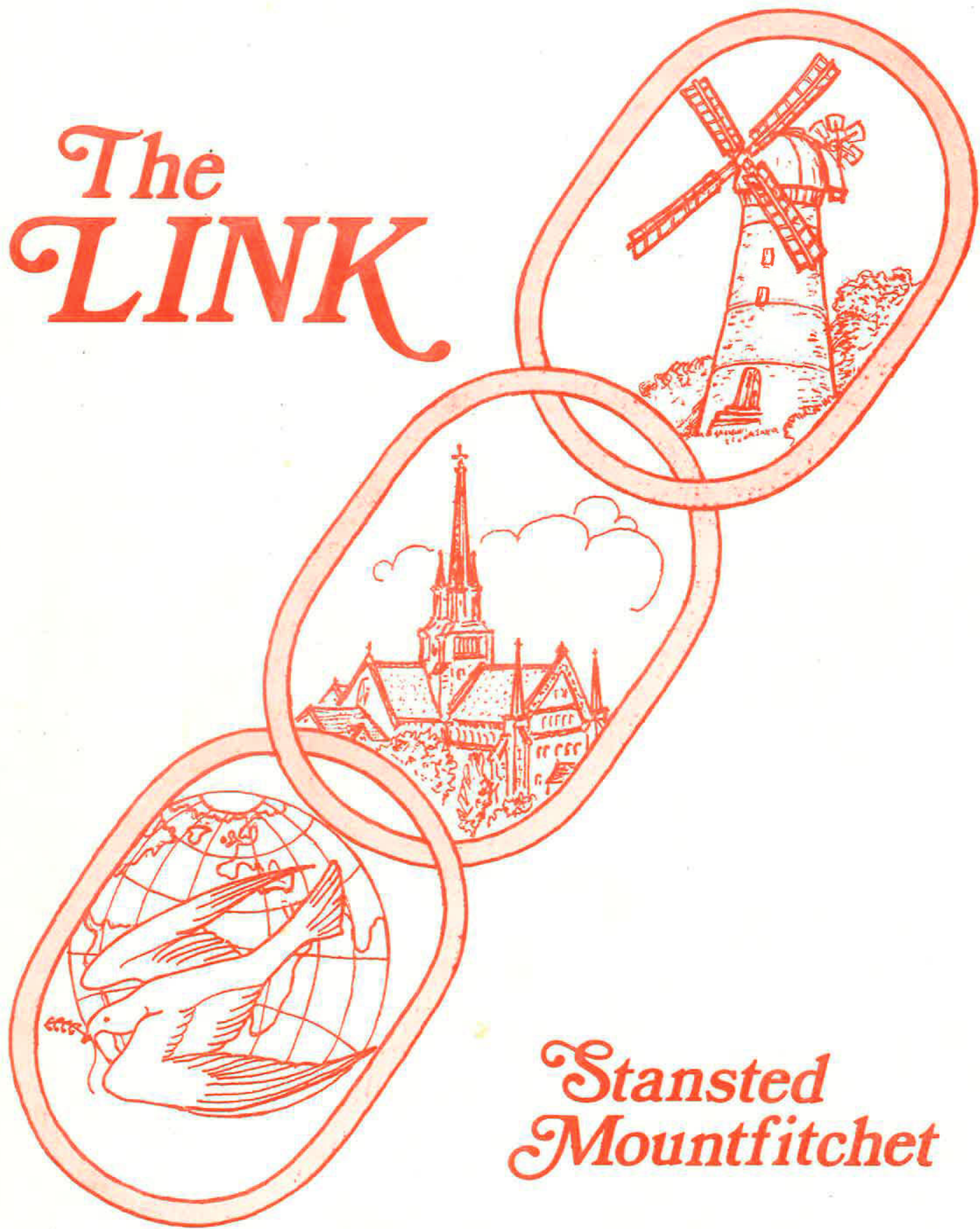


Mar 84

# The **LINK**



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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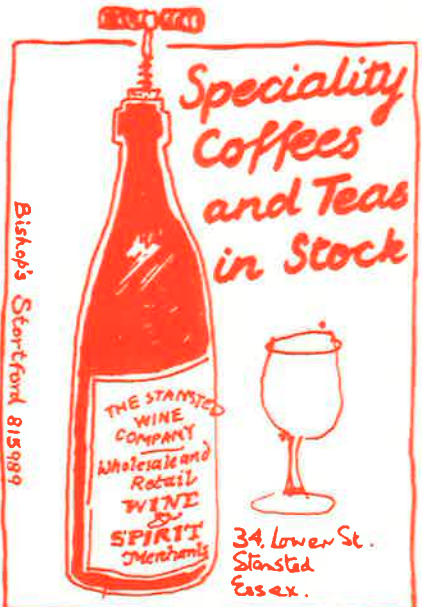
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SACC

LENTEN SERVICES

Theme: Eucharist (Communion)

at 8.00 pm

Thurs,	15	Mar.	in	St John's	"Taking"
"	22	"	in	St Theresa's	"Blessing"
"	29	"	in	United Reformed Church	"Breaking"
"	5	Apr.	in	Quaker Meeting House	"Sharing"
"	12	Apr.	in	United Reformed Church	Agape Supper

Advance Notice

Christian Aid Week: 13-19 May.

