

Apr 84

# The **LINK**



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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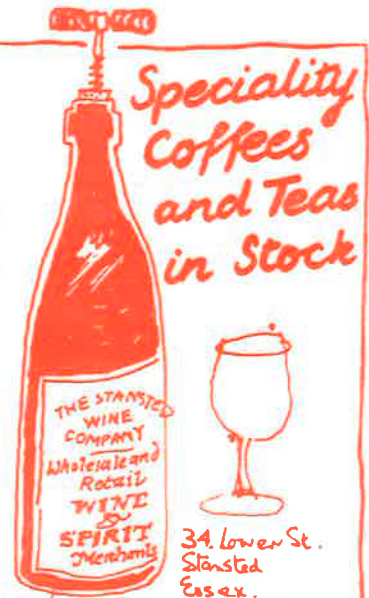
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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

LENT SERVICES

The series of services in Lent ends with an Agape Service and meal in the United Reformed Church Hall at 8 pm on Thursday 12th April. The meal afterwards is a "Bring and Share". Wine, soft drinks and coffee will be provided.

The Executive meet on Tuesday 1st May in the United Reformed Church Hall at 8 pm.

Advance Notice

Christian Aid Week: 13-19 May.

Copy to reach 48 St. John's Road by  
12th April for May issue  
17th May for June issue

**THE LINK**

The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches.  
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Mrs Jan Taylor, 27 St John's Crescent, Tel: 813891.

Items for publication (news, letters, articles, etc) should be delivered to  
Mrs Mair Muir, 48 St John's Road, Tel: 812289.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those  
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# SACC

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The Executive meet on Tuesday May 1st in the United Reformed Church Hall at 8 pm.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14 - 19 MAY

As usual, there will be a door-to-door envelope collection during this week.

The Christian Aid Market will be held on Saturday 19th May 10-12 a.m. at the Friends Meeting House. There will be the following stalls:-

Plants and garden produce  
Books and toys  
Cakes and jams etc.  
Groceries  
Handicrafts  
White elephant  
Good-as-new clothing

Will anybody who has contributions for any of these stalls please contact their church Christian Aid representative. These are:-

Church of England - Vera Ansell  
Tel: 815949  
Methodist - Ann Boyd  
Tel: 812148  
Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579  
Roman Catholic - Mary Warnett  
Tel: 814521  
Rita Yates  
Tel: 59038  
Society of Friends - Angela Gough  
Tel: 813728  
United Reformed Church - Dorothy Oswald  
Tel: 814758  
Olive Bunting  
Tel: 813184

### CHRISTIAN AID INDONESIAN EVENING

To launch Christian Aid Week there will be a social evening on Friday 11th May at 7.00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House.

A film about Indonesia will be shown and Indonesian food will be served.

There will be a charge of £1 for adults and 50p for children. So make a note in your diaries and join us for an enjoyable evening.

Catherine Dean

### FIVE TALENTS OR ONE?

Like the man in the parable, have you a hidden talent lying unused? Here is your chance then to dig it out of the ground and invest it in a very profitable venture!

All the churches are combining for this venture (that's five talents we hope to multiply!) - a scintillating social afternoon on June 30th, to be held in the grounds of St. Theresa's Church.

To make the afternoon really go with a swing we are providing non-stop entertainment - home-grown of course! But we need your one talent (or two or five talents) singing, dancing, music, conjuring, acting or whatever.

So, if you have anything to offer please contact your S.A.C.C. representative (or tel. 812010). We will certainly say "Well done ....."

(P.S. We will also be needing volunteers to collect money, serve food etc., more details next month.)

### ANNUAL CAROL SINGING

The 1983 "season" was less well supported by singers than in previous years, but the door-to-door collection was proportionately as good as ever. The beneficiary is SWAG - the Saffron Walden Accident Group. The Group consists of local doctors and ancillary helpers who attend accidents or indeed any incident in a Flying Squad capacity, often in advance of the ambulance service. Their help is entirely voluntary, so the sum raised by the singers - £76.93 - is greatly appreciated. We understand that the money is being spent on a special splint. The singers are grateful for the hospitality of the hosts who provided sustenance to ward off the effects of wind and rain, and, of course, to the donors.

This year we hope to enlarge the catchment area for both carol singers and collectors. Those who join in have said that a few hours spent in good company and a worthy cause contributes to a complete Christmas. Please bear it in mind.

D. Honour

PRAISE  
HIM!

## Church of England

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

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

Deaconess Margaret Booker  
Moorlands Cottage, Burton End  
Tel: 812684

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

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

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

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

### FROM THE VICAR

In 1963 all the clergy of the Diocese of Chelmsford were summoned by the Bishop to attend a conference at Butlin's Holiday Camp in Clacton. At the time I was a curate working in Forest Gate and I well remember the look of dismay on the faces of the Butlin's holiday makers as over 500 clergymen descended on the camp pouring through the gates and making their presence felt in all the bars.

The Bishop called us together to consider the plans for 1964 which was the Golden Jubilee of our Diocese. On Easter Eve of that year the Bishop kindled a flame at Bradwell, the place where St Cedd landed in the 7th century bringing Christianity to Essex. That living flame was taken to the cathedral and from there it was carried to every parish in the Diocese. It was a reminder to us that our first task as Christians is to engage in mission.



