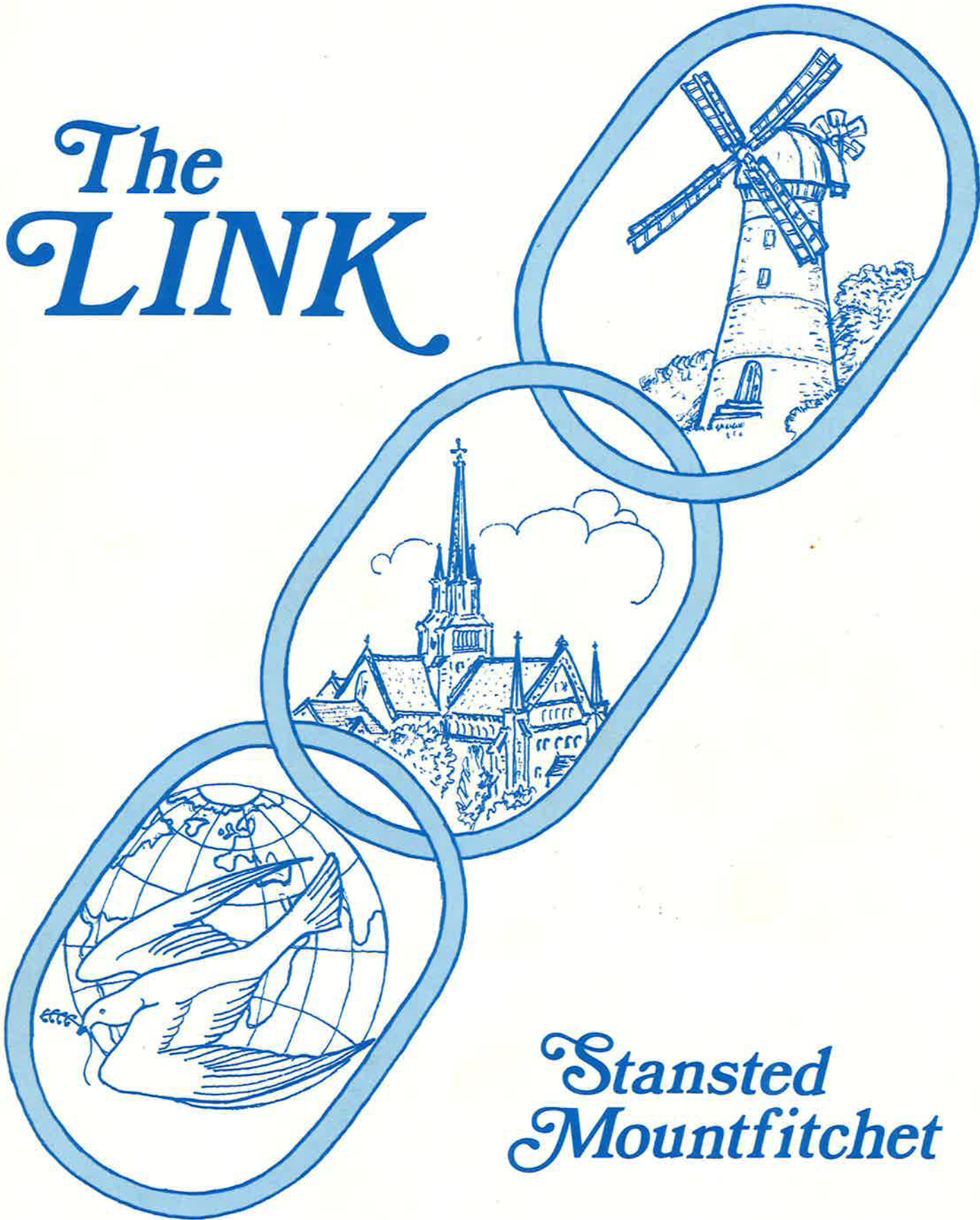


Mar 83

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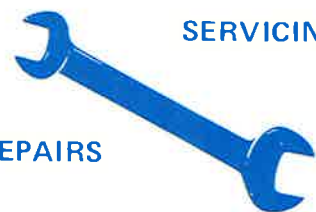
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## M. COLLINS Family News

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**Stansted Association of Christian Churches**

Many thanks to those who gave to the Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid. Total received was £119.43

.....

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 16 - 21 MAY 1983

When you're doing your Spring cleaning, perhaps you could find an article suitable for our Market Stall to be held on 21st May? If so, Mrs. Margaret Burton (814279) would be pleased to store it. (Not clothing or furniture, thank you).

.....

AN APPRECIATION

Seldom could two hours have been better spent in Stansted than at the evening Retreat held in St. Theresa's Church on 8th February. Fr. Jim Brand's unusual and penetrating approach brought home the essentials of human relationships in a way few of us had experienced and which we shall not easily forget. If only there had been more of us there! Our thanks go to Fr. Chapman, the ladies of St. Theresa's and of course, Fr. Jim.

We hope that there will be a next time.

P O L A N D

Janet Hollis  
Derek Honour  
Judy Goddard

The Sue Ryder Appeal continues - all kinds of clothing are needed still and if you have any items to donate, do please take them to the Causeway Car Park in Bishop's Stortford between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on Sunday 6 March 1983. Mr Michael King of Direct Removals is giving free use of a van to transport the clothing.

---

Copy should reach 48 St. John's Road  
by 17th March for the April issue  
and 14th April for the May issue.

## Roman Catholic

So it came at last, the snow. Of course, by the time you read this it may be like spring weather. However at the time of writing, it is snowing hard.

One of the first things that always strikes me whenever I see everywhere covered in snow is its covering properties. All those unsightly heaps of rubbish are turned into a picturesque snow-scape, and that ornamental garden becomes as pretty, all dressed in white, as that untidy and derelict waste land, again all dressed in white. The transformation is wonderful.

