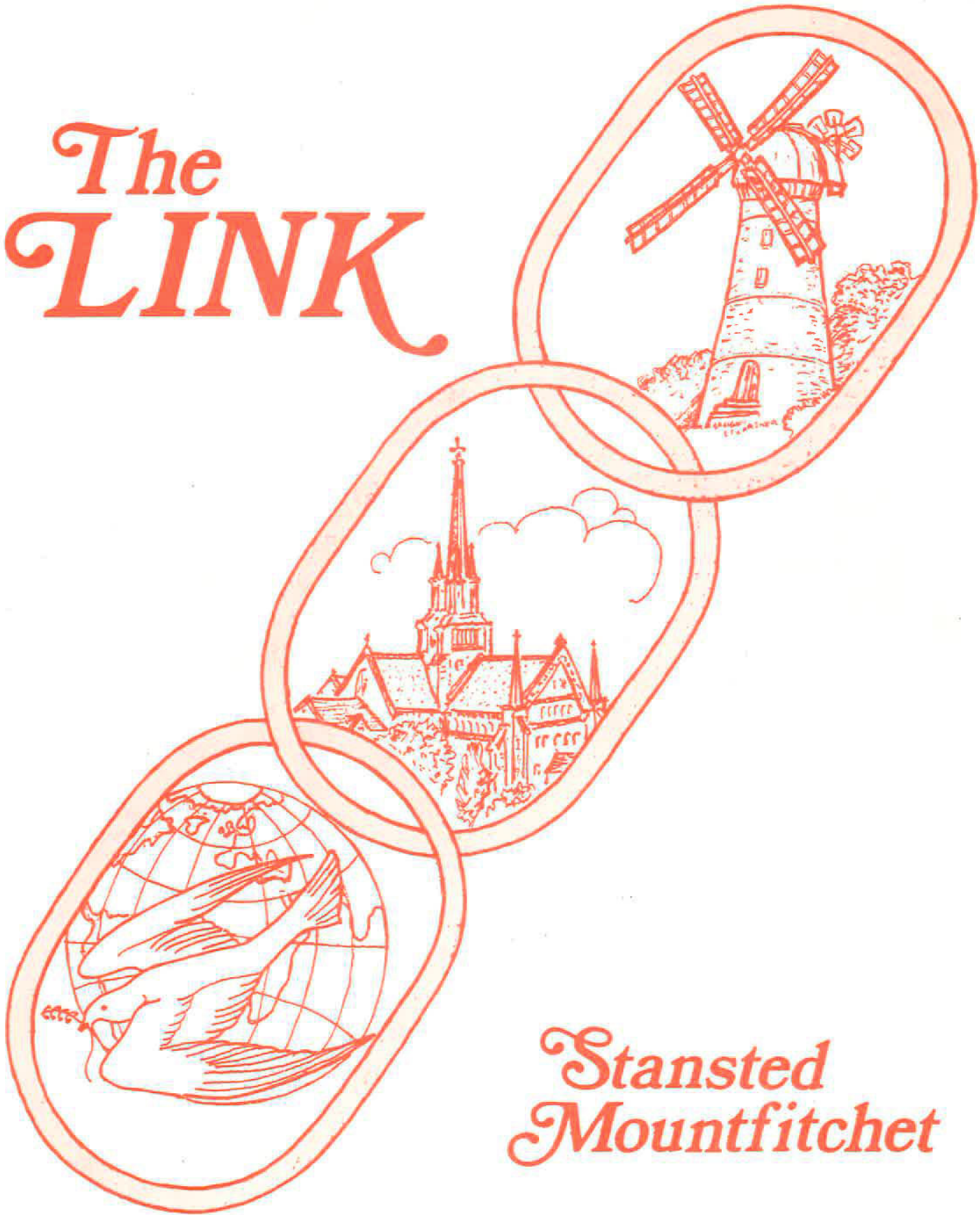


Jan 24

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Each year from January 18th - 25th special attention is given to praying for greater unity amongst the Christian denominations.