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.

Copy to reach 48, St. John's road by 15th. March for April 1984 issue and 12th. April for May 1984 issue



## 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.

Dear James

Nice to hear from you again. You do make me smile - (apologies); what questions! Among which you asked, "Anyway what is truth?". I remember some one many years ago asked that question of Jesus. Unfortunately he did not wait for a reply. I doubt if he would have understood the answer if he had waited! It was Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Judea, who put that question to Jesus when he was so unjustly arrested. Jesus had been saying to Pilate, "I came into this world to be a witness to the truth and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice." At this juncture, Pilate asked, "Truth, what is that?" At another time, Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one can come to the Father except through me". Puzzling 'aint it!! Words are used in an attempt to express (what?) the truth!! God is TRUTH personified, as He is goodness, life, joy and every wonderful and glorious quality to an infinite degree and in an infinite quantity. All sounds terribly bogus and "pie in the sky" to the "earthy" modern-day sophisticated intellectual non-Christian sceptic, who has "eyes and sees not, ears and hears not."

May I give you an example, a comparison? Did you see that film (it was on the box during Christmas time) called, "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World". It is based on two age old movie themes; the chase, and seeking buried treasure. It is hilariously funny - if you like that sort of thing. It is, however, strangely allegorical. To intelligent beings from somewhere else in the galaxy (if there are any) whose predominant way of life might be intellectual activity rather than physical activity of dashing about all over the surface of this planet, this world must indeed appear pretty mad, for we are quite literally charging about all over the place. On every road, in every town, village and city in every country of the world, people are on the move, and there are so many people flying in aeroplanes that sometimes there is a queue to land. What are we looking for? Why this 'mad rushing about', we must have a motive. Consciously or unconsciously, we seek some kind of fulfilment, satisfaction, there are many names for it. In the film, the treasure was buried under a big W. They were all rushing about in such a frenzy that they could not see the big W (made out of leaning palm trees), although it 'stared them in the face'. It was discovered by the woman who, in a pensive mood, saw it while taking a drink of water from a fountain.

You, too, will discover the meaning of life and the truth, if you think, reflect and go to drink from THE fountain of living water. As an exercise, explore the Gospels and see how often Jesus compares himself to this.

All the best James.

Yours

Father David.

## 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)	- 11.15am
(2nd and 4th Sundays)	
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.

### CURATE'S NOTES

I have always enjoyed the use of drama in worship; particularly, of course, when it succeeds in presenting the "cutting-edge" of the life-giving message of the Gospel.

Once I saw a group of young people perform a short dramatic sketch in which a young girl struggled along a road with two heavy suit cases. At a crossroads she met Christ who asked her what the two suitcases contained.

"In this one" she said, "are all my problems, all the things that make life difficult for me."

"And in this other suitcase" she added, "are all the things that have made me feel guilty, all the things that make me feel bad about myself."

"Will you let me carry them for you?" Christ asked her.

"Well. They are very heavy to carry" she replied, "but I would rather hold on to them if you don't mind".

And so she struggled on!

I tell this story by way of an introduction to our Lenten programme for spiritual renewal and growth which has been built around our theme for 1984 "Let go ..... let God". The story highlights our human need to hear the refreshing, pardoning Word of grace but it also illustrates that accepting God's grace can seem very costly.

The eminent psychologist Carl Jung wrote these words:- "That I feed the hungry, that I forgive an insult, that I love my enemy in the name of Christ - all these are undoubtedly great virtues ..... But what if I should discover that the least among them all, the poorest of all the beggars, the most impudent of all the offenders, the very enemy himself - that these are all within me, and that I myself stand in need of the alms of my own kindness - that I am the enemy that must be loved - what then? As a rule, the Christian's attitude is then reversed; there is no longer any question of love or long-suffering; we say to the brother within us 'Raca' and condemn and range against ourselves".

The paradox of divine grace is that when the cost of "letting go" is accepted, God's grace turns out to be free.



HE  
 who offers  
 to me with devotion  
 only a leaf, a flower  
 or even a little water,  
 this I accept from his  
 yearning soul because  
 his pure heart offers  
 LOVE

# Youth News

## THE ROCK

We plan to leave from St. John's for the Rock at 6 p.m. on Friday 16th March and to be back in Stansted at 5 p.m. on Sunday 18th March.

We will be sharing the Rock Youth Centre with a group from Chingford in North East London. A group from a country village and a group from a London suburb sharing a weekend together. We should have much to learn from each other.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUTING TO HATFIELD FOREST

On Saturday 21st July we will join with young people from the United Reformed Church here in Stansted in a visit to Hatfield Forest for a picnic, games and a barbecue. We plan to start at 4 p.m. and carry on to around 9.45 p.m.

## ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS

The closing date for applications for the St. Albans International Ecumenical Youth Festival (23-28th April 1984) is 18th April 1984. Details and application forms are available from Fr. Tony.

## MOTHER'S UNION

It was good to see nearly all the members at the party in January, which was a great success and we enjoyed entertaining members from All Saints Hockerill and St. Michael's Bishop's Stortford. Thank you to everyone who made it so successful especially Phyllis and Bruce Harrison and our "Duo" Tony and Geoff.