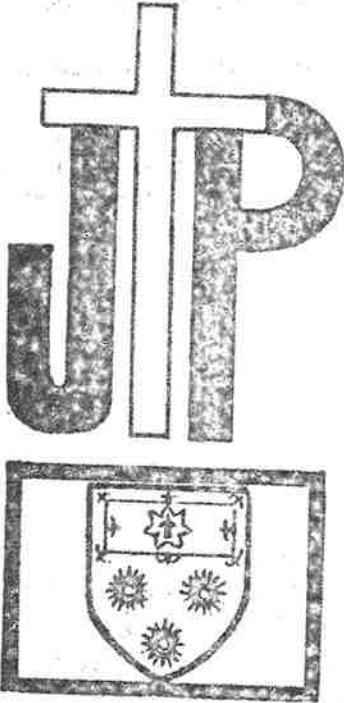
Long before the time of Jesus, his ancestors believed that God had chosen them in a rather special way and that He entered into an agreement or a covenant with them. If they on their part would comply with the directives and way of life shown to them by His spokesmen, the prophets as we call them, then He on His part would bless them with security, freedom from dire need, and give them the ability to progress and advance in what we now call a standard of living. Indeed we know from historical evidence what a wonderful race of people Jesus Christ's people were and still are. We also know from historical evidence that whenever they neglected to keep God's law as a general policy, then the fate of their nation went from bad to worse. It was such a period in their history when the great prophet Isaiah tried to lead his people back to a way of life pleasing to God. He is reported saying these words: "Take your wrong-doing out of my sight. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good, search for justice, help the oppressed, be just to the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us talk this over, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow....."

There is no such thing as a private evil, a private sin, just as there is no such thing as a private good. One way to picture this is to liken the affect we have on each other, to the national electricity grid. If many millions of private homes were to turn on electric fires at exactly the same moment, the effect on the power stations would be dramatically felt. If many millions of private homes were to turn to God in sincere and earnest prayer - - -I well, just read what happens as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 12. The word 'Church' means those people who believe in Jesus and endeavour to live as Jesus taught.

Wishing you all the best,

Fr. Chapman

JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESE



The aim of any Justice and Peace Commission is to replace the poverty and violence of this world with the justice and peace of the Gospels.

There has always been poverty and violence in the world because of human greed, selfishness and insecurity. Poverty and violence are not two big problems but millions of little ones, and they are overcome - or not - by millions of little people like you and me and the way we react to one another and to the situations we meet in our daily lives.

(Chairman of Brentwood Justice and Peace Commission)

As one of the "millions of little people" I was present at the inauguration of the new Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace at Brentwood last month

The atmosphere inside the packed cathedral was beyond description - excitement at the culmination of months of preparation combined with a strong sense of silent fellowship as we listened to the familiar words of peace in the Mass - words which took on a special meaning that day.

In his homily the Bishop emphasised two aspects of justice and peace. He spoke first about the need for every individual to uproot the seeds of hostility and aggression within himself, seeds which, when allowed to flourish, develop into national conflict. These personal inclinations must be replaced by a calm acceptance of God's will and a real love of all mankind, a sort of inner peace, before we can work for peace in the world.

Bishop McMahon then considered the quandary that many Christians face, how can the aims of justice and peace be best achieved? Certain controversial issues, such as the nuclear deterrent, unilateral or multilateral disarmament, the transfer of money to the Third World, could not be simply resolved. All Christians must follow their own consciences but their decision must be based on morality not on political or national interests.

The solemnity of the rite of commissioning which followed the homily was carried into the Consecration as over thirty concelebrating priests joined the Bishop around the altar and later moved throughout the cathedral to administer the Sacrament.

At the end of the Mass, after receiving the Bishop's blessing, the whole congregation was asked to make three commitments:-

- 1) to pray for the success of the Commission
- 2) to seek the inner peace, the state of mind described by the Bishop
- 3) to work for the establishment of a justice and peace group in every parish.

There are many people in Stansted who are working for justice and peace in their own particular way, either individually or in groups. If there is a need for a specifically named Justice and Peace Group, I believe that it should be ecumenical. I would be interested in Link readers opinions on this subject.

Ann Webb

## *Society of Friends*

### A QUAKER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

"Nature needs man that she may attain a richer and more refined being; man needs nature not only that he may live but see through her into the unfathomable mystery and miracle of creation."

H J Massingham  
An Englishmans Year. 1948.

It comes as no surprise to anyone with an interest in the countryside that the living landscape, which perhaps we take too much for granted, has been formed and changed by man over many thousands of years. Over the last fifty years the landscape has changed as mixed farming declines and is replaced by more specialised arable farms, a fact which Massingham much regretted in his time. However, the scale and rate of change are unprecedented in the history of our landscape.

As Bridleways Project Officer I am responsible for over 60 miles of bridleways and green lanes in the rural part of North and East Hertfordshire. The project, which started in September 1981, is sponsored by Hertfordshire County Council and the Countryside Commission, and employs only one member of staff. The bulk of the practical work is carried out by volunteers, students, community service offenders and more recently a three-man community programme team has been set up giving some of the long term unemployed the chance of a job.

The aims of the project are simply to provide useable routes in the countryside for walkers and horse-riders whilst also providing opportunities for wildlife and landscape improvements. The project has already opened up many blocked routes, provided bridges over ditches and streams, planted

trees where the elms have succumbed to Dutch Elm disease, and waymarked routes.

These bridleways and green lanes have become important features as many of the hedgerows and trees have been removed. They provide a useful refuge for wildlife and act as 'corridors' allowing animals such as deer to move safely in the countryside. In addition they break up the landscape which might otherwise be a barren arable prairie, so common nowadays in parts of East Anglia.