Here in Stansted as our contribution towards this week, the Association of Christian Churches is holding a united service of worship on SUNDAY JANUARY 22nd at 6.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church. And on WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25th at 8 p.m. there is an open meeting to which everyone is welcome.

At this meeting the Rev'd Leslie Griffiths (a Methodist minister) and the Rev'd Tony Bryer (an Anglican minister) will discuss some of the religions disciplines that are widely practised within the Christian Church but which, as yet, we are unable to practice together - namely Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry.

By sharing our views and thoughts on these important issues we may come to understand each other better and so draw closer together.

Copy to reach 48 St. John's Road by  
12th January for February issue  
9th February for March issue.

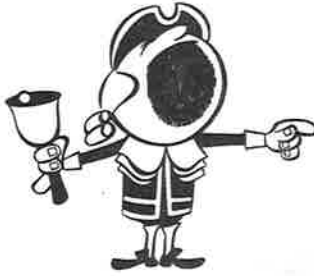
THE LINK

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

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

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the SACC, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

## Village News



### FUTURE EVENTS

#### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

At the County Conference at Chelmsford on 17 November, Mrs S Mumford (who has been our Group Representative on the County Committee since 1966 and a member of the Area Committee for the last three years) was presented with the National Golden Award. This is the highest award given to a member of the Women's Section and is made only to those who have rendered long and distinguished service to the Organisation.

Later that same day we held our annual social evening which this year took the form of a fish & chip supper and a glass of wine, followed by mince pies and coffee. Mrs Ruck, a past president of Stansted Women's Section, came up from her home in Devon and met several longstanding residents who were members during her presidency. She presented Miss G Trott with a second class needlework certificate won in the County Needlework Competition.

Our next meeting will be on 19 January when Mrs C Francis will be talking about her travels in Tunisia.

Pat Clower

#### STANSTED SINK-A-WELL APPEAL

At the time of writing (end November) the appeal has raised £305 in direct donations; only today £33 in notes came through my letter box anonymously. We are very pleased with the generous response.

We have just sent off a further £350 to the Thailand well diggers, making £525 so far. The appeal closes just after you receive your 'Link', 31 December, so please hurry with your Christmas gift to those without fresh water.

Alan Dean  
Treasurer  
49 Recreation Gnd,  
Stansted.

#### STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

The management committee met in November to map out the 1984 social activities. These will include a jumble sale, summer garden party and the first (annual?) dinner. We have coopted three more committee members to get things organised.

A recent meeting with Stansted Liberals produced ideas for joint activities. We distributed the second edition of "The Liberal and Social Democrat" local newsletter at the end of November. Anyone who would like a copy, please telephone 814405.

Sally Stockman

#### STANSTED WINDMILL

August Bank Holiday Monday 1984  
Please put this date in your new diary.

The Windmill Working Party hope that on that day you will all come to 'Stansted Windmill Fair'. A family afternoon with stalls and entertainments in and around the Windmill. Please telephone 813160 or 813397 or 813448 or 814433 with offers of ideas and help. A vital ingredient in this effort to see the sails once more on the windmill.

The Committee Chairman, Mrs Peggy Honour, was recently presented with a cheque for £200 by the Stansted Arts & Crafts Market Committee towards the Windmill Fund. Another big step towards the sails being restored, and we do thank them for this most generous contribution.

#### THE TORTOISES HANDICAPPED SCOUT GROUP

Six scouts achieved a highly commended pass for their Cook's badge during November. Five of them, Simon Lee, Tim Mace, Matthew Baker, Kieron Horner and Peter Clausen had their badges presented on 29 November. The sixth scout, David Richardson, was unfortunately prevented by illness from attending. One of the examiners, Ron Morris, spoke highly of their efforts which met the highest criteria - both the examiners and the candidates devoured their prepared meals in record time.