The meeting in March will be a Coffee Morning at Mrs. Cawkell's, 23 Burnells Way Wednesday, March 28th at 10.30 a.m. Bring and Buy Stall in aid of Funds.

We keep the feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Wednesday 28th March at 10 a.m. which will be our corporate communion.

## Parish Diary

### March

- 6th Shrove Tuesday Social 8 pm to 10 pm Adults £1 Children 50p.
- 7th Ash Wednesday St. Mary's School Communion 9.15 am (All welcome) Holy Communion 10.30 am Sung Eucharist 8 pm
- 11th Lent 1 Preacher at 9.30 am Mrs. Penelope Erkesley Songs of Praise 6.30 pm
- 16th-18th Young people at The Diocesan Youth Centre, The Rock
- 18th Lent 2 Preacher at 9.30 am The Vicar
- 24th Jumble Sale in aid of church funds 2.30 pm Organ and Oboe Concert 8 pm. In aid of St. John's Appeal
- 25th Preacher at 9.30 am Canon Peter Morris 6.30 pm The 18-30 Group Presents .....
- 26th Parish Annual General Meeting 8 pm Church Hall

### April

- 1st Mothering Sunday. Parish Communion with flowers 9.30 am
- 8th Lent 5 Preacher at 9.30 am Fr Christopher Bryant S.S.J.E. Service of readings and music for Passiontide 6.30 pm

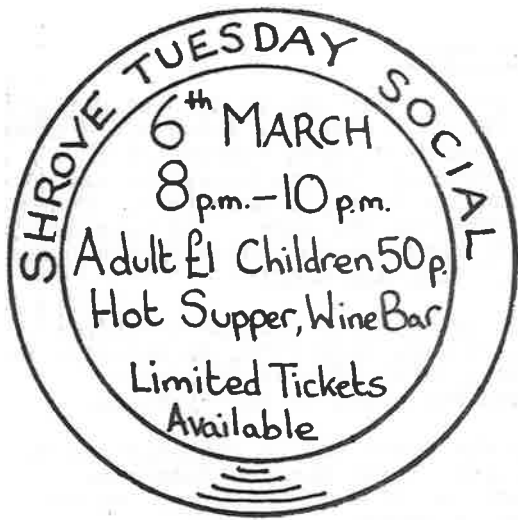
## Parish Registers

### Departed

- 19th Jan Joan Cheal, 36 Blythwood Gardens Aged 59 years
- 24th Jan Basil Lightfoot, 11 Brewery Lane Aged 62 years
- 3rd Feb Reginald Pegg, 6 The Mews Aged 76 years

## GIFTS FOR MOTHER

On Sundays 25th March and 1st April there will be a stall in St. John's Church selling small suitable items for children to buy for their mothers. Nothing will be expensive so encourage your children to buy from us and so get away from the commercialisation of Mothering Sunday. As is our usual custom flowers will be distributed during the Parish Communion.



**GIANT JUMBLE SALE**  
 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2.30 p.m.  
 St. John's Church Hall  
 Jumble will be collected  
 Contact Mrs. G. Rumble 813731

**MEMO: 26 MARCH**  
**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 To be held: St. John's Hall at 8.00 p.m.  
 Agenda: Election of Church Wardens,  
 deanery synod representatives,  
 church council members and  
 sidesmen.  
 Hear Parish news  
 Ask questions  
*Hope to see you there!!*

**CONCERT**  
 Organ: Peter Stannard  
 Oboes: Eric and Zoe Simms  
 Music by VIVALDI, TOPPING  
 and FLORPEETORS  
 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 8.00 p.m.  
 ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
 £1-50 ADULTS £1 CHILDREN  
 In aid of St. John's Appeal

## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR MARCH

### THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club meets at the Vicarage on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm. Wool, patterns and material are provided and members make the garments up at home.

We have had stalls at the Carnival, Day Centre, Link Coffee Morning, Senior Citizen's Harvest Service and Christmas Market. This past year we have sold goods to the value of £600.

New members are always welcome. For further information ring Doreen Newby on 812061.

OUR LENT PROGRAMME  
 SETTING OUT FULL  
 DETAILS OF ALL  
 SERVICES AND EVENTS  
 IS AVAILABLE FROM  
 THE BACK OF THE  
 CHURCH

Our series of sermons for Lent 1984 begins on Sunday March 11th when Mrs. Penelope Erkesley from St. James Piccadilly will set the scene by speaking on the theme of "Slowing down".

## **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.

### SERVICES FOR MARCH

Please remember that our joint Lenten Services begin on March 15th at St. John's March 22nd at St. Theresa's and March 29th at the U.R.C. The theme is "Holy Communion" and it continues on April 5th at the Quaker Meeting House and ends with our now traditional Agape Supper at the U.R.C. Lecture Hall on April 12th.

### U.R.C. Services:

March 4th - Mr. McIlwain - Communion  
 March 11th - Mrs. Lydia Raplein  
 March 18th - Mr. McIlwain - Family Service  
 March 25th - Mr. J. Doggett  
 April 1st - Mr. McIlwain - Communion

### SCANDAL AT THE HOLY COMMUNION

Space is limited but I would like to share with you a part of the "University Sermon" given by Dr. Allan Boesak at Cat. St. Mary's on Jan 29th.