All in all the project continues to carry out a number of small improvements which when accumulated over time should make a significant contribution to conserving the countryside, its wildlife and landscape so that many might enjoy its beauty in the future.

Colin R Cheesman

Anyone who feels energetic and would like to help the project can contact me on BR 503574

*United Reformed*

At our recent AGM I quoted from a book published in 1895 called "In a Gloucestershire Garden" and written by one Canon Ellacombe. He was the vicar of Bitton, near Bristol, as was his father before him. The good canon served the parish for 66 years, until his death at the age of 94. Father and son served successively for a total of 99 years! Canon Ellacombe had time to love and love his garden well. These are the words I quoted; from the Garden in December:

"...There is no month in the year in which some, or indeed many, good flowers cannot be enjoyed. My own experience has been that a garden is a constant pleasure, and that the pleasure does not depend upon unbroken success. There will be many failures and frequent disappointments; there will be losses, sometimes of the flowers and fruits, and sometimes of the entire plants; there will be killing frosts, and long droughts, and unfruitful seasons; but the true gardener takes all these as necessary parts of his work - 'minds quiet and contented take', or may take, then all as necessary parts of the pleasures of his garden. That no season is altogether barren of pleasure....."

There is a good philosophy of life in this old gardener's observation and experience.

Failures and disappointments are built into life and nature - but they do not tell the whole story. Killing frosts, long droughts, and unfruitful seasons will doubtless occur but nature survives. Probably it can best be summed up in the idea of a great Patience underlying nature and life. "Underneath are the everlasting arms" says the Bible.

Our impatient spirits fret and fume at slow drivers, traffic lights (red, of course), late trains, letters that don't arrive overnight. The fact that we live in a world of instant coffee

and possibly instant annihilation makes it all the harder and all the more necessary to learn patience.

Only as we 'possess our souls in patience' will we learn the gardener's philosophy and say with Paul, "man plants but God gives the increase." We might even learn to survive. If not, the flowers will remain to mark our passing and Patient Nature will have the last word.

Eric McIlwain

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

are holding a

COFFEE MORNING

with Mini Sale and Cake Stall

at  
the U.R.C. Lecture Hall

on  
Saturday 12th March 1983

10.30 am onwards

ALL ARE WELCOME.



MEMBERSHIP / U.R.C. AWARDED SERVICES, 10:00 am, AT THE U.R.C.

MARCH 5th. Holy Communion, Preacher, Mr. Fisher

15th. Mrs L. Rabin and Mr. W. Harrison

20th. Mr. McIlwain and Mr. A. Jow

27th. Mr. Fisher

31st. EASTER HOLY COMMUNION, Mr. McIlwain

MEMBERSHIP / U.R.C. MORNING SCHOOL, BEGINNERS AT 7 pm., U.R.C. HALL

**Methodist**

Back to Basics

It is a long time since the Methodist Church in Stansted has met for worship on a Sunday evening; so it was most encouraging to see the Quaker Meeting House comfortably full for our family service on 30th January. It was especially exciting to welcome friends from the other Stansted churches.

David Youngs from Saffron Walden gave us his thoughts on the



basic implications of being or becoming a Christian. It can only be good for us to examine the foundations of our faith from time to time as we are all prone to subsidence when under pressure. We sometimes make the mistake of basing our lives on dogma inherited from our ancestors.

D O G M A  
H

F A I T H  
J E S U S

Thus we are burdened with numerous denominations within the Christian Church, and have been brainwashed into perpetuating them for all sorts of petty reasons. There is no place for nostalgia in the Church; Jesus is alive today, and he wants us to be alive with him. I believe that our young people should be given far more opportunity to take part in ecumenical activities, and I would appreciate feedback on how this might be achieved. Thank you Alison, Hannah, Julia, Michelle and the musicians for participating so helpfully on 30th January.

### Symbiosis

So at last we have come together; albeit for a trial period of four months. We need to pray very hard during this time that God will move in a very tangible way amongst his people as the URC and Methodist Church worship together at 10 am on Sundays. In anticipation of our stronger ties in the future our young people have been meeting together since last October on Sunday evenings from 7 to 9 pm in the URC hall for a varied programme of home-brewed games, and visits from guest speakers. Among the highlights so far have been a visit from Peter Smith with his almost unbelievable collection of whistles, and a most enlightening series of practical demonstrations of watercolour and oil painting by Arthur Law. In addition we have watched some vintage films of such places as Angola and Liechtenstein. Our February meetings were spent preparing for a youth service held on 27th February in Stansted URC at 11 am and repeated at Gaces Acre, Newport, at 6.30 pm. There will be a full report of that next month. On behalf of the Methodist youth, I should like to thank Peter and Valerie Trundle for making us so welcome on Sunday evenings.

Michael Dyer

### Prayer & Praise

If anyone doubts that the Spirit is really moving in his people then come along to the Bishop's Stortford Prayer & Praise meeting on 9th March. The speaker is Rev'd. Jean Darnall; she certainly has no denominational hangups, but is not afraid to speak out for what she believes in. So why not come along to the Methodist Church, South Street, Bishop's Stortford, at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 9th March, to hear it like it is?

### Fellowship Meetings:

Please note that we shall not be meeting on Mondays during Lent, and we would urge everyone to attend the SACC Lenten services, which are advertised elsewhere in LINK.

# Church of England

## FROM THE VICAR

Members of the Parochial Church Council have made a very brave decision. Faced with a deficit in last year's accounts they have decided that we must continue to give to charities and missions to the tune of £750. This amount will have to be taken from slender reserves. Some would say this is foolhardy and yet I am sure that a Church which lives to itself dies by itself. Somehow, despite the difficulties, we have to keep looking out. I am grateful to the PCC for making this Christian stand.