The occasion was marked with a sausage supper attended by guests from Brentwood Scouts, the 1st Stansted Scout Group, the United Reformed Church and parents of past and present members. By a happy coincidence, we were able to celebrate the 18th birthday of one of the badge winners, Simon Lee. A large birthday cake and other goodies were provided by Simon's parents, and Simon was presented with a scout belt.

The Rev. Tony Bundock brought the evening to its conclusion with his guitar and a medley of popular songs.

We are now inspired to attempt greater things!

Derek Honour

## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We were very successful at the Christmas Bazaar when John and Denise worked very hard selling tags, calendars and decorations. Brian (the boss) said they deserved a mention in despatches for their efforts. With the aid of some Adventurers Club members it was a complete 'sell out'. It was decided that the whole of the takings - a magnificent £28 - should be given to the church as a Thank You for all the help they give us.

The new club times seem to be working very well and no problems have arisen.

As one of our recent meetings was at school, there was another opportunity for cooking. This time Jean helped all interested members to make pancakes and even persuaded them to try to toss one; they were all successful so we didn't have to wash the ceiling. As we ushered one child into the kitchen and another out, I felt like a 'Bisto Kid' as my nose kept twitching at the lovely smell.

One young lad was very busy rushing around trying to place a balloon on a chair just before someone sat down. I'm glad to say he was not successful but it was not from lack of trying.

Great interest was shown when we prepared invitations for our Christmas Party and we were bombarded with questions - What? When? How? Why? 15 December was the date and once the members knew about it, they started getting excited - it is always a highlight in the club year.

I'll tell you all about it next time.

Happy New Year from us all.

Betty Lockwood

## NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

The only meeting to be held in December was the very popular wine-tasting evening. We would like to thank Anthony Woolhouse for introducing us to fortified wine, a drink most of us will have experienced over the last two weeks.

We start 1984 with a discussion on snobs and snobbery. Something surely none of us would be guilty of! This will be held on Thursday, 5 January. The book group meeting is on Monday, 16 January, and the books chosen were given in the December 'Link'. Copies of the books are available for borrowing; contact Libby or Sharon for details.

On Wednesday, 1 February, we look forward to welcoming a practicing solicitor to our group. No doubt he will be inundated with questions but please steer clear of conveyancing.

For further details about NHR, please contact either Libby Martin, 812807, or Sharon Frogley, 812617.

## STANSTED CARNIVAL

### Carnival '84

Following the success of the 1983 Carnival and the installation of the play equipment at the Recreation Ground, Stansted Carnival Committee are now busy preparing for Carnival '84 and enquiries are now being made locally for charities to benefit from the ever increasing monies being raised.

Although a small, hardworking committee was re-elected at the AGM, there is still a need for more assistance, expertise and person power both in planning and on the day. We are on the lookout for organisations to participate in the float procession as well as majorettes with marching bands and displays for the arena.

Can you raise a five-a-side football team or a tug-of-war team? If you can, let us know. There has been a very keen and entertaining knock-out competition in both events over the last few years with finals held during the afternoon of the carnival.

Clubs, societies and groups are invited to join in the Carnival Day at the Mountfitchet School on 23 June to raise money, not only for the chosen charity, but for their funds.

Any enquiries or offers of help should be directed to Stansted Carnival Committee on B/Stortford 813997.

Chris Lane

## STANSTED DAY CENTRE

This is now thriving and we are very grateful to all the people who have helped in so many ways. We have had financial help from organisations, the schools and individuals, and practical help from lots and lots of people - thank you all.

For those who are still not quite sure what we do - we provide a pleasant place for Senior Citizens to meet and chat to friends and to have tea, coffee, a snack or a meal if that is what you want - you don't have to eat and drink. There are regular whist drives on the last Friday of each month at 2 pm. Beetle Drives on the second Tuesday at 2 pm. Bingo on the first Friday at 8 pm, and the Blind Club meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 11 am onwards. If anyone is interested in craft work, they would be welcome to join in.