Now 20 years on we are keeping the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Chelmsford, and the events and services which have been planned will be advertised in The Link. On Thursday May 10th at 8pm there is a Diocesan Eucharist at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will preach. We have only a few tickets for this service but if you would like to attend please let me know.



As we support the planned events we will realise that ours is a very large Diocese, covering not only the County of Essex, but also the five London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. Within its borders live two and a half million people. Parts of our Diocese are poor and suffer from the problems that face many inner city areas. Mission for them is very difficult. How can we help them? We need to make sure that we always pay our Family Purse assessment in full. This year we are asked to pay over £10,000 to the Diocese. This is a large sum to raise but it is not above our means. Indeed a case could be made for our paying more to help parishes in such places as Canning Town. But we will only be able to do this if we accept and rejoice in the fact that mission is the primary task of the Church - for then we will want to share with others the riches we have received through our faith in Jesus Christ and will want to give in abundance.

\* \* \* \* \*  
This month we have said goodbye to Ashley and Betty Phoenix. They have lived in Stansted for many years but have now returned to their homeland, Northern Ireland. We thank them for all they have done and wish them every happiness.

I remind you that from Easter Day until the end of September we use St Mary's Church for some of our services. Details are given elsewhere. Alan Barber, captain of our bell ringers and considered to be one of the finest captains in this part of the country, is hoping to recruit more volunteers in order that the bells at St Mary's can be rung regularly. If you want to help please give him a ring on 812105 or contact Alan Corbishley on 813040.

\* \* \* \* \*  
I wish you every happiness this coming Eastertide  
May the joy of the Risen Lord fill our hearts.



OUR  
HOLY  
WEEK  
SERVICES

Palm Sunday	Holy Communion 8am Parish Communion 9.30am Compline and Prayer 6.30pm
Monday	Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm
Tuesday	Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm
Wednesday	Holy Communion 10am Stations of the Cross 8pm
Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm Chain of Prayer 9pm to Midnight
Good Friday	Holy Hour 12 Noon Children's Service 2pm Unity Service 7pm
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil Service of Light 8pm
Easter Day	Holy Communion (BCP) 7am S. John's Holy Communion (B) 8am S. Mary's Parish Communion 9.30am S. John's Communion and hymns (B) 11.15am S. Mary's Baptisms 4pm S. Mary's Sung Evensong 6.30pm S. Mary's

**PLEASE NOTE .....**

That from Easter Day until the end of September services held in St. Mary's are as follows:

8 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
11.15 am	Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30 pm	Evening Service

Parish Diary

April

8th GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
A service of hymns, anthems and readings 6.30 pm  
15th-22nd Holy Week. Details of services printed elsewhere  
30th PCC Meeting 8 pm

May

2nd Confirmation Group to visit Greensted Church  
5th Bier Keller with Harlow Band St. Mary's School 8 pm

Parish Registers

Baptisms

4th March Hayley Louise Turner  
10 Cannons Mead

Departed

14th Feb Ethel Deeman, 31 Mead Court  
Aged 84 years  
1st Mar Frank Thompson, 29 Cannons Mead  
Aged 77 years  
9th Mar Nora O'Neil, 3 Normans Court  
Aged 83 years  
12th Mar Dorothy Merry, 10 Fullers Houses  
Aged 80 years  
13th Mar Frank Finch, 113 Cambridge Road  
Aged 81 years  
15th Mar Ethel Bayford, 8 Stoneyfield Drive  
Aged 87 years

# Youth News

THE ROCK 1984

Last month's visit to the Rock was a great success; certainly one of the happiest youth weekends I have been involved in. Relationships with the Chingford group (The "Crushers") were extremely good and we hope to meet up with them again before very long.

It was a time of personal and spiritual growth for all of us as we shared in games, prayers, thought - provoking sessions, workshops, a party, a barbecue, and our final act of worship on Sunday afternoon when the workshops offered their presentations on the theme of belonging.

We also had quite a few laughs over the course of the weekend and we can't wait to go again.

FOOTBALL

Our next Youth Club football match is against St. Mark's Youth Club from Chadwell Heath on 29 April. The match will take place on St. Mary's playing field at 2.30 pm.

ST. ALBANS INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL  
YOUTH FESTIVAL

This event for Young Adults takes place from 23-28 April 1984. Details and application forms are available from myself. The closing date is 18 April.

Fr. Tony

"THIRD" STANSTED BIERKELLER

WITH

THE HARLOW BAND

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL MAY 5<sup>th</sup> 8.00 p.m.



licensed bar

Admission by ticket - available from:

7 Croasdaile Close Tel. 812751

Price £2.50 - includes supper.

MOTHERS UNION

Meeting in the hall on Wednesday April 25th at 2.30 pm.

A Flower Arranging demonstration - Bring some Easter biscuits or cake for tea.

