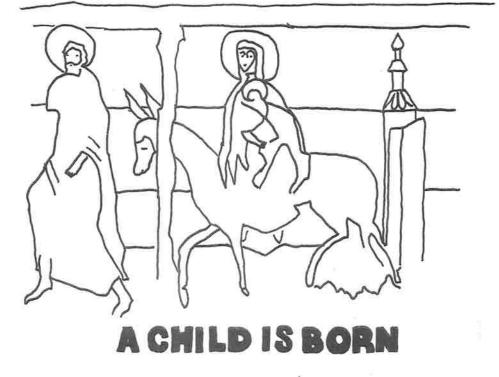






December 1985

# **UNTO US**



May the warm guiding star drive from your life every shadow; May the glad song of angels find an echo in your heart; May the spirit of worship in the hearts of the wise men, and the simple faith of the shepherds be yours as, once more, you celebrate the birthday of the King.

The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches. Arrual subscription is £1.75. To order your copy please contact Mrs. Yvonne Jameson, 10 Longcroft. Tel. 813924.

To advertise on the cover of the magazine please contact Mr. Fred Boyd, 5 St. John's Lane. Tel. 812148.

Any queries to Editor, Phyllis Harrison. Tel. 813535.

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 58 Chapel Hill by 8th December for January issue 16th January for February issue

# SACC

## COME AND SING CAROLS

IN

THE MEMORIAL GARDENS

ON

### MONDAY DECEMBER 23RD

at 7 pm

Coffee afterwards in St. John's Hall In Aid of SAVE THE CHILDREN

## CHRISTIAN AID

Through its Christmas Appeal, Christian Aid is asking supporters to "Let more of God's children be fed and walk in dignity". This will come about through change - the change that can occur when we give money so that there is bread and clean water for the hungry, and the change of "hearts and minds" so that people care about injustice and poverty in the Third World and in our own country. Please give generously this Christmas to bring about that change.

### THE 23RD PSALM

as reinterpreted from an Ethiopian viewpoint, by Joe Elland, St. John Anglican Church, Coulsden, Surrey:

The Lord is my shepherd; I should not want. He maketh me to dwell where there are few green pastures. He retaineth my soul: In spite of my infirmities, I still seek the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley - and in the shadow of death in search of food, I fear no evil: for I believe Lord Thou art with me. Thy word and Thy promises they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me laden with food, in the presence of mine enemies; but it is not my land. Thou anointest my head with oil and my heart is full. Surely goodness and mercy shall be shown me for the last days of my life: And, though I am homeless here on earth, one day Lord, I will dwell in your house for ever.

## IT COULD BE 7,300,000 AND YOU!

If you haven't been to church for some time, you may be thinking of coming at Christmas. What a good idea! We will be delighted to see you.

You may sometimes get the impression that only a small number of people go to church these days. That's all wrong! The churches in the United Kingdom have about 7,300,000 adults as 'signed on' members. Having a faith to live by is certainly a very adult business; but this figure takes no account of the great number of people who come from time to time and who often have a faith that can put some of us more regular attenders to shame. And then there are all the children growing up who will be the church of the future. Perhaps that includes your kids.

On an average Sunday more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million adults go to church in England and Scotland alone. Less than three quarters of a million watch all the football games in the English and Scottish Leagues on a Saturday.

To be perfectly honest there are about 2.6% less church members than there were 5 years ago but actual attendances are holding up well. We are dealing with this tiny deflation rather better than some prominent people are handling inflation! Peter Brierley, chief compiler of the U.K. Christian Handbook, thinks that more people are going to church because they really want to. Which is where we come in ... and, hopefully, where you'll be coming in. Happy Christmas!

> From "Contact", St. Mary at Latton



Dear S.A.C.C.,

36 Croasdaile Road Stansted Mountfitchet Essex

Thank you very much for allowing the Brownies to sell cups of tea after the One World Week service on October 20th. We have put the money with the profit they made at their Friday evening sale and we have been able to send approximately \$18 to Save the Children Fund.