Uttlesford District Council pay most of the expenses, but the food is not subsidised and we do try to make a small profit to pay for interior decorations and replacements.

We have a few spare evenings for letting and if anyone is interested in using the Centre, telephone 815091. We are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-4pm.

Two pleas for help - we still need drivers to transport our less able members. Uttlesford will reimburse petrol costs, and some members would like to play Scrabble if anyone has a spare set. We would be very grateful for it.

## NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Are you pregnant or do you have a child under one year old? Why not come along to our Friday morning meetings which we hold in different mothers' homes. Our members are rising quite rapidly as several of our regular attenders are now expecting their second child. Our first meeting in January is on Friday, 6th, from 10.30 am - 12 noon. Please look at Parish Council notice boards or ring me on 813958 for the venue for this and all our other events in January.

Our milk run is going very well and we have several mothers who donate breast milk each week. Premature babies in Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, receive the milk while they are in special care. The Hospital is constantly needing more milk than is supplied by local mothers. If you feel you could spare a little milk, please ring Cathy Leek on 813068. We provide hand-pumps and sterile containers and collect the milk on Sunday and Thursday evenings.

We already have people booking places in our antenatal classes whose babies are due next summer. So if you would like to attend preparation classes for couples, which are held one evening a week for eight weeks, please contact me on 813958 to reserve a place. We still have some vacancies for March and April babies.

We wish all our members and friends and their families all good wishes for the New Year.

Jenny Adamson

### ESSEX RED CROSS - FIRST AID

There will be a four week basic First Aid Course in February. This replaces the eight week Standard Course and is suitable for any member of the public including Home Helps, Teachers, etc., in fact anyone except First Aiders responsible under the "First Aid at Work Act". For these people there is a more detailed course at Chelmsford.

The two hour sessions will be held on Wednesdays: 8, 15, 22 & 29 February at 7.45 pm at the Day Centre, Grafton Green. For further details and to enrol provisionally, telephone 813080 - B Scarr.

### STANSTED EVENING W.I.

Congratulations were given recently to Miss Anne Fuller who was the winner of our Competitions Cup for 1983, and to Mrs Little who was beaten into a close second place.

During recent weeks, some of our members have been involved in a series of discussion evenings about Alternative Medicine and Healing, and have been amazed to hear of some of the adverse effects which can be created by eating the wrong kinds of food and even using the wrong type of saucepan!

The calendar of events and speakers for our 1984 meetings has now been completed and we have a very varied programme, which I am sure must offer something to everyone's taste. So, why not come along and join us and find out what a happy and friendly bunch we all are?

Our meetings take place on the second Thursday in every month at 7.45 pm in St John's Church Hall.

Hope to see some of you soon!!

Sonya Cheshire

### BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We do hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and wish you all a very healthy and happy 1984.

This term we welcome to our school a new Deputy Head, Mr Yates. He will take over the position left vacant when Mr Tarpey became a Head in Colchester. We do hope that Mr Yates will be very happy with us and we know that he will find a very helpful and supportive group of colleagues, children, parents and Governors at Bentfield School.

Our young footballers had a really exciting experience at the end of last term when they played under the floodlights on the Stansted Football Club pitch. The stand was full of supporters of both teams - parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents and friends - about a hundred in all. We beat Elsenham 2-0 and both goals were scored by James Piper. Everyone agreed it was a very good match and well refereed by Keith Mullins. Thanks to the football club for letting our boys use the facilities and become stars for the day - and we enjoyed using the clubhouse afterwards. The only thing missing was Match of the Day theme tune (I'll bring my tape recorder next time).

Our Christmas Fair was a great success and lots of fun. We are now busy thinking about the Summer Fete. This year we will be having a Robin Hood Fair with a mediaeval theme.