Boesak, a coloured South African minister of the "Mission" Church (for mission, read black or coloured) of the South African Dutch Reformed Church, was elected President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (70 million members including the U.R.C.) at Ottawa in August 1982.

At that meeting the non-whites refused to take part in the opening service of Holy

Communion on the grounds that in S. Africa they were not allowed to take communion in the "white" churches. Subsequently the Alliance suspended the membership of the "white" Dutch Reformed Church in S. Africa and declared APARTHEID to be a Christian heresy, i.e. not consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Belsak told of the early days in S. Africa when there were no divisions, but because some whites objected to receiving Communion with blacks, separate services, separate tables and then separate churches were set up. Over the years the white church campaigned for the policy we know as apartheid which became official in 1948.

At Nairobi in 1970 the World Alliance said that "any church which accepts as a rule for its life racial prejudice cannot be called an authentic member of the body of Jesus Christ". It took until 1982 for the Alliance to act and to expel the white church.

The very idea of a "white church" sounds obscene to me - worse than many other things we call obscene - but it is "normal" and "acceptable" in South Africa - at least among the ruling white, Dutch Reformed Christians.

And to make it worse it all began at the Holy Communion.

Should it not make the rest of us who may still be divided (for different reasons, of course) at the Table of Our Lord, carefully examine our reasons and ask if our division is not as great a scandal in the Body of Christ to the world's eye as apartheid is to our eye, with its separate black and white churches?

South Africa is spending millions to advertise itself as a paragon of progress and decency. Not so - and - to our shame it is the WHITE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH which is responsible, together with all those who live well off the easy profits of the regime of apartheid.

As a footnote it should be said that the U.R.C. is no longer investing (pension funds, for instance) in funds that have a "significant" South African element. Thank God for small mercies!

Eric McIlwain

## 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 1 - 9.30am.

"The soul of the old man who plods his last stage slowly and with bent head, laughs inwardly at being taken for a shadow of something that was once alive." The words are those of that happy old saint, Father Congreve of Cowley, taken from the book of that title by Mildred Woodgate. She tells us how he used to talk of having two remedies for old age - love and prayer. She quotes him as follows: "It is not

years that make souls grow old, but having nothing to love, nothing to hope for. If I cannot work or rise from my chair or my bed, love remains to me: I can pray. If we are old and uninteresting, it is so to the world which is passing away moment by moment. To God, who made each of us for Himself, we are not uninteresting. And what we are to Him, that is what we really are."

To be without love and without hope is to be old, whatever our chronological age may be. Without them our inward being can be old at 14; with them our souls are young at 90. They are vitally needed at every age and stage. In Christ, God gives us limitless hope and unending love. And Christ is the A to Z of life, the beginning and the end. Life means what His love and hope declare it to mean. At the last all things will be brought to fulfil His hope and conform to His love. Humanity will become what it was and is in Him.

When one of Ibsen's characters, in deep sorrow, cries out, "I wish I'd never been made", an old, wise friend says to her, "My dear, you're not yet made, you're still being made and this (her sorrow) is part of the process". We are all in the state of becoming, of becoming what we are in the mind of God. Our longing hopes are a sign of our incompleteness, an indication that we need to love and be loved, in fullness, without blemish or hindrance, forever. The coming of Christ made it possible for us to know this and to live in the safety of it. Ultimately, He ensures the eternal consummation of our best and truest longings.

Meanwhile, do not let that incompleteness we all feel make you edgy, tense and anxious. It is a door God has opened in your soul by which, bit by bit, He enters and fills your life. Be relaxed and gentle about it and with yourself. Be assured and comforted by the promise that God's master plan for you is being fulfilled as day by day your door of hope is His way to you. And let the lovely words of Father Congreve bring you quiet contentment: "What we are to Him, that is what we really are".

Love and best wishes to you all.

Harold Fisher.

Fornightly Fellowships on Mondays at 8 pm. Venues to be announced.

## Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for worship:** 11am.

Stansted Preparative Meeting would like to inform all those interested that they should now contact the new Bookings Clerk, Ruth Bush, on 814183 if they wish to book the Meeting House. If anyone requires more general information about the Society or its activities, they should contact the

new Clerk, Margaret Whitelaw, on 52769, or the new Assistant Clerk, Jan Taylor, on 813415.

On the subject of activities, I would like to report on the Family Day held at Saffron Walden Meeting on 8th January, which was attended by families from Dunmow, Bardfield and Stansted Meetings, and, of course, from Saffron Walden itself.

The day started with our usual meeting for worship. After this, we were treated to a play called "Shirts", which was performed by the teenagers from the meetings. It was a very clever sendup of people's obedience to fashion, and was greatly enjoyed by both audience and cast. An indoor picnic lunch followed. Anybody who thought they had seen their last mince pie the previous Sunday was wrong! After lunch there was a choice of a walk round the town, with a local Friend as guide, or quizzes. I chose the walk, along with a few others, and cold weather notwithstanding, we enjoyed very much having the time to look at unknown corners of a town to which we had perhaps only been for a quick shopping trip previously.