**United Reformed**

Chapel Hill

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

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

Services: 11.00 a.m. each Sunday

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

On the blessed Isle of Iona, where Columba built his Abbey and from where the Irish monks carried Christianity across these islands and into Europe, there is a bronze plaque which reads:

'THAT MAN IS LITTLE TO BE ENVIED  
WHOSE PATRIOTISM WOULD NOT GAIN FORCE  
UPON THE PLAIN OF MARATHON  
OR WHOSE PIETY WOULD NOT GROW WARMER  
AMONG THE RUINS OF IONA'

(Samuel Johnson)

So reflected the Great Man as he stood on that tiny island where faith is almost visible. It is not hard to be moved, and of course one goes there with high head and holy purpose.

The sheer courage of the monks in crossing the Irish Sea and settling on that small, sandy isle which looks over to the rugged shores of the Isle of Mull is impressive. Their faith must have been at least equal to their courage.

Is it easier to be moved by an actual place like Iona, or Ely Cathedral, than by Lent? (Lent is more an idea, an 'artificial' and arbitrary season which we try to equate with Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. Since they occurred at the beginning of his ministry it strains the Gospel somewhat to relocate them just before Easter as the 40 days of Lent).

For myself I rather think I share Sam Johnson's view that one is little to be envied whose piety would not grow warmer as he makes the Lenten journey forward to the Cross.

Eric McIlwain

CHURCH GUILD

On 20th February Mr. I. Thomas gave us a most interesting and informative talk on Essex, telling us its history. We learned many things about our towns and industries.

Our next meeting was on 5th March when Mr. Colin Hummerstone showed us his wonderful slides of flowers, many from his own collection, especially his orchids.

The Guild is held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 8 o'clock and all are welcome. It is held in the hall at the rear of our church.

M. C. Johnson

SERVICES FOR APRIL

April 1st - Mr. McIlwain - Communion  
8th -  
15th - Mr. McIlwain - Family Service  
22nd - EASTER GROUP SERVICE -  
Communion  
29th -  
May 6th - Mr. McIlwain - Communion

## SPECIAL EASTER SERVICES

April 19th - MAUNDY THURSDAY  
7.30 pm - Communion  
20th - GOOD FRIDAY service  
7.00 pm at ST. JOHN'S - and  
8.00 - "Stations of the Cross"  
at ST. THERESAS

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL - the regular meeting of the Cambridge Area Churches (some 40 in all) will be held at Stansted URC on April 9th at 7.00 p.m.

### **Methodist**

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Services:** Morning Service - 9.30am.

Before the next issue of "The Link" reaches you we will have relived once more the unique events of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection, will have glimpsed and (hopefully) received something more of His amazing and matchless love. Perhaps the most amazing thing is that He not alone loves totally, but also that the totality of His love is for all. All that His love is it is for each person.

It is possible for the whole of Christ's love to be offered to every single person because it is free. If it had to be merited, then inevitably, according to ability, opportunity, circumstances, etc. some would receive more of His love than others. Heaven would then become a class-ridden meritocracy. Self-made, self-congratulating souls would be strutting about, prouder than peacocks. Oneupmanship would be the eternal order of the day. And that would be insufferable. To live in that kind of world would be Hell, not Heaven. But this total love of God is not up for grabs, is not ours by our striving. God's love is for nothing. That makes it available to all without distinction. It can be everybody's because it is free.

It is also possible for each person to receive the fullness of God's love because He never loves less than 100%. We tend to see God's love as like our own - that is, it comes not in wholes but in fractions. We may, very rarely (but that is doubtful) love 100%, but usually it is anything from 90% to 10% or less according to how we feel about people. At the end of His great prayer in the 17th chapter of St. John's Gospel, our Lord asks that human beings may know God's love as He knows it. To us it may seem impossible that God could love us as much as He loves

Jesus. But that is exactly what our Lord implies in that prayer.

There are some things which, because they are finite, can only be shared by being divided. For instance, a period of time, a fruit cake, a sum of money are all things that can only be shared by being divided. Each can only have a fraction of the whole. But other things are not divided but multiplied by being shared - each gets the whole (assuming they are willing to receive it). The beauty and fragrance of a garden, the rollicking fun of a good comedian, the view from a mountain top. With such things all is for each. And so it is with love - to share it is to multiply it, not to divide it.

I have a feeling that this is what that strange parable that we call "The Labourers in the Vineyard" is all about. You remember that they were all paid the full amount whether they had worked 12, 9, 6, 3 hours or merely one hour. Because God's love is for nothing, not for earning (otherwise His kingdom couldn't be heavenly) and because His nature is such that He always loves 100%.

This means that while it is true that Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection is for the whole of creation, it is also for you and me personally. All His love offers, He offers to each. With St. Paul we can all say, "The life that I now live in this body, I live by faith in the Son of God, WHO LOVED ME, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME".

Harold Fisher

### **Society of Friends**

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for worship:** 11am.

#### 'SOME REFLECTIONS ON YOUTH TRAINING'

The Youth Training Scheme was launched last year to assist the thousands of school leavers who, without it, would have had to face unemployment.

There were many voices raised in opposition to a scheme that was seen by many to promote the exploitation of young people at work, and to pose a threat to those in full-time employment.

Young people, though, have this uncanny knack of making the impossible succeed. Certainly the many school leavers involved in schemes within this area prove to be no exception.



Who would have guessed, as the Manpower Services Commission unfurled its plans, that for many local firms and organisations the intake of young people through the Youth Training Scheme would be like fresh blood coursing round their bodies, introducing new life and vitality into working environments often grown stale.