Janice Wray

### MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

The Annual meeting was held on November 16th and the following are the new Committee. Mrs. Page, President, Mrs. L. Winch, Chairman; Mrs. J. McKee, Secretary; Mrs. BATTERY, Treasurer; Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Jolly, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Winder, Mr. Miller. Mrs. McKee gave a report of the year's work, Mrs. BATTERY the Financial Balance Sheet which was audited by Mr. Ashcroft. Mrs. Winch thanked all officers and Committee for their work for the Club. Mrs. Page has sent to Mrs. Jessop of the Citizens Advice Bureau a pottery vase for all her help.

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The Stansted and District Group will meet on January 9th and 18th at 8.15 p.m.

Phone 813997 for venues.

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year the drama club chose Cinderella for their pantomime production. Fay Haughton sang and played the role of Cinderella beautifully. Her leading man was played by Jeanette Stone. The two ugly sisters Dyspepsia (Daniel Perry) and Melancola (Adrian Grist) lived up to their name with their garish extravagant gowns and seemingly never ending supply of colourful wigs. They were continually being harrassed by Buttons (Philip Baines) who nicknamed them Pepsi and Coke. Philip played the part of cheeky Buttons with great zest and had the audience in stitches. Snatch and Grab, two brokers men (Simon Harris and Stuart Sullivan) not only kept an eye on Baron Hardup's (Wayne Wright) finances but also the audiences. (They collected £72 which will be donated to a charity chosen by the children).

The captain of the guard (Christopher Coy) instructed his idle troop of men to find a careless woman in the audience who might have lost a shoe.

The cook Rebecca Emerson seemed to have her kitchen in order but took a few minutes off from her work to dream .... and gave a stunning performance of a rock/roll star.

The children were all super. Other main parts were played by Emma Broadley, Joanne Butcher, Louise Petchey, Karen Mason, Akhtar Alibhai, Nicola Baker and Andrea Baines.

The children played to three packed audiences. Many thanks once more to the production team of Mrs. Johnson, director, Mrs. Catton, musical direction, Mrs. Jordan, costume designer and the backstage team of Mrs. Costley, Mr. Birch, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Kelsey, Mrs. Ludlow Elston, Mrs. Collingwood and all parents who helped with the production. Thank you to the PTA for the new stage curtains.

A very special thanks to parents who have given up their time over the past year to help in the school.

From the children, staff and friends of the school a very happy and peaceful New Year to all.

Language in the Primary School

There will be an educational evening for parents on the above subject. The guest speaker will be Mike Taylor, the Advisory Teacher for Language in charge of the Reading Centre at Brentwood. This should prove to be a very worthwhile and enlightening meeting. So do please come along on Wednesday 25th January at 8 p.m. in the School Hall.

P.T.A. Jumble Sale

The P.T.A. Jumble Sale will be held in St. John's Hall on Saturday, 28th January from 2 - 4 p.m. If you have any jumble please take it to the school.

Family Disco

By popular request the P.T.A. will be holding a New Year's family disco in the school hall on Friday 13th January from 6.30 - 9.30 p.m. Lots of good food and music. Do come along.

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## 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.

You will be reading this just before or just after we end one calendar year and start another. The old tag comes to mind, "It's one more AND one less". "One more", the gift of another year, carries the notes of promise and opportunity. And such notes are welcome and pleasant. But "One less" the "gone-foreverness" of 1983 carries the notes of diminution and urgency. And those notes are, we think, unwelcome and disturbing.

Certainly the promise and opportunity of 1984 stretching before us (in spite of George Orwell's frightening picture of how life will be in that year of grace) raises pleasing prospects for most of us. Further chance to enjoy what we now enjoy, to become what it is in us to be, to discover and experience new delights. We warm to such a future. But not everyone will see it so. Some human spirits seem to be cast low psychologically, so that they can only think of the future negatively and gloomily. Like Hamlet's resolve, their view of the future "Is sickled o'er with the pale cast of thought". Their pessimism may take various stances.

Some folk will see 1984 as "the same old thing"; nothing much will happen, nothing will change and it will all be just one more turn round the totem pole of dreary, routine life. Life is, for such, an interminable job-trot round an inescapable treadmill. As Ecclesiastes puts it:

"What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will  
be done;  
and there is nothing new under the sun".