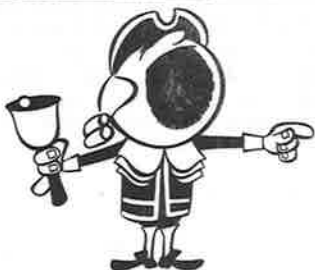
I especially enjoyed being undistracted by young children: they were all being entertained (and very ably so, according to my three) by the teenagers back at the meeting house.

After the walk, there was a second performance of "Shirts", and even time to have a go at the quizzes before a bring and share tea, which featured the last of the mince pies.

It was an excellent family day, enjoyed by all who were there. Roll on the next one!

Peter Webb

## Village News



### FUTURE EVENTS

#### March

2nd	2 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at U.R. Church
10th		Mountfitchet School Spring Fairs Jumble Sale
15th	8 pm	Lenten Service at St. John's
	8 pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Peter Kirk School Canteen
17th	8 pm	Bentfield School PTA "London Evening" of song. Elder citizens particularly welcome
19th	8 pm	Film Show of Work of Action Research at Friends Meeting House
22nd	8 pm	Lenten Service at St. Theresa's

#### April

9th	2.30	Women's Own Annual Spring Sale at U.R. Church Lecture Hall
11th	10.30	Royal British Legion Coffee Morning at 55 Chapel Hill

#### May

3rd	7 pm	Coffee Evening at St. John's Hall for Huw Johnson Club
7th		Brownie - Guide - Cub - Scout Fair at Bentfield Place

FAMILY WEEK 1984 - April 1st - 7th

HAPPY FAMILIES MAKE HAPPY CHILDREN

The Church of England Children's Society believes that 'happy families make happy children'. It cares for almost 6,000 children and families every year throughout England and Wales.

Happy families are like the Hancock family who live near our family centre in Swansea. Stevie was not yet a year old when his mother died but his dad was determined that Stevie and his brother and sister would stay with him.

The family centre was able to help by looking after Stevie during the day and by taking the older children into the after school club. Dad collects all three on his way home from work - a family together.

The Children's Society provides a comprehensive range of child care, always alive to innovation, prepared to explore new avenues to help those in need. It works through family centres and community projects, teenage hostels, specialist care for mentally and physically handicapped youngsters, both in residential and community settings, children's homes and fostering and adoption.

With roots firmly embedded in the Anglican faith, The Children's Society believes that the total care of a child must include giving him or her the opportunity of spiritual growth. It means that whatever problems may face families and children in need, it is the Society's mission to show them they are part of God's family. It is a mission that is carried through parishes all over the country who show their Christian love and concern for those in need of care through their prayers and gifts.

During Family Week, The Children's Society asks everyone throughout England and Wales to think especially of families in need, through prayer and gift.

There are many ways in which you can help in your parish: a coffee morning, a bring and buy sale, a garden party, organising a door to door collection depot or helping with a collection.

If you would like to help please contact your parish representative Judy Goddard (B.S. 812498) who will be able to tell you about the different ways in which you can help.

If you would like more information about our work please write to our head office at The Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, London, SE11 4QD. Telephone: 01-735-2441.



## STANSTED BROWNIES & GUIDES

### 2ND STANSTED GUIDES

The 2nd Stansted Guides meet on Monday evenings 7-8.30 p.m. The company is run by Vicky Cutler and Veronica Fox. The guides have fun while at the same time work hard for their badges. They visit places of interest and help in the community.

There are now vacancies in the company for girls 10-14 years. The newcomers need not have been Brownies. So if you have a daughter who wishes to join, please ring either Vicky Cutler (B/S 503204) or Veronica Fox (B/S 815796),

Many congratulations to Sarah Bogle of the 2nd Stansted Guides who was awarded her Queens Guide Badge.

### GUIDE/BROWNIES PARENTS COMMITTEE

The AGM will take place in the Guide Hut on Monday 19th March at 8 p.m. This is a meeting for all parents of Brownies and Guides. The District Commissioner, Mrs. Lesley Ingham, will be giving a report. The Brownie and Guide Leaders will be talking of their work over the year.

We do need new parents for the committee to help, plan the fete and other functions for the year. Please give your support and come to the meeting.

Christine Hope (Secretary)

### Future Date for Your Diary

#### Brownie/Guide Cub/Scout May Fair

This will take place on May Day, Monday May 7th at Bentfield Place (by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Thompson).

## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Our numbers continue to grow and about 50 members and visitors attended the meeting on 1 February. Our Chairman, Mr David Williams, told us that a number of members had expressed interest in a proposed weekend visit to the Liverpool Flower Festival this summer. Another step forward in our lively and interesting programme. Visits have also been arranged in March to an Orchid Nursery, and to Baker's Nursery which specialises in Fuchias. Almost everyone attends these outings, and we have seen some spectacular displays of plant colour and shape, giving immense pleasure to us all.

Our speaker this month was Major Power on "Heath Robinson in the Garden". He told us of ingenious uses of plastic containers and tunnels to raise such exotic plants as aubergenes and melons at very little cost.

7 March at 8.00 pm at the Day Centre is the date for our next meeting. Two speakers will advise us on flower arranging and wine making in preparation for the Spring Show.