> D. Lidster Brownie Guider 3rd Stansted Brownie Pack



With Christmas now fast approaching, most of us, probably, are thinking about ordering the turkey and making the mince pies, etc. Unfortunately, for some, this won't be the case, as they live alone with no family or friends with whom to share the festive celebrations and, in some instances, are perhaps unable to easily fend for themselves. If you happen to be in this situation or know someone who is and would appreciate our help, please give us a ring and we will at least try and provide a Christmas dinner to help brighten the day.

The number to ring, as always

- 816008 -

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please note, however, that the Helpline number will be closed down between Monday 23 December to Wednesday 1 January, inclusive.

> Francine Cope Secretary

#### ONE WORLD WEEK

The united Service held on Sunday 20 October was not as well attended as it should have been. Those who were there heard a powerful sermon by the Reverend Eric McIlwain who. having lived in both the new world and the old, is better placed than most of us to express strong views on the theme 'One World'. What he and the lessons and hymns had to say moved me to consider my own attitudes in a fundamental way. I found this quite uncomfortable. I have had to admit to myself that it is not just enough to work for world justice when deep down I resent what this might really mean. One World Week is intended to heighten our awareness of the problems involved and although others will have come away from this service with other thoughts and impressions, few will have remained unmoved.

Those who attended the mid week event on 23 October probably did not need educating but a lively discussion followed the film Children of the Miracle which showed how the advent of heavy industry in Brazil had prevented new problems of poverty and child neglect. Although we all felt guilty about eating so much the bring and share supper enabled us to enjoy our fellowship and give thanks for our abundant blessings. The planned simulation game was omitted because of the poor attendance and serious thought has to be given to the type of event SACC members want in future. Your views would be welcome. Please pass them to the representatives of your Church.

Angela Gough

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Local Contact:

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

Meeting for worship:

STANSTED WORLD DEVELOPMENT GROUP FIGHT WORLD POVERTY - MASS LOBBY 22 OCTOBER

llam.

A beautiful Autumn day and an almost full coach left Stansted (sadly only 2 people from Stansted itself) to join thousands in-Westminster to see their MPs and hear speeches by Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, Idriss Jaziary, President of the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development, the leaders of the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties, the Archbishop of Westminster and the Reverend Bernard Thorogood, Moderator of the British Council of Churches among others. The organisation and atmosphere were excellent. The policemen seemed to like us and we were even let into the House of Commons without the customary security check. Congratulations must go to the organisers at the WDM head office who set the tone by pointing out that we were not there to confront the Government or to blame it for world poverty.

Twenty five people from all parts of the Saffron Walden constituency met Alan Hazelhurst who, inspite of his dislike of such events, listened patiently to our views and put to us the problems of MPs who have to weigh the demands on the resources available. Nevertheless, it is almost certain that the lobby, together with other events like the Live Aid Concert, helped to strengthen Sir Geoffrey Howe's hand when he successfully resisted further cuts in the aid budget during finalisation of the 1986-87 expenditure plans.

Angela Gough

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.

Christianity, except where it has been unfaithful to its essential genius, has steadfastly refused to set the physical or material in inevitable opposition to the



spiritual. It cannot be merely otherworldly without denying its central truth, that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us", that "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself". There is no great gulf fixed between the material and the spiritual or else the Word could not have become flesh. If that were true the Word would have been hopelessly contaminated. Nor, if that were true, could God have achieved reconciling work in Christ, for the flesh would then be incontrovertibly alien to the spirit.