These young people, bringing with them fresh eyes and keen spirits, have nudged some of us, not always willingly, into a reconsideration of the aims and objectives of training at work.

Thus, this New Training Initiative, which depends so much for its success upon the young, may well herald a new approach to our ways and methods of training, not only for those entering employment for the first time, but for the work force as a whole. It may well be that a programme designed for the young may, in the future, prove to be of benefit to us all.

Diana Cook

## Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

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

**Services:** Sunday Masses - 8am and 10.30am  
and at Henham - 9.15am.  
Holy Days - 9.15am and 8pm  
and at Henham - 7pm.

The latest date for Easter is April 25th, the earliest March 22nd. Since Easter this year is April 22nd it is the latest till Easter in the year 2000. To my mind there is something quite uncanny about the year 2000. Can you imagine waking up one morning to find it is the year 2000? The figure 2,000 will appear on your newspapers, you will write it on your cheques and letters.

Although one day is really more or less like the next in either direction, nevertheless, if I am still here on the 1st of January 2000 I suspect I will definitely have an odd feeling. The number itself has a ring of finality about it, or is it a sound of achievement? It is after all only fifteen and three quarter years away, and how many of us can look back sixteen years and say "sixteen years, goodness, gracious, it seems but yesterday".

Between now and 2000 I wonder how many projects and plans will be made. I wonder how soon the commemorative industry will get into gear. Of course some of us wonder if the world will ever see the year 2000. Why? Because we are being hijacked.

Imagine you are in a jumbojet. There in your comfortable seat you are full of joy, thrilled with the anticipated happiness of the holiday awaiting you. It is a glorious flight in sunshine with mountains of 'cotton wool' clouds dazzling below. Suddenly several men stand in the gangway brandishing guns and handgrenades. "This is a hijack. Everyone stay where you are". As the minutes pass you realise the 'plane is being diverted to another country. Fear, anxiety, terror and all the associated emotions pervade the aeroplane. Whether you are a saint or sinner, Christian, Jew or Atheist, millionaire or man in the street, you realise that every one with you hurtling through the sky will share the same fate if those bombs explode.

As a Christian you would no doubt pray to God, at least after the initial shock. Thoughts of death, and of resigning yourself to God's love and mercy come to mind. You may even make a promise to God that should you escape this nightmare you will turn over a new leaf and become a Christian in deed rather than the denominational tag you gave in hospital.

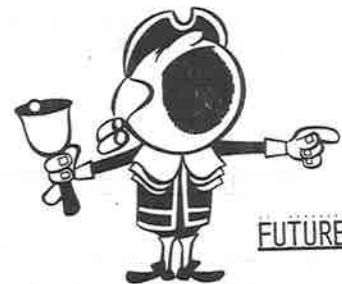
You and I, and every human being and living creature, are on a gigantic space ship hurtling along at 66,600 miles per hour around the sun, and there are an awful lot of bombs on board, so many that they could wreck everything.

What is your reaction? Well I am certain of this - that neither death nor life, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, no cosmic forces, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Jesus Christ Our Lord. By the way, those are St. Paul's sentiments; they should also be ours.

I hope you have a pleasant Easter; yes, I do mean it.

Sincerely  
Fr. David

## Village News



### FUTURE EVENTS

#### APRIL

- 5th 8 pm Lenten Service at Quaker Meeting House
- 9th 2.30 Womens Own Spring Sale at U.R. Church Hall
- 11th 10.30 Coffee Morning at 55 Chapel Hill for Royal British Legion
- 12th 8-12 noon Stall at Bishop's Stortford Market for National Childbirth Trust local training fund
- 8 pm Lenten Service and Agape Supper at U.R. Church

- 14th 2.30 Garden Club Spring Show at  
U.R. Church Hall  
28th 2.15 Jumble Sale at St. John's Hall  
for Alliance  
29th 10-12 noon Car Boot Sale at  
Hargrave House for its funds

MAY

- 3rd 7 pm Coffee Evening at St. John's  
Hall for Huw Johnson Club  
7th 2.30 Brownie/Guide/Scout/Cub Fete at  
Bentfield Place  
11th 7 pm Indonesian Evening at Quaker  
Meeting House to open Christian Aid  
Week  
16th-19th Christian Aid Week  
19th 10-12 noon Market Stalls at Quaker  
Meeting House for Christian Aid

NOTE

Last month we unfortunately gave the wrong  
telephone number for the Post Office.

The correct number is:- 813610

SNOWDROPS

Modest maiden of the snow  
With gentle grace you brave the cold  
To bring us joy and let us know  
What Nature's splendour will unfold.

Clad in white and softest green  
You are the leader of the spring  
Blooms more vivid will be seen  
But for us it is the hope you bring.

When the icy snowflakes fell  
Did you gently take them up  
And fashion them into a fairy bell  
Or perhaps your drinking cup?

Modest maiden of the snow  
Though you gently hang your head  
It is from you we always know  
There is new life where all seemed dead.