"You can't change human nature", they will say, "and so all will remain in mediocrity or worse".

Others, sociologists, statisticians, computer analysts, will dole out their pictures of the future based on present facts and trends. Their pictures are not usually ones of promise and opportunity. And let it be said that their work should not be ignored. They do, however, frequently overlook the unknown quantity X in their equations. Colin Morris has impishly pointed out that if details of the amount and growth of horse manure in London streets in 1872 had been fed into a computer it would have predicted that by 1972 the whole world would be covered seven feet deep in the stuff! It didn't happen because the X factor, in the shape of the internal combustion engine, arrived to all-but-end horse-drawn transportation.

In other words the future is not totally determined by the past. The new and unexpected can and does break in to change the apparently inexorable trends. We are not stuck with either endless sameness or the inevitable consequences of our dire past. God in His great mercy gives an openness and flexibility to the future. Things do not have to stay in mediocrity or worse. The openness lies partly in the

fact that the future will be determined not only by the unalterable past, but also by our own ongoing choices, decisions, involvements, commitments, etc. In part we will be making our own 1984 and there lies some of its promise and opportunity.

And there is another thing, specifically Christian, known by that forbidding word eschatology, which simply means how things will finally end up. For the Christian, the openness of the future is assured by the fact that the end has already been shown us in Christ. He is the A. and the Z., the beginning and the end. Ultimately only what accords with His love goes on eternally. We are able to live in the present in the light of how things must all end up. And that gives immense power, direction, value and joy to our choices, etc. that accord with Him. So the future is richly alive with promise and opportunity. It belongs to Christ's love anyway. Meanwhile He gives to us the vital X factor, His Spirit, to take us into our open future in His direction.

What about the "One less", the "gone-foreverness of 1983"? I'll have to leave that to next month. Meanwhile, a Happy New Year to you all and God bless you.

Harold Fisher

### Fortnightly Fellowship:

16th January at 8 p.m. at 56 Rainsford Road.  
30th January at 8 p.m. The President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev'd Amos S. Cresswell, M.A. visits Bishop's Stortford.

### Methodist Invitation

to all our fellow-Christians to attend a service on Monday, 30th January at 8 p.m. in Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church.

The preacher will be the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev'd Amos S. Cresswell, M.A.

## Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for worship:** 11am.

On behalf of the Religious Society of Friends I send good wishes for 1984 to all readers of the Link and especially to those who work so hard to produce and distribute it.

It is not easy to view the coming year without misgiving but it is not a new situation. In 400 B.C. we find Aristophanes Writing

"From the murmur and subtlety of suspicion with which we view one another



give us rest. Make a new beginning and mingle again the kindred of the nations in the alchemy of Love and with some finer essence of tolerance and forgiveness temper our minds".

I suggest we take heart by reading the Link with its wonderful record of work done by people of very different views and interests because they 'care' and are ready to sink their differences for the good of the community in which they live.

A Happy New Year to you all and may God bless our endeavours.

from Nancy Tennant.

## 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.

Take time to think  
It is the source of power.

Take time to play  
It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read  
It is the fountain of Wisdom.

Take time to pray  
It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love, and be loved  
It is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly  
It is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh  
It is the Music of the Soul.

Take time to give  
It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work  
It is the price of success.

Take time to do Charity  
It is the Key to Heaven.



## Church of England

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

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

Deaconess Margaret Booker  
Moorlands Cottage, Burton End  
Tel: 812684

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

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

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

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



### Vicar's Notes

1983 was a very full year for our Anglican Church in Stansted. Event followed event before we could catch our breath. A great deal of activity was focussed around St. John's trying to raise money for the necessary repairs and we can now at least say that we no longer have to use buckets to catch water from a leaky roof. David Lodge, our builder, has done a fine job and it seems that we have enough money to pay the bill. Of course the work is not complete - there is still much to be done - but we can now pick off the jobs one by one and set ourselves small specific targets. I am more than grateful for those who have helped.