Gwen Harbridge

## TOY LIBRARY

Each Thursday at 2.15 in the dining hall of the Peter Kirk School, a Red Cross Toy Library is run by voluntary helpers. It is run in the same way as a book library, but, instead of books, a wide range of toys is provided to stimulate children, to encourage them to learn and to enjoy play, and to help them to develop. It is open to all children with special or general handicaps, whether social, physical or mental, to all pre-school children and those of school age.

The toy library is dependent on volunteers to run it. If you would like to join the rota of helpers, please let us know. If you know of a child who would benefit from joining our toy library, please contact us. If you would like to make a donation or have some toys in good condition which would be suitable for lending, I would be happy to collect them.

Pat Sheppard (Chair Person)

Tel: (8.30 am - 4.30 pm) 815359

(6.30 pm onwards) Chelmsford 442381

## NEWS FROM MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL

### VISIT TO MARCHANTS HILL

A group of Second Year pupils recently spent a week at an educational centre, Marchants Hill, in Surrey. From there they went out to study the area each day, and then spent their evenings writing up notes.

### SPRING FAIR

The School P.T.A. will be holding a Spring Fair and Jumble Sale on Saturday 10th March at the School, and you are all invited to come along. The proceeds will be used to provide additional facilities for the School.

### STANSTED EVENING W.I.

Jules Verne may well have gone 'Round the World in 80 Days' but this month we managed to travel half the world in just 2 hours! Not physically, of course - Mrs. Baker returned to give us the second part of her slides, entitled 'Around the World in a Camper!'

Each year a collection is made called 'Pennies for Friendship' which is sent to the Association of Country Women Worldwide to help them in their work. This month our members donated pennies to the sum of £2.54. The competition was "An Ornate Key" and this was won by Mrs. Betty Little. The raffle raised the sum of £10.20 and as Valentine's Day was imminent the prizes included a pink heart shaped cake, an orchid and some heart shaped soaps.

Our small discussion group has continued meeting in members' homes and the most recent subjects have included speakers from our own village: Charles Sherratt on "Spiritualism and Healing" and Dr. Hazzard on "The History of Medecine".

Sonya Cheshire

Phyllis and Bruce Harrison composed the following for the Link Party. We thought it deserved a larger audience and thank them for allowing this.

The Coming of "The Link"  
(with apologies to Longfellow)

By the bounds of Herts and Essex,  
To the North of Bishop's Stortford,  
Where the fortress of Mountfitchet  
Glowers at the Railway Station,  
Lay the stoney -place or STANSTED  
Where the brook ran grey and greasy  
And the living wasn't easy -  
And, above, the Mill ground slowly.

Quiet was it then in Stansted  
Tho' the village trade was busy:  
Travelling by horse and donkey  
(None came flying in from Brussels!)  
CHILDren played along the Brook-side  
In the pleasant days of summer -  
And the elder in the doorway  
Kept his cool and kept his counsel.

But from cottage and from castle  
from commuters' condominiums  
From the clerks and from the couriers  
From the Cash - & - carry pedlars  
From the costermonger's quarters  
Grew a murmur down the ages-  
Ever louder grew the murmur  
To the priests and to the elders  
In the Council of the People:

Give us news about the Village -  
Who has come and who is going  
From the Village: - we must know it!  
What goes on and where to do it.

.....

So a band of SACC Supporters  
with associated clergy -  
Put their several heads together  
In a most almighty effort;  
Circulated clubs and churches  
Quakers, Catholics and URChies  
Methodists and Church of England  
(Also wise men of the Village)

Thus they brought their newsy - items  
And their programmes and their adverts.  
Their reports of kiddies' frolics  
In the pleasant days of summer;  
Feast-ins at the days of harvest,  
Films and slide - shows in the Winter  
Charity-bazaars and sports days

Huddles for the Mums and Toddlers  
Services for Sun-and Saints days  
(Catering for all communions)

Nothing in Stansted Happ'nings  
Could escape the Village Diary:  
If it did - be sure the fact would cause  
a serious enquiry!  
So the team of LINK Production  
Gazed upon the mass before them,  
At the literary jewels  
(At the list of boring meetings)  
At the newly-started projects  
At the formidable listings  
Of the coming month's adventures -  
Of the Nursery School's collations,  
Of the Bishop's visitations  
And the plans for Summer outings.

.....

And the team of LINK Production  
As a man, they got their heads down,  
Tackled all that mass of copy,  
Took to editing and typing  
Passed it to the Paste - & - Printers  
Back again to be collated -  
Ever nearer to the date-line  
For the following month's edition  
Finally the staple - binding  
And the Sunday Distribution!

.....

This was done in 1980  
Round about this month, November,  
(Those who did it will remember!)  
When support was far from weighty.

.....

Now, as 3 full years have trickled  
Thro' the banks of Stansted's brooklet  
So the LINK has flowed out further  
Thro' the channels of the faithful  
To the villages of Ugley  
Elsenham and Rickling/Quendon,  
Farnham, Birchanger and Henham  
Ever wider distribution -  
Like "THE SUN" with less pollution

.....

## United Reformed Church Guild

For the first meeting in February we welcomed Mrs. Barber who gave a most comprehensive talk on bells and bellringing. She sketched the history of bells from very early days and we now realised that there is more to bell ringing than we thought and we will listen with more understanding and appreciation. We were able to inspect the hand bells and even try our hands at ringing.