Mary Scholes

The above poem was "Highly Commended" in  
the Age Concern (Essex) Poetry Competition  
1983.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

At our branch meeting members agreed  
with Mrs. E. Little's suggestion that Stan-  
sted should enter this year's County Needle-  
work Competition to make a layette.

Our speaker was Mr. Brian Purkiss who  
gave a most interesting account of the Tal-  
king Newspaper for the Blind. The Newspaper  
in this area is organized from a Portacabin  
at the Herts and Essex Hospital and every

week 156 "readers" receive tapes which run  
for 1½ hours and relate news extracted from  
local newspapers. The organisation is now  
in its 5th year and any person who is unable  
(with spectacles) to read a normally printed  
paper may apply to be included, free of  
charge, on the tape circulation and will be  
given a machine on which to play the tapes.

Mrs. Little gave a vote of thanks and a  
generous collection was given to the Talking  
Newspaper.

On Wednesday 11th April there will be a  
coffee morning from 10.30 - 12.00 at the  
home of Dr. & Mrs. Gabb, 55 Chapel Hill, with  
a Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle. Do come  
along and bring a friend.

At our branch meeting on 19th April we  
are holding a "Silent Auction".

Pat Clower

HARGRAVE HOUSE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Firstly, a date for your diary in April.  
We are again holding a Car Boot Sale in the  
grounds of Hargrave House. It will be from  
10 am - 12 am on Sunday 29th April and the  
cost for anyone selling will be £4 for a car  
'pitch' or £5 for a van. Anyone wishing to  
pre-book will gain the advantage of a £1  
reduction (ie £3 for cars, £4 for vans). To  
book, please ring B/S 814562. Entry for  
'buyers' will be free. We hope to see you  
there.

At the end of February we held a success-  
ful Jumble Sale. Thank you to everyone who  
turned out on a cold Saturday afternoon.

Apart from the Car Boot Sale we have  
other events planned for the rest of the  
year. We hope to be running our usual  
stalls at the Carnival and are arranging a  
'Musical Evening Out' to take place towards  
the end of the summer. Further details  
about this will be in a future 'Link'.

At the moment we could really use some  
extra help - at events such as these, and  
also to be involved in the planning of  
them. Anyone who can spare a little time  
would be made very welcome. Ring 814439  
for further information.

Rachel Irvén.

## N.H.R.

"ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS A GENUINE DESIRE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO CONVERSE WITH ABOUT SUBJECTS OTHER THAN THE USUAL DOMESTIC TRIVIA"

The sentence above states the only requirement for membership of N.H.R., an organisation which exists to encourage the formation of groups providing regular opportunities for stimulating conversation between like-minded women.

At the end of February, the Stansted N.H.R. Group held an evening of "stimulating conversation" about the life and work of Pablo Picasso, all of us learning something new about this exciting and controversial artist. The first meeting in March was more light hearted, as we each attempted to answer an anonymous question, drawn from a hat. The questions were set by members husbands; some frivolous and some serious, as were the answers. At the time of writing our second March meeting is still to be held, when we are to discuss the differing ways five of our National Daily Papers treat a topical news item.

Our book group will meet on April 11th to discuss "1984" by George Orwell, "The Millstone" by Margaret Drabble, and "Letters from Africa" by Isaak Dinesen, and to decide which three books to read next. On April 26th we will be discussing a topical and/or controversial T.V. Programme, choosing between three previously recorded on video.

The programme for the next half year has now been decided and will be displayed in the library. For further details of N.H.R. or any of our meetings contact:

Sharon Frogley 812617  
Angela Khalil 813582

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - POPPY APPEAL

The total of the house to house and street collection of the Poppy Appeal for 1983 was £1097. This was slightly lower than last year, but the sale of wreaths and church collections will undoubtedly exceed last year's total.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the collectors. Unfortunately with the march of time and people leaving the district I shall be looking for new volunteers for November 1984.

Fred Cheal

## STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A meeting was held on Monday 13th February at Stansted Football Club and five teams took part in a most enjoyable quiz devised by Martin Cowan. Excellent refreshments were served by a Ladies Committee.

On Monday 12th March, the meeting was held

at John and Janet Hollis' home and John Gott gave a most interesting talk on his time in West Africa. He was involved in trading in cocoa, coffee and general goods in the days before large modern companies did business in Africa. People carried on trading by travelling to remote villages in old lorries.

The next meeting will again be at the Football Club on Monday, 9th April at 8 pm. We urge all members to attend, as Lady Kirk will speak on Conservation. Please try not to miss this meeting as Lady Kirk is an excellent and interesting speaker.

All enquiries to Alan Corbishley - 813040  
or Martin Cowan - 814596

## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

There was a good attendance of members at the March meeting, which had an unusual start, due to the Chairman and Vice Chairman being unable to attend at the beginning. Our Secretary, Ros Allen, coped beautifully with her usual quiet efficiency.

Arrangements have been made for 12 members to attend the International Garden Festival in Liverpool at the beginning of August. As it is also the week of the Tall Ships Race it should be an interesting experience. We are to stay in the University in self catering accommodation, which should give us freedom to see as much as we can.

During the evening Mr. & Mrs. Hoffman presented the Garden Club with a most beautiful engraved silver cup for the Autumn Show.

