 2.00 pm.

Another interesting evening was when Dr John Cobb gave us a very informed talk, illustrated by slides, mainly of his own family, showing different characteristics. The angelic pose, the temper tantrum - and even the family asleep - no not in their beds - but all in the double bed! He started the evening by asking why we had children - then why we REALLY had children?

On 9th June we are having a morning talk from 10.30 - 12.00 at 26 Longcroft on Pre-menstrual Tension and Related conditions, by Dr Graham Leek. A creche will be provided at 20 Longcroft.

The open house in May was well supported and lots of clothes changed hands in the Swap Shop. On 15th June from 2 - 4 pm there will be an open house and Book Fair from Castle Bookshop at 14 Poulteney Road. This will be a good opportunity to buy children's books. Everyone is welcome.

We are hoping to start evenings for expectant parents. Please look in future copies of THE LINK for details.

On 21st July we are having a stall in Bishop's Stortford Market - if you can give an item for sale or could help, please contact me (813958).

Don't forget we always need breast-milk for the Special Care unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Please contact Cathy Leek, our breast feeding counsellor if you can express some milk for premature babies. (813068).

Jenny Adamson

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Women's Section

Our April meeting was held in Manuden Village Hall and we were glad to leave the organizing to our Manuden members who did it superbly.

Mrs Heath showed us her collection of rag dolls and told us how to make them from a simple pattern stuffed with kapok. Mrs Little thanked Mrs Heath for her talk and presented her with a small gift.

The winners of the competitions were:

Identifying bags of ingredients by smell - Mrs Brett
Deciphering jumbled flower names - Mrs Stevens
Guessing number of beans in a jar - Mrs Camp

The 16 June meeting will take the form of a coffee evening in the United Reformed Church Hall.

And now a few lines on the Women's Section National Conference:

On a sunny April morning down at Eastbourne
The women of the Royal British Legion
Filed purposefully to the Congress Theatre
And waited for their Conference to begin.

Then entered Eastbourne's Mayor, the National
Officers,
The Standard Bearers, also all the Delegates,
Next came the National Anthem, Silent Tribute,
Hymns and the address by Reverend Rideout.

The Chairman, Mrs Handyside, spoke her lines,
Then Mrs Gardner, Mayor, addressed us all,
Followed by her namesake, Baroness Gardner,
Who told us of her work in the House of Lords.

Then Gen. Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson told
How younger ones were needed to join in
To follow on when we had grown too old
To carry on the work still to be done.

With eloquent support for Resolutions,
And sometimes disagreement, time wore on,
Then after voting, and the Tellers counting,
The day's work swiftly moved towards its
close.

That night the Lady Mayor had invited
(To mark especially this important day)
All to a Civic Concert in the Theatre
With music by the British Legion Band.

The music played was well known and much
loved,
The songs were many that our fathers sang.
Voices of something like two thousand souls
Joined as one choir and rang throughout the
hall.

The Conference ended on the following morn-
ing
With cups presented, Votes of Thanks all
said.
The National Standard passed to its new
Bearer
And the National Anthem rang out loud and
clear.

Pat Clower

SACC

KING'S ARMS YOUTH CENTRE - A Request
from the Bishop's Stortford Council of
Churches.

The King's Arms is a drop-in Youth Centre providing facilities for anyone with an hour or two to idle away. It has a coffee bar and several rooms for games, or for sitting and talking. It was once an old pub, offered to the centre by Whitbreads Ltd, and has retained much of the informal, friendly atmosphere.

The King's Arms is situated in South Street, Bishop's Stortford, in an easily accessible central position in the town. When it was a pub it was also known as the King's Arms. It hasn't changed its name, just its King!

The King's Arms is aimed at young people, but everyone is welcome. It is mostly frequented by youngsters of secondary school age, the young unemployed, the homeless or bored, and anyone wanting a place where they can meet because they don't need money to get in, or because it is a friendly place and they are lonely, or for a cheap cup of tea, or a game of pool.