We would not be in this position if everyone was putting into practice the Stewardship policy we urged last year and about which our Stewardship Chairman, Mike Steed, has written in this month's Link. The giving in this parish is very good and we are grateful for the response we had to last year's renewal campaign. But I say to those who have not yet taken on board stewardship, please think about it and if you want further information ring Mike on 813226.

What happens when our reserves are exhausted? I do not know but I remind myself that the Church advances when it takes risks.

\* \* \* \* \*

St John's Appeal has, of course, meant the raising of money and I am so grateful that people keep on doing their bit here and there. There is no doubt that many feel the agony in raising money for a building when millions in the world are starving - and yet here we have a building which is meeting needs of people in this place and all we are trying to do is to keep the water out. I write this on Ash Wednesday when we have had the St Mary's School Eucharist, Holy Communion in mid-morning and Sung Eucharist in the evening. Despite the agony I am convinced that we must do our best to get St John's in good repair.

We are about to accept tenders for the next stage of the work which includes reshingling the main spire, replacing the lead on top of the tower and retiling the south chancel roof, lady chapel roof and south transept roof. The south aisle roof is also to be renewed.

This is going to cost in the region of £25,000 to £30,000 to which we hope the Department of the Environment will contribute 40%. When you walk around the village, look and



see how many times you see St John's spire (it is particularly impressive coming down Grove Hill) and think how poorer Stansted would be without it, then, if you have not yet made a covenant please consider doing so. Ring Peter Pavitt on 812567.

Money, money, money? But do remember that the money is not for me or the PCC. I seem to have spent much of my ministry being concerned with repairing buildings and raising money, and that in itself can be frustrating. Perhaps some advice to young clergy before accepting a new parish should be "have the building surveyed!"

\* \* \* \* \*

As you know Fr Andrew's last Sunday with us will be Easter Day. We are having a bring and share supper on Tuesday 5th April from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm and we hope many will come to wish the Proud family every happiness in their new home. As Andrew and Janice have had a great deal to do with young parents and their children we hope this earlier time will enable everyone to come along -- children and all.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

On Palm Sunday evening there is a devotion for congregation and choir entitled 'The Cross of Christ' in St John's at 6.30 pm. It is a service of hymns, readings and anthems published by the Royal School of Church Music.

\* \* \* \* \*

I wish you a very Happy Easter and Holy Week and may God Bless you.

\* \* \* \* \*



## THE PROUDS ARE ON THE MOVE!



There seems to be some confusion! As you all know, we're moving to Boreham Wood after Easter. But many of you have asked us "where is Boreham Wood?" Well, it's in Hertfordshire, not far from Watford, next to Barnet, and bordering the London Borough of Edgware, just within the London Telephone district. I haven't actually tried this out, but they tell me it is 15 minutes drive from St Albans; 10 minutes from Brent Cross and 20 minutes from Regent's Park. Oh, and it's only 45 minutes from Stansted.

Boreham Wood was once a village, and is now a large housing estate which sprang up in the 1950s. There are some 40 or 50 thousand people living there, most of whom would probably tell you that Boreham Wood, and the Pinewood Studios, is where they shot all of the special effects for "Star Wars." There were once two Parishes in the town, but now, they have divided it up into three areas within one Team, of which we will be a part, looking after the Parish of St Michael and All Angels. St Michael's is a modern Church, built in 1954. It stands on the corner of a crossroads, with a Hall next to it, built on to the Church itself; the Vicarage is then next door to that. During the week, we have three Communion services, and on Sundays we have two services: 8.00 am Communion and a 9.30 am Family Communion. They use the A.S.B. Rite 'A' at all of their services.

As you have probably guessed, I won't be on my own. There is a very good Team to back me up, which meets at least twice a week. There is a Team Rector, another Team Vicar besides myself, a Stipendiary Deaconess with me at St Michael's, and a Curate with the Team Rector. The Team Rector used to be the Curate at St Francis, Welwyn Garden City when I sung in the choir there as a boy ... so there will still be someone to keep an eye on me!

The service of Installation and Licensing will be on Monday, 25th April, at St Michael's at 8.00 pm.

## T I N Y T O T S

Yes, we're still here! If you have pre-School age children, and have always been looking for an excuse to bring them to Church, then we provide that excuse for you on the second and fourth Tuesdays in every month in St John's at 2.15 pm. After a short service with lots of familiar songs for the children and a story, we all go over to the Hall for tea or squash and biscuits. And we still manage to finish in plenty of time for you to collect your older children from school! If you are interested, do come along, we would love to see you.

JUST ONE MINUTE, please, to think about that 'ONE-HOUR' PROMISE  
says Michael Steed, Stewardship Committee Chairman.

We are known as a 'Stewardship' parish. There is a notice for visitors in our two churches saying that there are no collections at our services as givings are on a regular pledged basis with members promising to give a set amount weekly, monthly or annually.

Each autumn, the parish's Stewardship Committee conducts a renewal when members pledge a year of service and dedication as well as giving. Father Andrew this last autumn devised and led a renewal on a novel theme of 'One-Hour-a-Week Commitment.' Our congregations were asked to consider a minimum commitment of one hour each week to some form of work or service to the church, one hour to attend a church service, one hour of prayer and/or bible reading (less than ten minutes a day!) and to give the equivalent of one hour's salary or nett income weekly to God's work in this parish.