As Christianity sees things the material and the spiritual are bound together in a single wholeness as God's creation. The material can always be, should always be, the vehicle and medium of the spiritual. And a human being is not a soul merely housed or (to put it lower) imprisoned for the time being in alien or evil matter. Men and women are body-spirit entities in which the spiritual, God, is revealed and discovered, communicated and experienced by means of the material. This happens supremely and to perfection in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Music, genuine laughter, compassion are all wonderful things of the mind and spirit. They all belong to our inner, spiritual world. That's where they become truly part of us. Yet none of them can be ours except through the medium of the material. moment's reflection will show that this is so. Sound waves have to be created, conveyed and received through material things. Laughter arises from something that has physically happened or could happen - a wholesome spiritual response to the physical world. And compassion is only an abortive idea in the head if it doesn't lead to something actually being done practically.

So the Incarnation is the crucial focus and the perfect manifestation of total material/ spiritual harmony and oneness. In Jesus we see how the devine may be most sublimely present in the human, how God is behind and in and through all things. Of course this fact of the spiritual in the material is often denied or obscured or destroyed in this world and in us human beings. But in our Lord we see the spiritual continually overcoming the disruptive forces of evil to bring matter and spirit, the human and divine into entire wholeness, to make creation whole. The life of Jesus reveals at one time in one place what God by the Holy Spirit is always seeking to do in all times and places. Every noble impulse, selfless motive, generous thought and loving desire is God at work in you and me to bring flesh and spirit into perfect harmony and oneness. It is God seeking to incarnate himself in us.

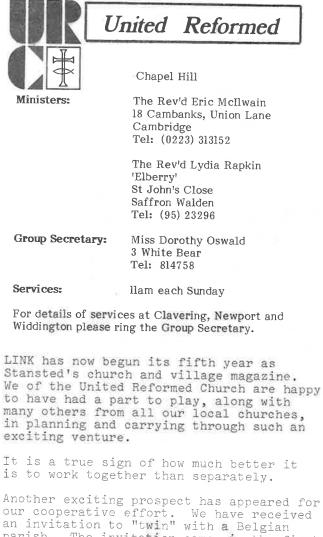
My love to you all.

Harold Fisher

November 10th was a great day for our members: First, it linked us with all fellow-worshippers at the Remembrance Day Service at St. John's when Ronald Rawlings gave us some memorable thoughts on the value of remembering and the need for personal commitment to reconciliation.

And, from our first service at 9.30, we had the great pleasure of the visit of our Chairman of North London District, Rev. Brian Galliers, and his wife, who, while also visiting Braughing and Arkesder churches, kindly spent the rest of the day in our small (but growing) circle. Thus it was that Marion and Mike Dyer again opened their home to all-and-Sundayry for a grand lunch-party. 30 sat down and enjoyed the shared meal and the additional good company of "super" Harold and Joyce Fisher and at least seven visitors. We were only sorry that some dozen were unable to come ....

The calls of duty - perhaps the wayside ditches - claimed a few as the party straggled over to Ugley Green for tea. Somehow, only 22 arrived! Many thanks to Marion and Mike and to Tim for doing his expert Pied Piper act with the children.



parish. The invitation came, in the first instance, to Stansted U.R.C. Our Church Meeting and Elders were attracted by the idea but almost at once said "This is something for all the churches to do together!"

The parish in Belgium is RONVAUX-CHEVETOGNE and it consists of four villages which surround the Abbey of Chevetogne, worldfamous I am told for its ecumenical bias.

1 am also told that this could be the first instance of village-to-village church twinning.

Could this be a lovely Christmas gift for Stansted and Ronvaux? Aswell as a new ecumenical venture for our churches?

It is with this thought in mind that I, together with Lydia, our Elders and all the members of the four churches in our Group send you all the very best of wishes for this Christmas Season.

Eric McIlwain

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL 1985

This year our money appeal will again be for World Relief and our Gifts on Gift Sunday will be divided between the Handicapped Scouts (sweets) and the residents of Fullers' House (biscuits, etc.).