The Spring Show will be held in the United Reformed Church Hall on Saturday 14th April at 2.30. In preparation for this, Mrs. Huttlewood gave a demonstration of Floral Art.

The April meeting is on Wednesday 4th at 8 pm at the Day Centre. Gay Nightingale is coming to talk to us on "Cyclamen". I hope to find out how to keep a plant more than a few weeks!

Gwen Harbridge

## NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Spring brings a new year to Stansted's National Childbirth Trust. Several people attended our A.G.M. in March at which the film "And Baby Makes Three" was shown. This gave the view of life from the baby's eye level as well as the parents. Cathy Leek now takes over the chair from Hilary Pinder. Most of the other positions on the committee remain unchanged.

We're hoping for fine weather on Thursday

12th April as we're having a stall (8.0 am - noon) on Bishop's Stortford Market, to raise funds to train Jenny Adamson as our own ante-natal teacher. If anyone in the village is spring cleaning any Bric-a-brac, children's clothes, books, paper patterns, toys, etc. would be appreciated. Sorry we cannot accept any junk or jumble. If you're creative, cakes or preserves would be most acceptable. Items may be taken to 26 Longcroft by Wednesday 11th April. Anyone coming to our Open House on that afternoon may bring their goods along then.

Yes, April's Open House is at 26 Longcroft on Wednesday, 11th April, 2.0 - 4.0 pm, where there will be an Easter Bonnet Competition for the children. Only 20p entry fee. So get your glue and scraps of paper out and start making.

Mrs. Shearer from Bentfield Primary School is coming to talk about "Preparing your child for school" on Tuesday 17th April, 10.30 - 12.00, at 6 Wetherfield. A creche will be available.

One of our services along with offering post-natal support, and breastfeeding counselling is "Nighties, bras and baby things" otherwise known as MAVA. Cathy Leek holds a stock of these items and is available at 3 Coltsfield, 10.30 - 12.00 on Thursday 5th April, and the same time at 26 Longcroft on Thursday 19th April. So if you're expecting or have a young baby and would be interested in something for yourself, or a holdall or carrying sling for your baby, do go along to one of these mornings.

Don't forget our Family Pop-Ins are held 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in every month. Expectant mums and families are welcome to pop into the Day Centre, 2.30 - 4.30 for a chat with friends over a cup of tea while the children play.

A date for your diaries - Friday 11th May Mr. Hartwell, Consultant Obstetrician, will be talking about "Recent advances in obstetric care". 8.00 pm in the Day Centre. Entrance fee £1 including refreshments.

You may also like to make a note that we're holding a Nearly New Sale of children's clothing, maternity wear, and toys on 9th May. Watch out for more information on this in next months Link and posters around the village.

If you haven't already renewed your N.C.T. membership or would like to join, now is the time. See Kim Linford, 42 Wetherfield, our Membership Secretary.

Sally Brown

#### STANSTED EVENING WI

The Pestalozzi Village, in Sedlescombe, Sussex is a community village which is run as a home for children and youths from poor and developing countries, such as Tibet,

Nepal and Iran. Our speaker this month was from the Pestalozzi Village and explained to us, with the help of slides, how the children live, are educated and trained.

The children are encouraged to keep the language, religion and cultural ways of their native land, as at the age of above 21 years, they return to their families to help educate and train the other members of their community.

Mrs. Brenda Ryan gave a report on the visit which she and Mrs. July Colliver made to the County Federation AGM and members were informed that WI members now total 2.37% of the total adult population of Great Britain and, at an international level, 9 million women now belong to the Association of Country Women Worldwide.

The raffle proceeds this month were for the RNIB and the sum of £12.20 was raised.

Sonya Cheshire

#### STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

Mr. Ansell, M.A. B.Sc. came and spoke on February 1st about the Bird Sanctuary at Turners Springs, Burton End. He showed some lovely slides of the flowers and birds.

Mrs. Page presented a Magnolia Tree to Mrs. Irwin as a thank-you for her 25 years' service to the Club. She has been a wonderful worker, raising funds with her 'kittens' and helping with the handicrafts through the years. All our members (and seniors from neighbouring villages) have enjoyed the lovely garden parties at 'The Thatch'.

On March 7th, Rev. W.M. McKee came and told us of his experience as a pioneer missionary in Tanganyika. He was thanked by Mrs. Handscombe.

Mrs. L. Winch read out a letter of thanks from Mrs. Irwin, who said she hoped that the Magnolia Tree would grow and grow, and be a reminder of many happy days with the Club.

The Handicraft Show is to be at Clavering Village Hall on Thursday 31st May at 2.0pm. If anyone in the village over 60 is interested in entering, would they please contact Mrs. Robinson or Mrs. Page.

#### ST. MARY'S SINGERS

During the last year, St. Mary's Singers

have added ten new members to their ranks. However, we would welcome any prospective members particularly Tenors (a rare Breed!)

Why not come along for a trial period? Rehearsals on Fridays at 8pm at the Arthur Findlay College. Please contact Keith Turner, 24 Longcroft (812495).

#### SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

We are sorry to report, this month, the resignation of two hard-working and valued committee members, Brenda Towle (chairman) and Kathy Spencer, whose children leave play-school and move on to greater things at the end of this term.