## **NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER**

The group which caters for those women who would like to discuss and investigate subjects not relating to domesticity.

On Wednesday 1st February we were very pleased to welcome Neil Cameron who until recently was a practicing solicitor. Neil first explained the English Legal System - how it works, moved on to consumer laws and then answered our many and varied questions. We found Neil an interesting and enjoyable speaker who certainly increased our knowledge of English Law if not our confidence!

Our book group met on 16th January and chose the books for the next meeting on April 11th.

Isak Dinesan	Letters from Africa
Margaret Drabble	The Millstone
George Orwell	1984

The meetings to be held in March are, on the 12th - Husbands Questions. We will attempt to answer our husbands anonymous questions and on 29th - we will compare the various methods and styles of reporting by the major newspapers.

We held our programme planning meeting on 15th February for the next session from mid April to November. Copies of the programme will be available as soon as possible and then members can obtain them from either of the Local Organisers named below.

Libby Martin	Bishop's Stortford	812807
Sharon Frogley	"	" 812617

### **ACTION RESEARCH**

We are showing video films to demonstrate the kind of research in which this charity is involved.

The date is Monday, 19 March.  
The place is The Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill.  
The time is 8.00 pm.

The films will show the contribution of Action Research to pioneer work in ultrasound, problems of low birthweight and premature babies, and cot deaths. Everybody is welcome.

We wish to thank all those who recently took part in our "Diminishing Coffee Morning". If anybody still has contributions to hand in, could they please give them to Katy Dockerill, The Snuff Box, Bentfield Road, or to Catherine Dean, 49 Recreation Ground.

C Dean

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 pm on Thursday, 15 March 1984, in the Peter Kirk School Canteen.

### 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	812249
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

### A THANK-YOU NOTE

#### Christmas Dinners, December 1983

A week or so before Christmas I uttered a cry for help. I was looking for kind souls to provide and deliver on Christmas Day a Christmas dinner to some of Stansted's elderly, lonely and infirm. My cry did not go unheeded and to the best of my knowledge all those in need received a dinner. I send my very sincere thanks to you all.

Judy Goddard

**FOUND BUT NOT CLAIMED**

Would the member of the Carol Singing party who left his/her umbrella at 23 Spencer Close on the Wednesday before Christmas, contact Chris Dyer (814025) who will be pleased to restore it to its owner.

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**WOMEN'S SECTION**

After our usual business session at our January meeting, Mrs C Francis talked to us about her travels in Tunisia. She brought along a variety of postcards, a brightly coloured rug and a baunous - a long hooded cloak, like a monk's, made of camel hair.

On Wednesday, 14 March, Stansted branch will be hostess to the Group Meeting, and on Thursday, 15 March, Mr D Coleman will be telling us about "My lifetime of making furniture".

Pat Clower

**AFTERNOON W.I.**

There was a colourful display of Valentine Cards made by members for our February Meeting's competition. This was won by Mrs Wheeler. We also had a wonderful display of house plants from "Rochfords" and a very helpful talk on the care of these plants - things you would never have thought of. Our plants will benefit I am sure by all the tips we had from Mr Day.

The raffle prizes, including plants donated by Messrs Rochfords, were won by Mrs Watson, Mrs Gibson, Miss Oswald and Miss Goodey.

What a pleasant afternoon we had.

K M Jordan

**BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Well, I guess it's Jumble Sale time again. This year, however, I have declared my garage a 'jumble-free zone'. I am looking for old china though. We are planning an Aunt Sally at our Summer Fete and any old plates, etc, that you may want to get rid of would be welcome. This year the theme of our fete is to be a 'Fairytale Fantasia'.

The PTA have planned a "London Evening" for Saturday, 17 March, at 8.00 pm. We do hope that if there are any of Stansted's older citizens who would like to come and have a sing-song with us that they will feel more than welcome. If I can find enough old shirt buttons some friends and I might come as pearly kings and queens. However, rather like 'Come Dancing', I think this will require some dedicated needlework. Various suitable refreshments will be available and we are look forward to lifting the roof off with our singing.

Janice Wray

**THE WOMEN'S OWN**

In spite of the bad weather, we have had good attendances at our weekly meetings in the URC Hall. An appeal for knitted bedsocks from the Herts & Essex Hospital brought a quick response from our members and in a few weeks, 25 pairs were brought to the meeting.

We had a most interesting talk from Deaconess Margaret Booker on her two years at Cambridge, and were taken to New Zealand by Mrs Francis another week.

We are hoping to hold our Annual Spring Sale in the URC Hall on 9 April at 2.30 pm. We do hope to see you there.

**STANSTED TENNIS CLUB**

The Annual General Meeting of the Tennis Club will take place on Tuesday, 27 March, at 8.00 pm at Little Fosters, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. Anybody who is interested in tennis or who would like to join the Club will be very welcome.

An American Tournament was held on Sunday, 29 January. Fourteen people played and the winners were Paul Bainbridge and David Baker who beat Gill Bainbridge and John Eyre 6-2 in the Final. The winners each received a bottle of wine. Chris Hollis organised the Tournament. An excellent barbecue lunch with mulled wine was served by Richard Mott and Eddie Campbell.