The King's Arms meets a need providing somewhere where young people are welcome for who they are (despite their colourful language and sometimes bizarre fashions!), and not for their money. More than this, it provides the club workers with an opportunity to share the new life that Jesus offers, and the good news of forgiveness and freedom that He declares.

The Youth Centre was originally the inspiration of the local Baptist Church but is now under the umbrella of the local Council of Churches, the British Council of Churches and the Manpower Services Commission.

Anyone feeling called to help in any way, please contact one of the following:

Brian Walters (Chairman)	BS 57413
Jim Hook	505138
Therese Mearing (Publicity)	54922
Linda at King's Arms	56964.

NOTE

Readers are probably aware that since the above was written the Centre has suffered a very severe fire. The Youth Leaders are determined to continue with the work and would therefore more than ever appreciate offers of help.

Village News

FUTURE EVENTS

- June
8th 8.00 pm Meeting of SACC at the U.R.C. Church Lecture Hall on the theme of THINKING AHEAD FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
- 11th 1.00 - 5.00 pm Bentfield County Primary School PTA Animal Fair
- 15th 10.30 am Coffee Morning for Day Centre at Stansted House, Elsenham Rd.
2.00 - 4.00 pm National Childbirth Trust Open House and Children's Book Fair at 14 Poulteney Road
- 17th 8.00 pm to 12. St Mary's C of E Primary School PTA Barbecue and Barn Dance
- 18th 6.00 pm Methodist Mid-Summer Garden Party in aid of Home Farm Trust. 5 St John's Lane.
- 25th Stansted Carnival. Procession from Bentfield Green at 2.00 pm. Gates open Mountfitchet School 2.30
- 29th 6.30 pm Floral Exhibits of Streeter Cup entries, open to public at URC Lecture Hall.

that there are many controls and laws designed to prevent undue suffering for the animal. The farmers are only supplying the public with what it wants, i.e. a cheap and plentiful supply of meat. Libby tackled the subject from the moral point of view - will animal rights be the next issue after womans rights? - and pointing out that human beings can live more healthily if a little more care is taken in providing a balanced vegetarian diet.



A small number of us joined with Bishop's Stortford NHR for a Scrabble evening on Monday 25th April. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and left determined to raid the cupboards and bring to light our own forgotten scrabble boards. We say thank you to Bishop's Stortford for inviting us and look forward to returning the favour and inviting their members to join us in another scrabble evening.

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Local Organisers: Libby Martin 812807
Sharon Frogley 812617
Treasurer: Isabel Mayo 814872

Please contact any of the above if you would like to know more about our informal discussion group. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Subscriptions are now due and should be given to Isabel before the end of June or your membership will lapse.

On Wednesday 20 April we had a discussion on our exploitation of animals for food and the methods by which they are reared and brought to our tables. Sally looked at the problem from the farmers' side showing us

Thursday 12 May was our Programme planning meeting for the next session and we think the programme decided on will provide an interesting and varied selection of topics. A copy of the programme will be put on display at the Library or can be obtained from either of the two local organisers. Future Meetings: Monday 6 June: We will discuss the book 'Children on the Hill' by Michael Deakin. This is about an alternative method used by one mother to educate her children and to draw out each child's individual talents. Thursday, 23 June: You can choose your friends but not your relations. Relatives can be a source of amusement and embarrassment and we will talk about their various traits in a light-hearted discussion.

Libby Martin



AFTERNOON

Stansted Afternoon Institute is organising THE STREETER FLORAL CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION" which will be held in the United Reformed Church Lecture Hall Chapel Hill on Wednesday, 29th June 1983.

The Theme is "A Wedding Anniversary".

The Hall will be open to view entries from 6.30 pm and visitors will be made welcome.

The presentation of the cup will be at 7.30 pm.

EVENING

"W.I. WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY" - this is a phrase which members hope will become very familiar in the not so distant future. Our movement is launching a membership drive at the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall in June when this slogan will be promoted and backed up by all our members. We hope to use it on our float in the Carnival on 25th June so just watch out for what we contribute to Stansted! You may be surprised.