As the half-way six-months post arrives, the Stewardship Committee would like to ask members if they constantly remind themselves of their 'one-hour' commitment? When one looks around at the amount of work being done for and in the church and at the attendances and enthusiasm of the 'Partners in Planning' house meetings, one feels that possibly no reminders are necessary. But your Stewardship Committee would like to feel that the pledges are being remembered daily by all those who made them a few months ago. What we are really suggesting is that 'one-hour worship, one-hour prayer, one-hour service,' was a dedicated promise for a full year and not just a gimmick at renewal time. It is so easy at that time to say 'this is a great idea' and then for the theme to be gradually forgotten. We hope this is not the case this year. Forgive us giving your memories this little 'jog'.

0000000000

#### MOTHERS' UNION

On Thursday, 24th March, the Stansted MU will be hosts for the Deanery Service which will take place in St John's at 7.00 pm. Tea will follow in the Hall. This will be the 17th monthly meeting.  
Queenie Sweet.

0000000000

#### IRISH REGISTERS

##### Baptisms

17th February	Timothy Andrew Leet,	3 Coltsfield.
1st January	George John Samuel Hamlyn,	13 Maitland Road Aged 62 yrs
17th January	John Barry Percy Patmore,	2 Woodfield Terrace Aged 49 yrs
17th February	Thomas Irons,	15 Gilbey Crescent, Aged 78 yrs

### RE-SITING OF MEMORIAL STONES

The Parochial Church Council of Stansted Mountfitchet have applied for a faculty to re-site 13 memorial stones in order to make room for more burials. The stones are:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.	Jane Levey	1845
2.	?? Palmer	1858
	John Craddock	?
3.	Mary Palmer	1858
4.	James Ratcliffe	1820
5.	Ann Ratcliffe	1851
6.	John Ratcliffe	1851?
7.	? ?	1866
	Mary Ratcliffe	1856
	and son Harry Ratcliffe	1836
8.	Henry Ratcliffe	1877
9.	Catherine Ratcliffe	1879
10.	Eliza Annie Ratcliffe	1881
	and Arthur	1893
11.	Sarah Elizabeth Byatt	1866
12.	Edith Norman	1916
	Ellen Francis	1898
	Edith Stella	1903
13.	Mr John Raven	1830
	also Mrs ??	??

It is not possible to decipher all inscriptions. If anyone has any objections to re-siting these memorial stones would they please write to D W Faull, Guy Harlings, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1NG. The Vicar of Stansted is willing to answer any queries. His address is, The Vicarage, 5 St John's Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, M24 8JP. Tel: 812203.

#### PARISH DIARY

##### MARCH

- 1st House Communion at 1 Mary Macarthur Place 8.00 pm
- 2nd House Communion at 7 St John's Road 8.00 pm
- 6th Preacher: Canon Peter Marshall "Theological Reflections on the Nuclear Debate" Stall for Mothering Sunday
- 8th The Youth Group presents..... 6.30 pm
- 8th PCC at 10 Hargrave Close, 8.00 pm
- 9th House Communion at 22 Bentfield Causeway 8.00 pm
- 13th Mothering Sunday. Family Communion 9.30 am with flowers
- 14th Social Committee 8.00 pm in Vicarage.
- 15th House Communion at 14 Cawkell Close 8.00 pm
- 16th Children's Church Teachers' meeting, 20 Rainsford Rd 8.00 pm. House Communion 43 Gilbey Crescent, 8.00pm

Parish Diary, continued:

March:

- 19th Preacher at 9.30 am: Rev'd Robert Browne from  
USPC 'The Worldwide Church'. Songs of Praise  
at 6.30 pm.
- 21st Parish Annual General Meeting 7.45 pm in St John's Hall
- 22nd House Communion at 3 Park Road, 8.00 pm
- 23rd House Communion at 7 Croasdaile Close 8.00 pm
- 24th Mothers' Union Deanery Service 3.00 pm in St John's.
- 26th Confirmation Day on Worship.
- 27th Palm Sunday. For Services in Holy Week, please  
see separate list.

H O L Y W E E K S E R V I C E S

(All services from Palm Sunday to  
Holy Saturday held in St John's)

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 27 March<br>Palm Sunday     | Holy Communion 8.00 am<br>Procession beginning in church hall<br>and Family Communion 9.30 am<br>Holy Communion BCP 11.15 am<br>The Cross of Christ 6.30 pm  |
| 28 March                    | Holy Communion 9.30 pm   |
| 29 March                    | Holy Communion 7.30 pm   |
| 30 March                    | Stations of the Cross 8.00 pm<br>Holy Communion 10.00 am   |
| 31 March<br>Maundy Thursday | Stations of the Cross 8.00 pm<br>Holy Communion (Rite B) 10.00 am<br>Sung Eucharist (Rite A) 8.00 pm   |
| 1 April<br>Good Friday      | Chain of Prayer 9.00 pm to Midnight<br>Holy Hour 12 noon conducted by<br>Canon Alan Mackenzie<br>Children's Service 2.00 pm<br>United Service 7.30 pm<br>Easter Vigil Service 8.00 pm  |
| 2 April<br>Easter Eve       |  |
| 3 April<br>Easter Day       | Holy Communion BCP 7.00 am St John's<br>Holy Communion (Rite B) 8.00 am St Mary's<br>Family Communion (Rite A) 9.30 am St John's<br>Sung Communion (Rite B) 11.15 am St Mary's<br>Holy Baptisms 4.00 pm St John's<br>Sung Evensong 6.30 pm St Mary's |

# Village News

## FUTURE EVENTS

### March

- 3rd - 8 p.m. SACC Lenten Service at Quaker Meeting House  
4th - 8 p.m. Darts Match at Football Club in aid of  
Stansted Sports Association  
10th - 8 p.m. SACC Lenten Service at St. John's Church  
12th - 10.30am URC Guild Coffee Morning at URC Lecture Hall  
16th - 10.30am Royal British Legion Women's Section Coffee  
Morning at Beverley House, 55 Chapel Hill  
17th 8 p.m. SACC Lenten Service at United Reformed Church  
19th 2.30pm Carnival Committee Jumble Sale at St. John's  
Hall for Carnival funds  
22nd 8 p.m. Stansted Millers AGM at Friends Meeting  
House with talk by H.I. Sanders on "A View  
of Old Stansted" - open to all  
24th 8 p.m. SACC Agape Supper at United Reformed Church Hall