But as I have said many times the Church is not a building but a People - a People who have been called into existence by God. Furthermore, the Church is a community of people who do not exist for themselves but for others. As John Austin Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, writes: "Christians exist for the sake of non-Christians: that is the fundamental law of our being". So when we work to repair a building it is not like repairing a house for our own benefit - rather it is to preserve a building which is used and seen by the whole community reminding them of

the goodness and the love of God. As such a church building helps the Christian Community in its work of outreach and mission. Here in the centre of our village stands a building which is open every day and into which all may come for stillness, silence and prayer.

This leads me to try and set the scene for 1984. This coming year may not be less active but I would like to see some of our energy going into deepening our spiritual lives. When people say to me that they think the Church is doing too much I tend to agree because I am sure we all need more space in our lives - but is the person who is asking for fewer activities wanting to use time to pray and embark upon the journey inwards where we discover our true selves and experience the overwhelming love of God?

So I suggest our theme for this coming year should be, "Let go ..... Let God". Let go of the many things that clutter our lives and let God lead us to our hidden life, to where he wants us to be. Our Lent programme will certainly be centred around this theme.

God Bless, and a Blessed New Year.

## Youth News

The new Youth Club committee is now meeting on a regular basis. It includes representatives elected from the Youth Club members themselves and has arisen partly as a result of the Partners in Planning objective to give young people the opportunity to participate in decision making.

Matters discussed so far include the relationship of the Youth Club to the work of the church, with young people in general, smoking, and the possible involvement of young people in the care of the elderly. It is hoped that representatives will feel free to raise issues affecting the wider church as well as matters concerning Youth Club.



### OPERATION BRIDGEHEAD

The "Spice of Life" get-together in Chelmsford Cathedral for the 25 or so groups participating in Operation Bridgehead in the Chelmsford Diocese will take place on 25th February between 7.30 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

### CHURCH HALL

A reminder that our new Hall Letting Secretary is Tom Johnson, 6 Park Road. Tel: 812284.

### CONFIRMATION 1984

This year our Confirmation service is on June 3rd and soon we shall be starting preparation classes. Anyone interested should contact one of the clergy.

### PARISH DIARY

#### January

- 1st Nine Lessons and Carols 3 p.m. - St. Mary's
- 6th Feast of the Epiphany - Sung Eucharist 8 p.m.
- 9th PCC Meeting - 8 p.m. - 6 Park Road

#### February

- 12th Youth Service 6.30 p.m. No Evensong.

### PARISH REGISTERS

#### Departed

- 30th Nov. Walter James Moreton  
46 Stoneyfield Drive 79 years

### ELECTORAL ROLL 1984

Every parish has an electoral roll which enables parishioners to vote at Parish Annual General Meetings. Once in every six years we are required to make a new roll which means removing all names on the previous roll and asking parishioners to apply again. Any parishioner who has been baptised, is a member of the Church of England and is over 16 years of age can apply, also others who do not live in the parish but have habitually attended worship during six months prior to enrolment.

In 1984 we have to draw up a new electoral roll and so we ask those who are interested to ask for application forms from our Electoral Roll Secretary, Mrs. Pat Clower, 2 Clarence Road. Forms will also be available at the back of the church and from the Vicarage. Our Parish Annual General Meeting is on March 20th.

### Mothers Union

Our very sincere thanks go to Margaret Humble, an ex Stansted Mothers Union member, who has made us a new banner. This was dedicated on Sunday November 27th at the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist.

In the last two months we seem to have been kept busy, with a stall at the Christmas Market and a coffee morning to raise funds for new vestments for Church. This is our ongoing project for this year. We have also provided the tea for the Family Service and the Christingle Service.

Mrs. Holner of Mead Court was presented with a card to mark 52 years of membership - a great achievement.