We were pleased to be able to give a cheque for £120 to Mrs Humphreys at our last meeting. This was the profit from our Cookery Demonstration and it will go towards equipping the Day Centre. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

And now a reminder - don't forget our 'New Members Meeting' which will take place on Monday 13th June at the United Reformed Church Hall at 8.00 pm. Everyone interested in the W.I. will be warmly welcomed.

Pearl Wellings

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

Twelve hours of tennis coaching were arranged at the Club in the Easter Holidays and fifty children, aged between 9 and 15 took part. It was most successful and we were even lucky with the weather.

We have organised further coaching for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 16. This is in connection with the Prudential Grass Roots/Lawn Tennis Association Coaching Scheme. It will be on six Tuesdays from 7th June to 12th July, with sessions at 4 pm to 5 pm and 5 pm to 6 pm. The cost is £4. Promising children are given further coaching at a nominal price.

The Club held a Senior American Tournament on Sunday, 24th April. It was won by Richard Eyre and Gill Bainbridge who beat John Eyre and Phraid Cotton in the Final 6-2.

Four Senior coaching lessons have been arranged on Fridays from 17th June - 8th July 10.30 - 11.30 am. We still have 3 or four vacancies. There will also be coaching for Seniors on Saturdays in the School summer holidays.

We will soon have a supply of T-shirts, with the Club's own motif designed by Paul Bainbridge. They will be in various sizes for adults and children. Please telephone Richard Mott - 812980 for details.

All further details of the Club and Coaching from Janet Hollis, 812073.



Stansted's schools at the beginning of the century

In the early years of this century universal primary education had been the rule for some thirty years. The new Local Education Authorities were preparing to take over non-denominational schools; at the same time church schools were being inspected to ensure that they too reached the required standard. The inspectors' files are still kept in the Public Record Office at Kew.

They tell us that Stansted's schools - the National or Church of England school, built in 1860 and now the Youth Centre, and the non-denominational British School, built perhaps as early as 1835 and now part of the Peter Kirk school - were in a bad way. In 1909 both appeared on the Board of Education's 'School Premises Black List'.

Overcrowding and old, ill-lit and ill-ventilated buildings were at the root of the problem. The Church of England school was an urgent case, said the Board's inspector; there was one room for all the infants and the 23 'babies' could not be 'suitably

managed' amidst their elders. The main schoolroom, in which the juniors were taught, was divided, but this was of little help as the partitions were not soundproof. The lavatories came in for particular condemnation, especially the triple seats provided for the infants.

At the British school the inspector judged the accommodation to be sufficient for 100 juniors but half as many again usually attended the school. Eighty pupils attended from Birchanger and there was hope of some relief when the new school there was built. It was suggested that even with smaller numbers, it would be best if the Stansted British School were demolished and completely replaced. In fact, in 1911 the old schoolrooms were improved for use as the boys' department and new buildings for the girls and the infants built on land bought for the purpose between the old school and the lane beside the United Reformed Church. (In this writer's days at St Mary's school in the early 1960s, those 'new' buildings were used as the art room and the school offices).

There was better news of the Church school as well in 1915. The inspector was full of congratulations for the achievements of the staff at a very difficult time. In the past year they had faced not only an epidemic of one of the infectious diseases then still so widespread and so deadly, but also a less common hazard; nine weeks during which troops had been billeted in the schoolrooms. Nevertheless, ... 'The children are getting on well with the regular subjects and the recreative side of their training is well attended to. ... The conditions of the school reflects great credit upon the master and the class teachers.' ...

I wonder whether any residents of Stansted still remember the schools in those bad old days - and if they then appreciated the remarkable efforts of their teachers in such difficult conditions.

Jane Freeman



Jane Freeman went on from St Mary's School to the Herts & Essex, and then to Durham University where she took a degree in History, followed by a doctorate with a Thesis on the Parish Ministry in Durham, 1570-1640. She is currently working on the latest edition of a volume of the Victoria History of the Counties of England.

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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