**Lawn Tennis Association/Prudential Grass Roots Coaching Scheme**

This course will take place at Stansted Tennis Club on six consecutive Tuesdays, starting on Tuesday, 1 May, from 5.30-6.30 pm. The cost is £4 for the six lessons and the coach will be Joanna King from Saffron Walden. This course is really aimed at beginners, aged from 8-12 years, but children of other ages or those who may need a refresher course are welcome to apply. The class is limited to 20-25 children so we recommend early applications to Janet Hollis, 812073, and any other tennis club enquiries.

**STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Quaker Meeting House on 28 March at 8.00 pm. All members and supporters welcome. We hope to have a speaker.

28 April is the date for a sale jointly organised with Stansted Liberals. More news next month. Please keep your jumble and posher items.

Do you have any pre-war tins in the cellar or garage? Bisto, Brasso, HMV Gramophone Needles, etc? If you do and you can spare them, we will be pleased to accept all donations for a fund raising exhibition.

Alan Dean  
813579



## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Because of the change of time for club evenings to suit our "ageing" members, we are faced with increasing expenses. Consequently, this year we shall be trying to raise some funds - you have been warned!

On Thursday, 3 May, we shall be holding a coffee evening in St John's Church Hall from 7.00 pm onwards. Please put this date in your diary and reserve it for us. Entrance will be only 50p - quite a bargain.

We shall have a cake stall; here's a chance to fill your freezer so bring a holdall (or suitcase). Donations will be very welcome for a bring-and-buy stall - articles that you can't stand the sight of, someone else will love and vice versa. You'll be able to snap up "Aunt Jemima's Vase" that someone has been trying to get rid of for years - it will look super in your lounge.

Also we hope to have a grand raffle - everyone enjoys clutching their tickets and hoping their number will be next out of the box.

So on 3 May, all you need is 50p to join us, spare change to spend and plenty of bags to carry home the loot.

Hope to see you. Betty Lockwood

## NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Although it was yet another rainy day our Family Pop-In at the beginning of February attracted many Mums with new babies, as well as the one's with toddlers who normally pop in for a cuppa and a chat while the little ones play. Grannies have come along before but this time we were honoured by the presence of a Dad. If you'd like a rest after pushing a pram or push-chair up Chapel Hill, do come in. Our Family Pop-Ins are held 2.30-4.30 at the Day Centre the first and third Wednesdays in every month, to coincide with clinic days.

The children thought it great fun venturing out in the snow to our "Open House" only to find out that their Mums had brought them for a haircut. Cuts were less expensive than salon prices, although done by a professional hairdresser, so only those who still have to grow some hair managed to escape the scissors.

Our next major event is the AGM on Friday, 9 March, at 8.00 pm in the Day Centre. After official business, the film "And Baby Makes Three" will be shown.

The Milk Run is always pleased to accept offers of breast milk for babies in the special care unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital. If you would like to donate even a few drops, or know someone who travels to Harlow regularly and would be willing to transport the milk once or twice a week, Cathy on 813068 would be pleased to hear from you.

Antenatal classes for babies expected in June start on Thursday, 29 March, 8-10 pm, and last for 8 weeks. If any couples are interested, please contact Jenny on 813958 for further information.

As Jenny is now involved in work training to become an antenatal teacher, I am taking over the publicity side. For further information about our events, keep your eyes open for our yellow posters displayed around the village or phone me on 814129.

## ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Jumble Sale

The Jumble Sale held by the PTA raised £95. Many thanks to those who helped and to those who supported the event.

### Netball Tournament

A new netball tournament will take place at the Mountfitchet School on Saturday morning, 17 March. A team from St Mary's will take part. They will be competing against other local Essex schools.

### Music Workshop

The school will be taking part in a new venture. This will be a music workshop at the Mountfitchet School on 27 March. A group of musicians playing guitars, recorders and percussion instruments will share the morning's music session with groups of school children from the surrounding area.

### Country Dancing

A group of younger children will be taking part in a country dance festival at Farnham School on Monday, 9 April.

### Easter Happening

This year the school will be holding an Easter Happening in St John's Church on 11 April at 2.00 pm. The whole school will be taking part in a celebration of choral work, mime, song and dance. This will be a new form of Easter Celebration. All parents are very welcome to the service.

### Story Books for Children

Mr Mike Taylor of the Language Centre, Brentwood, gave an interesting talk on the value of reading to children. He suggested books and read some of the children's books to a group of parents and staff. He emphasised the need to read to children no matter what their age. A discussion followed the talk and we were all very impressed with the wonderful range of children's books available today.

Essex County Council have published a list of books (each one dealing with a particular subject) which are suitable for children 2-13 years. These are available from the Library. There is another booklet (available again from the Library) called, 'Now Read On'. This deals with sharing of books with children. A must for parents.

### Mrs Valerie Catton

During this month the children and staff of the school will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Valerie Catton who is expecting a baby in May. Mrs Catton has been a teacher at the school for nine years and has been in charge of the Music Department. Under her guidance and tuition many budding musicians - recorder players, guitarists, pianists - have been helped by her. She has written music for the many successful pantomimes and plays. We send her our very best wishes for the future.

Christine Hope

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