### DECEMBER SERVICES

lst - 11.00	am -	the Rev Lydia Rapkin
		Holy Communion
		Advent Candlelighting
6.30		S.A.C.C. Advent Carol
		Service at St John's
8th - 11.00	am -	the Rev Lydia Rapkin
		BIBLE SUNDAY
15th = 11.00	am -	the Rev Eric McIlwain
22nd 🗐 10.30	am -	GROUP CHRISTMAS SERVICE
		GIFT SUNDAY - Family
		Service. Coffee and mince
		pies after
25th = 10.30	am 🖷	GROUP CHRISTMAS DAY
		SERVICE
29th		the Rev Lydia Rapkin
		5

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

One of our members, Miss Doris Whiffen, came to show us her slides of a holiday in Bruges. This lovely town does not seem to change much over the years and as usual her slides and comments were so excellent.

It was so nice to welcome our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Calver to our Guild. Their friendly way of telling us so many stories connected with the slides of their various holidays made them come to life. We saw lovely views of the Isle of Wight, Eacthourne, Brighton, London, including a Calvation Army rally at Wembley Stadium.



## 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 First Mass of Christmas: 9.00 p.m. at Henham The Second Mass of Christmas: Midnight at Stansted The Third Mass of Christmas: 9.00 a.m. at Henham The Fourth Mass of Christmas: 10.30 a.m. at Stansted

Greetings this Christmas to one and all, to you who believe and to you who do not. Peace, love and a certain understanding of life, is His gift to those favourably disposed towards Him. Turn to the Lord, trust in Him and He will lead you to a meaningful life.

To Jesus the Infant King It is here in Stansted we sing, The praises of your name. From Christmas, Lent and Easter, Let our voices joyfully ring.

Let us hear with songs of praise Our minds and hearts to thee we raise; And for those of us without do, ra, me, O Lord within our hearts still see Our good intent, desire, and will To believe, and hope, and love thee still.

Amid our noisy troublesome lot, With aches and pains, dear Lord do not forget us, in your mercy bless us.

We are Lord, your family here, Grant us your peace, and banish fear. Help us to carry the burdens of each other, For you have told us, we are sister and brother.

In this time of Christmas joy, O God we believe you became a boy, One of us; incredible as it sounds. How can it be, the sceptic frowns.

No power on earth can solve; the mysteries of our faith we know, We believe - that's faith - because you told us so.

Happy birthday Jesus, our Friend, our Saviour.

Happy birthday, Lord our God.

To leave your abode of heavenly light, To come to our world so sad and trite, With all due reverence Lord, I think you must be mad.

"Mad indeed my son,

Mad with love, I cry, Mad to climb to Calvery, Mad to arise on high Mad with love for all my people Mad? For them I was born and die. But now I live forever With faith and love I can be seen"

Then, happy birthday Jesus Saviour, Whatever that can mean.

Fr. 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 <b>.</b> 15am
(2nd and 4th Sundays)		
Evensong	-	6.30pm

Holy Communion is cenebrated on:

Tuesday	= 7.30pm	
Wednesday	- 10am	
Thursday	- 7.45am	
Friday	- 7.45am	

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

This is the month you turn the television set on and see advertisements for expensive toys and gifts. How I wince! Children are given expectations that can never, in some cases, be fulfilled: parents who cannot afford such lavish presents feel discouraged and guilty. I ask myself, "Is this why Jesus came into the world?" Here go the clergy, I hear some say, killing all the joy of the season. But not really for although it is good to give and receive presents, true Christian joy is based on something much more stupendous.

Some years ago a friend of mine gave me a stone for Christmas. What? a stone, you say! What a cheek! But let me explain that he had painted the stone and it had taken him several hours. So there was something of himself in his gift. It would have been quicker and easier to slip along to Boots and buy the after shave - but here was a present which had more love and creativity.

Christmas is the season when we stop, perhaps just for a short while, and think that God does not just give <u>something</u> of himself to us - He gives the <u>whole</u> of himself to me in the person of Jesus of Mazareth. God took our nature upon him, came among us as one of us, loves us even at the cost of the cross and the passion and shows us in Jesus that He is a credible, knowable, reliable and lovable God. It is the person of Jesus, the babe in Bethlehem who helps us fathom the mysteries of God and who assures us that this God is present in the suffering and agony of the world.