### An Apology

We are so sorry that one of the telephone numbers at the end of SOUND's entry last month was incorrectly reproduced. Richard Shervington's number is of course 812022 and we are sorry too that the subscriber of the other number was inconvenienced.

oOo

### Thank You So Much

Two valiant male volunteers have come forward to offer help in the duplicating process. This is a great relief since the whole burden of duplicating has up to now fallen on John Newby.

oOo

### STANSTED MILLERS

Stansted Millers will be holding their A.G.M. on Tuesday 22nd March in the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill at 8 p.m.

Following the business Mr. H.I. Sanders will give a supported talk entitled "A view of old Stansted". Members and non members are very welcome.



## Stansted Carnival

Carnival Day this year is Saturday 25th June - a date for your diary.

The Carnival Committee are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 19th March at 2.30pm in St. John's Hall, St. John's Road, to raise funds for the Carnival. Your help and support would be gratefully received. If you have any jumble, or would be able to help, please ring B/S 812755.

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## STANSTED SENIORS CLUB

The first meeting of the new year was a games afternoon, and it was good to welcome Mr. Williams from the League of Friends of Herts and Essex Hospital on February 2nd, who spoke on the work of the League. Many were surprised to know of the many articles provided for the comfort of patients and nurses, and of the amount of work the League does. One or two club members have joined the League of Friends, and a donation was given to Mr. Williams for the work. Our chairman Mrs. L. Winch is Publicity Officer for the League.

Some members of our Club went to the most enjoyable party given by the League at the Hospital on the 4th January and several came home with Raffle prizes!

## AFTERNOON W.I.

### January

At our New Year's Party we were happy to welcome our guests, members from Ugley, Henham, Birchanger, Elsenham, Farnham and Stansted Evening Institutes. We were entertained by young amateur members of "SNAP" who gave their own very funny version of Cinderella and then sang songs we could all join in.

During the afternoon we all signed a card for Mrs. Essington-Boulton's 90th birthday.

Mrs. Palmer won the competition for a slice of Christmas cake.

### February

Station Officer Wild based at Harlow Fire Station gave members very useful reminders for preventing fires in the home. He also explained how to call the Fire Brigade properly, the use of a fire blanket and how smoke detectors help. With the aid of the booklets given out we should now know just what care should be taken in the kitchen, with electrical appliances etc.

The Competition "What would you grab first in a fire and why?" was won by Mrs. M. Thomason, who also won the Television Quiz which ended the afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on 9th March at the Youth Centre, Lower Street at 2.30. The speaker will be Mr. Hastings talking about "In and around London". New members and visitors are very welcome to come.

Getting coats on and going out to a meeting seems to be very much an attitude of mind. Certainly our members showed much dedication and determination when they turned out in blizzards and deep snow for our February meeting. Perhaps T.V. has really started to lose its grip on us all as a recently reported survey showed.

At our January meeting we were lucky enough to have Councillor Rita Humphries to talk to us about the Day Centre now in course of construction and for which donations are needed. As a result it was decided at our February meeting to hold a special fund-raising event in April in the form of a cookery demonstration by Sainsburys. So make up your minds to put on your coats and go out to support it when we start selling tickets. It promises to be a good evening.

By the way, if you still don't know much about the Day Centre or want to know more, why not put on those coats again, tear yourselves away from television and go to the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held soon. All your questions will be answered.

Pearl Wellings

National Housewives Register

For those women interested in talking about matters other than domesticity.

Local Organisers: Katy Dockerill Bishop's Stortford 812997  
Libby Martin Bishop's Stortford 812907  
Please contact either for further information about our group

We started our new programme on Monday 24th January with a discussion on what we should tell our children about sex, death and religion. After a number of members had entertained us with amusing and sad personal anecdotes we generally agreed that the important aspect to bear in mind is that you are clear in your own mind about what you are going to say long before the question is asked.

Our next meeting was dug on Thursday 10th February but due to adverse weather conditions, ie snow and lots of it, we thought better about travelling to Henham to a member's home and have postponed this meeting to Thursday 10th March.

Future Meetings:

Tuesday 1st March on auction to dispose of jumble and unwanted Christmas presents. Proceeds to go towards those attending the National Conference in Newcastle. Thursday 10th March a controversial programme on television has been video-taped for us to view and discuss. Postponed from 10th February, venue will remain the same. Monday 21st March a speaker from Amnesty International will visit our group for a talk and general discussion. Wednesday 30th March Book group meeting, discussing *The White Hotel*, D.M. Thomas; *Jude the Obscure*, Thomas Hardy; *Unreliable Memoirs*, Clive James..

Libby Martin

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Stansted and District Branch of the Royal British Legion are pleased to announce that the Revd. B.W. Ottaway, M.A. of the Rectory, Farnham has accepted an invitation to become Chaplain to the Branch. The Revd. Ottaway has supported the work of the Legion over many years in other parts of Essex before he moved into the area a year or so ago.

### Women's Section

At the monthly meeting on 20th January Mr. Stacey from Saffron Walden gave a talk on "Old Walden" illustrated with some fascinating slides. These showed the Anglican Church - without its spire which was not erected until 1832; the London Road Hospital which took in its first patient in 1966; the market square as it was in 1854/55; the old (now U.R.) Church and the present one erected in 1879. He told us that Walden had its streets lighted by gas from 1836 and was one of the pioneers in this field due to the generosity of the Gibson family. Miss Trott thanked Mr. Stacey for a most interesting evening.