Our next meeting is our Christmas party on WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25th at 2.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

Last month we reported that Brian and Olive Green from St. John's Crescent are moving. Also moving from Stansted are Ashley and Eileen Phoenix of Brewery Lane who are returning to Northern Ireland. We thank them both for all they have done for the Church during their many years in Stansted. Roger and Susan Ardem and family from Bentfield Gardens are also moving away. They have also worked very hard for the Church these last few years and Roger will be missed as a youth leader and our covenant secretary.

Once again we say farewell and we take this opportunity to ask those who are moving to Stansted not to be too shy but to offer their help to the Church.

## United Reformed

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### Speakers for January

1st Rev. Trevor Phillips of Dunmow -  
Communion  
8th Rev. C. Taylor of Cambridge  
15th Rev. E. McIlwain  
22nd Mr. E. Swan of Saffron Walden  
6.30 p.m. SACC  
29th Rev. E. McIlwain

### NO MORE BIRTHDAYS?

Christmas is so very special because it celebrates the birth of Jesus. Nearly 2,000 years is a very long time to continue a birthday celebration! We all love birthdays, especially those of our children and grand children.

Jonathan Schell in his extraordinary book "The Fate of the Earth" raises the awful prospect of no more birthdays.

"Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge and God punished them by withdrawing from them the privilege of immortality and dooming them and their kind to die. Now our species has eaten more deeply of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and has brought itself face to face with a second death - the death of mankind" (p. 115).

This "second death" would result from any widespread use of nuclear weapons, whether by accident or design it matters not.

Schell goes on to say "We are finite

beings at both ends of our existence - natal aswell as mortal - and it is the natality of our kind that extinction threatens. We have always been able to send people to their death, but only now has it become possible to prevent all birth and so doom all future human beings to un-creation . . . . Birth is our common possession, and the meaning of extinction is therefore to be sought first not in what each person's own life means to him but in what the world and the people in it mean to him." (pp 117 & 118)

Orwells "1984" is upon us and we have just had the "Christmas present" of newer and more deadly nuclear weapons. It may not be just as Orwell imagined 1984 to be but it is a sombre thought that these nuclear Christmas presents could one day be the end of Christmas and of all Happy Birthdays, past, present and future.

The possibility cannot go away. We now must live with it forever, even if forever may not have the ringing overtones that it once had.

Surely our New Year's prayer for 1984 must be that, if we are spared "the second death", each bonus birthday may make us more mature in our understanding and use of nuclear power.

The chain of life is now too fragile for political pasturing and mindless machismo. Perhaps 1984 will see the world nudged a little further toward planetary maturity. Maybe this year the bells will ring out the old and ring in the new, the new birth of which Christmas was the sign and summons.

Eric McIlwain

### VIGIL FOR PEACE

On Friday January 27th we shall be holding a Vigil for Peace.

It is sponsored by the United Nations Disarmament Campaign, set up in 1982 as a result of the Special Disarmament session of the United Nations Assembly.

This vigil will be part of a nationwide series of services and vigils to pray for peace, based on the four aims of the movement.

1. Abolition of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.
2. Abolition of conventional weapons by stages.
3. General and complete disarmament.
4. Transference of military expenditure to relieve world poverty.

It is important that during this weekend (January 27th - 29th) we join with other cities, towns and villages worldwide to pray together in the name of the Prince of Peace that governments and peoples of every land cease to misuse their material and manpower for war preparation and devote them to the ending of poverty, illiteracy and disease.

St. Theresa's Church, Millside, will be open for prayer between 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. on January 27th. Please feel free to come and go as you wish. There will be a short service of corporate worship between 8.45 - 9 p.m.

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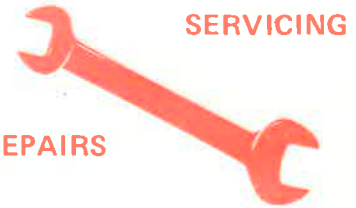
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