However, we are glad to welcome two new "volunteers", Claire Tofts and Claire Hamilton-Hastings.

Two events were held towards the end of last half-term to swell the dwindling funds - these were a jumble sale and a home-made cake stall. The cake stall proved so popular that we hope to make this a regular event.

Two dates for your diary are the ever popular Dad's Day on 19th May (well it is with the Dads anyway!) and the annual Easter Raffle, which will be drawn on Tuesday 10th April - Term ends on 12th April.

Wendy Searle

#### STANSTED AFTERNOON WI

At our March meeting our President, Mrs. Walker, welcomed two new members, presented the birthday posies, then gave us an account of the Half Yearly Council at Chelmsford, which she went to as our delegate.

After the business of the meeting was finished we had a most exciting talk and demonstration of painting on fabric and china etc. given by Mrs. Paxman of Hobbytex. Soon she had us all trying our skill on samples with a transfer that she had prepared for us.

There was a colourful array of Tea Cloths, the competition being "Your prettiest Tea Cloth", which was won by Mrs. Chown. The Raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Scarr and Mrs. Chown.

#### CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The new committee, elected at the recent A.G.M., will be holding a group meeting this month to discuss a programme of speakers and events for the coming year. We are also making plans for our Easter demonstration and our stall at the June Carnival.

Phone 813997 for venue.

#### ST. MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### PTA DISCO

The PTA held a very successful 'Sixties Style Disco' recently in the school Hall. Over a hundred parents danced the night away to the sixties records. Mrs. Baines won the competition for the most original costume of that era. Over £200 profit was made.

#### Shrove Tuesday

"Pancakes galore" was the cry at the school on Shrove Tuesday. Many children tried their hand at making and tossing pancakes and every child tasted one. The afternoon was concluded with a mother's pancake race. Thirty brave mothers armed with frying pans raced around the school field. The first mother to cross the line was Mrs. Bainbridge, closely followed by Mrs. Kesley. Their reward was a box of chocolates and a kiss from the curate.

#### Gymnastics

A group of gymnasts will be taking part in the Area Schools Gymnastic Tournament at Newport School.

#### Faraday Lecture

Mr. Birch's fourth year class recently visited the Gordon Gray Theatre at Stevenage for the Faraday Lecture on "Let's build a Satellite". This was sponsored by British Aerospace and two experts from the centre not only gave an illustrated lecture but then proceeded to build a full scale model of a satellite.

#### Brownies

Good News! The Wednesday night Brownies will be re-opening. Mrs. Dawn Lidster will be re-starting this pack together with Mrs. Judy Jeffries and Mrs. Sylvia Black. If

there are any former Wednesday night Brownies or new Brownies who wish to join, please ring Dawn Lidster (B/S 814317) for more information.

---

Brownie/Guide/Scout/Cub Fete  
Bentfield Place  
Monday May 7th 2.30pm  
Admission 20p adults  
Children Free.

[This year besides the usual stalls there will be a running Auction. If you have any large items (bicycles, chairs, televisions, tables etc.) you would like to donate, please ring Christine Hope (815002) who will arrange collection.]

There will also be a fancy dress competition. You don't have to be a Brownie or Cub. So dress up and come to the fete. You might win the top prize!

Christine Hope  
Secretary

#### RAINBOW PLAYGROUP AND MOTHER AND TODDLER

The children of Rainbow playgroup have had a very active 1984 so far.

Every week a different theme is presented to the children, which has included a "fish week" when a grandfather came along with his fishing tackle. The children really enjoyed his talk and catching paper fish in a net and wearing the full size waders. Other themes included wood, various colours, scent, cooking and birds. That week the children made bird feeding containers to hang in their gardens.

The children also have lots to look forward to. A day trip to the Colne Valley Steam Railway and a visit to the Bouncy Room at Hargrave House have been arranged.

The children are aged from 3 to 5 (pre school) and if you are interested and would like further details please contact Ann Conroy (telephone 812457).

Mother and Toddler is now running every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.00pm. There are plenty of toys for the children to enjoy and refreshments are also included in the 50p fee. Everybody welcome.

#### SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

A small group from Stansted recently attended a conference in Oxford on policy towards the Third World. The director of Oxfam and a number of interesting speakers were there. They spoke of the need for both aid and trade to help poor countries.

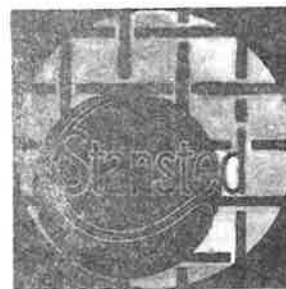
An Indonesian supper party was held at Alan and Catherine Dean's home at the end of February. A selection of interesting dishes was served to the twenty or so guests.

Alliance Jumble Sale at St. John's Hall. Saturday 28th April at 2.15pm. Raffle, tea and cakes. Admission free. Jumble, cakes etc., please to:

Melvyn Caton - 813914  
Tim Richards - 812748  
Christine Rowley - 813514

Meet at Stansted station at 2.30pm for a treasure walk on Sunday 15th April. Children 25p. Adults 50p. Prizes.

Alan Dean.



#### STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

We still have a few vacancies on the Lawn Tennis Association Prudential Grass Roots Coaching Scheme for children, which takes place at the Club, starting on Tuesday 1st May from 5.30 to 6.30, for six weeks. The cost is £4 for the course. We have decided not to have a lesson on the 29th May, as it is half term and we feel several children may be away, but the 6th lesson will be on Tuesday 12th June.

We have had several enquiries for Adult Coaching for Beginners and Intermediate players. If any more people are interested in this, please contact Janet Hollis on B/S 812073 and for all Tennis Club enquiries.

## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We had a lovely evening at Club a few weeks ago. Tony came and held a short, simple service. It was very beautiful. Everyone was issued with a musical instrument, just as I was saying "Oh look, Michelle, you are going to be part of the band", a voice very quickly said "and so are you", and a triangle was thrust in my hand.

Everyone had a wonderful time making music and singing the children's favourite and well known hymns. I'm sure the vicar would have been very proud of the congregation. It was so successful and such a happy time that "Our Reverend Tony" is coming back quite soon to give us a repeat performance.

Our A.G.M. has taken place; a few more people attended this year although not as many as we hoped for and would like to have seen. However it was a good meeting and all the business was swiftly dealt with. After coffee, Father Vallouri gave a very interesting talk about his work with mentally handicapped and socially deprived people. We are getting some regular features for Club evenings now. Heather comes on the last Thursday of each month to give advice and demonstrations on make-up. This is enjoyed by both members and helpers - we hope we shall all improve in looks. A quote from Heather - "I haven't got a Boy George to practice on yet."

Cooking evenings are popular as most members love food and are always willing to help cook and very, very willing to eat the results. Jean had pancakes on the menu last week and I had the honour of the first taste. I teased the anxious watchers by eating slowly and licking my lips after each mouthful and saying 'Ooh, it's lovely'. I soon realised by the wolfish looks that I had gone far enough and finished it off before I was lynched!

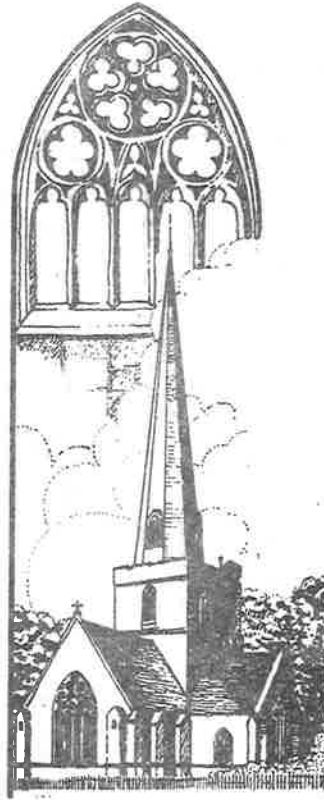
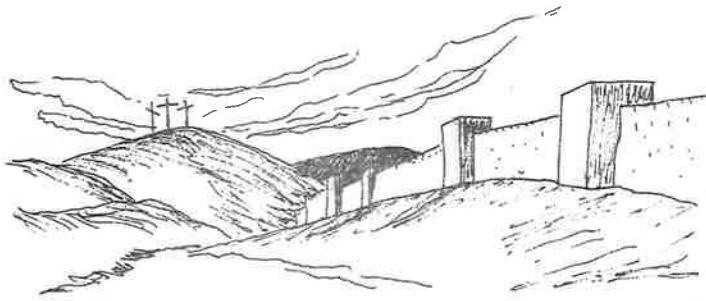
With discos, which have become a regular feature, we feel our readjustment of club hours and activities is proving very successful.

Betty Lockwood.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General Practitioners		
Drs Hazzard, Jones, Hamilton and District Nurse)	)	813200
Drs G and C Leek		813068
Herts and Essex Hospital		
Bishop's Stortford		55191
Stansted Health Clinic		812055
Stansted Day Centre		815091
Red Cross		813080
Social Services (Uttlesford)		
Saffron Walden (95)		23169
Uttlesford District Council (General, Finance, Housing, Planning)		
Saffron Walden (95)		23124
Stansted Library		815149
Stansted Parish Council Clerk (10 am - 4 pm daily)		813214
Citizens Advice Bureau (10 am - 4 pm daily)		
Bishop's Stortford		55363
British Rail	Stansted	812388
Police Station	Stansted	812211
Post Office	Stansted	813610
Mountfitchet Comprehensive School		813384
St Mary's Church of England Primary School		812212
Bentfield County Primary School		813626
Peter Kirk School		815359
Chapel Hill Playgroup (Quaker Meeting House)		
Rainbow Playgroup (Youth and Adult Centre)		
Sideways Playgroup (St John's Church Hall)		
Brownies and Guides (Lower Street)		
Cubs and Scouts (Water Lane)		
Youth and Adult Centre		813319
Sports Association		812337





# Thanks BE TO THEE

my LORD JESUS CHRIST  
For all the benefits which  
Thou hast given me,  
For all the pains and insults  
Which Thou hast borne for me  
O most merciful Redeemer  
Friend and Brother.  
May I know Thee more dearly,  
Love Thee more dearly,  
And follow Thee more nearly  
Day by day.

St. Richard's Prayer.

Eg. P.15





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