Refreshments were organized by Mrs. Brace and Mrs. Bugg. Raffle winners were Miss Saville, Mrs. Camp, Mrs. Clower, Miss Trott, Mrs. Measures, Miss Hill, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Bugg.

The visit to the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford is on Wednesday 2nd March and the next Group Meeting is at Thaxted on Wednesday 9th March.

At our next monthly meeting on Thursday 17th March Mr. Hester, Warden of Hatfield Forest, will be coming to talk about his work as a warden, illustrated by slides.

REMEMBER - Coffee morning at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Crabb, Wednesday 16th March, 10.30am - Bring & Buy and Raffle.

Pat Clower

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### STANSTED AND DISTRICT CND

There will be a discussion meeting of the group on Monday 28th March. Phone 813997 for venue. New members welcome.

### SOUND - Society Opposing Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament

We have been greatly encouraged by the response to our new society and especially by the number of young people who agree with the aims of our non-party organisation and believe that world peace, religious and political freedom, democracy and human rights are more likely to be achieved by multi-lateral disarmament. It was also an encouragement to us that in February the Synod of the Church of England took this view.

Following a suggestion by a Parish councillor we have invited the local officers of CND to meet us to see if there

## SOUND - cont'd

is any possibility of a common approach to the complex issues of disarmament and defence. Subsequently we plan to have a meeting in the spring of interested people to plan future developments and hope that readers of The Link will watch its pages for the date. We would stress that our policy is to avoid violent demonstrations and the abuse of those who hold a different point of view.

In the meantime, those who have not already done so can express their interest in SOUND by telephoning Richard Shervington (812022) or Janet Hollis (812073).

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## A NEW ORGANISATION: Stansted World Development Movement 'Water means Life'

After a series of self-education meetings since first getting together in October 1981, we have identified a project, which is not only topical (can water really go on strike?) but could also provide a significant boost to the health of a whole village in NE Thailand. In a letter recently written from that area, Sister Mary of the Good Shepherd Sisters writes: 'Now that the dry season is setting in, everyone is crying out for water. We have already helped villagers to construct eleven wells. The villagers cooperate by digging the wells and, with the donations we receive, we supply concrete rings, cement, sand and gravel. Our aim is to help village by village, a minimum of one well to begin with - this often involves clearing and repairing an existing one which is usually highly polluted and held in place by rotting planks - then when possible increase the number to four wells per village. This does not apply to every area as in many places there is too much salt in the soil. The people from those areas must draw water from the nearest well - often at a distance of 2 to 4 km.'

We have prepared a leaflet for every house in Stansted so that everyone can have the opportunity of making a contribution to a very specific cause. It costs £175 for each well and there are literally thousands of deprived villages without a local supply of clean water. So please help to get Stansted Mountfitchet inscribed on a well in SE Asia. If you do not have a leaflet, but would like to make a gift towards a well (have you given up anything for Lent?) then our treasurer, Alan Dean, will be pleased to hear from you at 49 Recreation Ground, Stansted CM24 8BD. Tel 913579.

## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Some of the children have been making scrap books. We were kept very busy cutting pictures from magazines and old club books and were told in no uncertain terms which pictures they wanted.

The ones we thought attractive would be discarded with a vigorous shake of the head and we were urged to try again.

### Huw Johnson Club cont'd

One lad despaired of my efforts, turned to another helper, tapped his head and pointed at me as if to indicate that I was a little lacking "up top". He knew I was watching him and when I threatened retaliation it ended up with lots of laughter.

At the other end of the hall there was some spirited dancing going on to Irish Music. Not I may say the beautiful elegant Irish dancing with arms held at the side but a much more abandoned rendering.

Mark and Julie decided to leave the scrap books and join in. Hair and clothes were flying as we galloped around, first one way then the other - in the end I noticed quite a resemblance to the Lancers (?).

Puffing and blowing, hardly able to breathe, Brian's comment to us other helpers "It must be doing us good" was received with a great deal of doubt. Any onlookers who saw us collapse onto chairs when the music stopped must have felt very dubious about our fitness. Perhaps if we keep it up we shall benefit. I'll keep you informed.

Betty Lockwood

### Sideways Nursery School

We would like to express our very great thanks to everyone who responded to our appeal for jumble last month. The quality of the jumble we received was very high indeed and those jumble-sale addicts who braved the snow to attend were able to find some real bargains. Although we did not have many customers, and only sold half the jumble, we made a magnificent profit of £100, which will provide more play equipment for the children. Again, many thanks.

### NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST Stansted & District Group

All mums are welcome to our events - and that means expectant mums too - so do continue to support us. As well as social events, we also provide an ante-natal teacher (Barbara Ball in Dunmow) and a breast-feeding counsellor (Cathy Leek on 813068).

#### Diary for March

Friday 4th Under 1's & Expectant Mums at 60 St. John's Road 10.30 to 12 noon. Monday 7th A.G.M. at 3 Coltsfield 7.45 for 8pm. Dr. Dennis Hardy will talk on 'Sleep in the Early Years'. Friday 11th Under 1's & Expectant Mums at 26 Longcroft 10.30 to 12 noon. Friday 18th Under 1's & Expectant Mums at 79 Rainsford Road 10.30 to 12 noon. Monday 21st Open House at Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill 2 - 4pm. There will be a display of Easter Eggs to order at very reasonable prices, and for the 'littlies' there will be an Easter Bonnet Competition. Do come and join the fun! Friday 25th Under 1's & Expectant Mums at 10 Cawkell Close 10.30 to 12 noon.

Our contacts are Chris Nash 812757, Hilary Pinder 814218 or Cathy Leek 813068.

## BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

How do you make a siege weapon or ballista which will propel a 10 gram ball of plasticine over a distance of 6 metres and hit a castle keep 1 metre high? Pupils from schools in the area have been considering just this for the past few months and the variety of models which they came up with was truly amazing. Mostly made from wood they ranged from less than one to a few feet high. Rubber bands, elastic, hinges, springs, metal bands and twisted string were all used in various ways as were the wheels of a pram and plastic and wooden spoons.

We gathered, dressed in appropriate costume, in the playground of the Peter Kirk school on a cold, windy February afternoon to find out how well they would all work. The first engagement involved each school using all the machines they had made to fire 100 plasticine balls at the castle. We scored 10 if one landed in the keep and 1 if it fell in the perimeter of the castle. Bentfield scored 46. The second part of the competition involved each school's best machine in a rapid firing assault. How many balls could we get into the castle keep in one minute. Most schools only managed one.

There were no prizes as such but Malcolm Lewis in Class 8 was commended for having the best looking machine of the afternoon. I took lots of photographs and we all had a jolly good time and are now looking forward to the next time we all meet - I wonder what the children will be called upon to 'invent' next.

Janice Wray

## THE MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL

### ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOLS GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR BOYS

With over 120 Secondary Schools in Essex the 'TEN TOP BOYS GYMNASTICS SCHOOLS' entered this year's rebirth of the County Championships. The Mountfitchet School Boys Team from one of the smallest Comprehensives of around 700 Boys and Girls, was competing against some of the largest schools, Chelmsford, for example, having about twice the number of pupils.

The Competition took place at the Boswells School, Chelmsford, on Tuesday afternoon, 8th February. Each school had a squad of 5 boys with 4 of each team to count in the overall scoring. Each competitor had to perform a compulsory vault over a 1 metre or 1.25 metre box - this vault being a 'Through Vault'. They then had to perform a voluntary vault out of a group of 5 graded vaults - graded due to their degree of difficulty.

The second phase of the competition required a floor sequence of movements lasting 30 seconds to 1 minute and marked according to difficulty and continuity.

The first boy to compete for the Mountfitchet was Brian Davies who with a total mark of 28.8 put the school amongst the top 5 after the 1st round.

### The Mountfitchet School cont'd

Second to perform was Patrick Banks who made up ground and produced a good mark of 31.4. Colin Davies performed an excellent routine with a mark of 33.4 to take the school closer to the leading three schools - another excellent performance by Richard Moth produced a nail biting finish through a tense afternoon of competition. Richard scored 32.3 to place Mountfitchet school 3rd - .5 of a mark behind the Plume School, Maldon. (Nigel Rawlings was our 5th competitor as Reserve).

Out of nearly 60 competitors Colin Davies came 4th.

The school Team did exceptionally well in their first serious competition. All boys were 'Home Grown', learning and developing their skills during school lunch time and evening practices. None of the Mountfitchet boys were just entered by the school to compete because they were members of outside Gymnastics Club. This aspect was a very pleasing one for the teachers and pupils involved.

B. Almond  
Head of P E Department

### COMPUTER-ASSISTED CAREERS ADVICE

The Mountfitchet School was the first school in the area to use a new computer-assisted careers advice scheme. Pupils participating take a 3½ hour test, starting with simple questions and gradually becoming more difficult which are devised to examine all the various skills which they possess, be they practical or academic.

The results appear about a week later, in a booklet form listing the special talents and attributes of the pupil, and recommending a particular area of occupation which they could follow. There are also lists of suitable jobs within that range, and addresses to write to for further information. Parents have to pay for this service, and the price ranges from £10 to £25, depending upon the detail of the results supplied.

Although it is a very new scheme, first results seem very encouraging, and it is hoped that this will be a valuable addition to the careers advice services which the School offers to pupils.

FIELD STUDY COURSES Some senior pupils have recently been spending time at the Bradwell Outdoor Studies Centre as part of the 'O' Level Biology and Rural Science Courses.

A group of senior boys have also recently visited the Wood-working Exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre.

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### THE HERTS AND ESSEX SELF-SUFFICIENCY GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 9th and will take the form of a "Forum" of some of our more expert members answering questions about all forms of livestock, from chickens and rabbits to cattle and horses.

The meeting will be held at Newport Village Hall, commencing at 8pm, and will be followed by a buffet supper - so bring a little something to add to the spread.

Herts and Essex Self-Sufficiency Group cont'd

Admission to non-members is 60p.

For more information, or transport, ring:

Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Frogley 812617 or

Mr. & Mrs. T. Guyer 814762

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The sudden cold weather caused a drop in attendance at our February meeting, but those hardy souls who ventured out enjoyed the two films on the year's work in the garden provided by Murphy Chemicals. Naturally there was great emphasis on the use of the company's products, but that apart, it was an informative evening. As the films were quite short, we finished the evening with two quizzes, which were amusing and enlightening.

On Monday March 7th we will be having a return visit from Mr. C. Collins. His subject this time will be "Water Gardens". As usual this meeting will be in the Youth Centre Annex at 8pm. Also during this month we will be visiting the Orchid Nursery at Great Bardfield. Details will be available at the March meeting.

S.I. Frogley  
812617

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STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Tennis Club will take place on Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm at 'Little Fosters', 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. All enquiries to Janet Hollis - B/S 812073.

The 1983 season starts officially on 1st April. We hope that coaching will be available during the Easter holidays.

There is a Darts Match between the Tennis Club, Football Club and Cricket Club on Friday 4th March at 8pm at the Football Club. 1983 is the Golden Jubilee of Stansted Sports Association and all proceeds from the Darts Match will go to the Association. Any supporters will be very welcome.



### 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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