But better stop before I get carried away on the theological band waggon - the plague of clergy. But one thing I know. Christmas can never be really joyous unless we catch and reflect something of the life giving God in our own lives.

So amidst the puddings, pies, preposterous and lovable children, just think, "God gives his love and himself to me in the manger babe and is there when suffering and death comes. By His incarnation he has changed the world and me. Thank you God for the gift beyond price."

Have a good time and hope to see you over the Christmas.





SERVICES

Tuesday 24 December

Midnight Mass

s 11.30pm St John's

Wednesday 25 December

Holy Communion	8am	St	Mary's
Family Communion	9.30am		John's
Communion & Carols	11am		Mary's
Sunday 29	December	-	

Nine Lessons & Carols 3pm St Mary's

## CHURCH DIARY

### December

lst Advent Carol Service 6.30 pm St John's 2nd PCC Meeting 8 pm 3rd Mead Court Communion 10 am 5th Norman Court Communion 10 am 6th Meeting of all house group members -
Vicarage & pm
8th British Legion Carol Service 6 pm
10th Tiny Tots Carol Service 2.15 pm
14th Parish Christmas Party 7.30 pm to 11 pm
22nd Christingle Service 3.30 pm.
No Evensong
24th/25th For Christmas Service see
separate advert
26th St Stephen Holy Communion 7.45 am 27th St John Holy Communion 7.45 am 29th Nine Lessons and Carols 3 pm St Mary's

### January

lst	The Naming of Jesus Holy Communion
	10 am and 7.30 pm
2nd	Norman Court Holy Communion 10 am
6th	The Epiphany of our Lord
	Sung Eucharist 8 pm
$7 { m th}$	Mead Court Communion 10 am

### PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

27th Oct Jody Victoria Cordon 10 Rainsford Road

### Departéd

6th Nov Cecelia Lewis Glentham, Church Road Aged 92 years



No meeting in December. But we are serving tea after the Christingle Service on Sunday, December 22nd. If you can make and bring with you small buns they would be much appreciated.



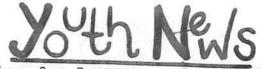
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

St John's Church Sunday 22 December

3.30pm

ALL WELCOME





YOUTH CLUB PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER 1985

l December "Pub" Games Evening 7.30 pm 8 December House Discussion Group 8 pm 15 December Christmas Party 7.30 pm

Youth Club closes for the Christmas holiday and reopens with a House Discussion Group on 5 January 1986. We return to the Church Hall on 12 January 1986.

## COMMITTEE DATES

l December Youth Committee (meets in Youth Club Committee Room) 2l January Leaders Meeting (43 Gilbey Crescent)

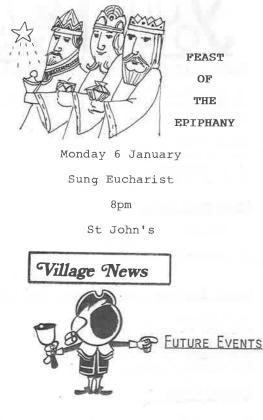
## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CAROL SERVICE

On 8 December, youth club members will be playing a small part in the Royal British Legion Carol Service aswell as serving refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards. The service begins at 6 p.m.

## AUTUMN FAYRE

Many thanks to all those who helped with the Youth Club stall at last month's Autumn Fayre.





### December

1	6.30	Advent Carols Unity Service
		St John's
4	11.00	Dr Barnardo's Christmas Fayre
		Bentfield House
7	8,00	Conservatives Cheese & Wine
		Bentfield House
11	7.30	Royal British Legion (Women)
		Bring & Buy, Day Centre
12	8.00	B.S. Recorded Music Club
		Day Centre
20-2	27	5
20-4	24	Carol Singing for All
		See notices
22	3.30	Christingle Service St John's

### MISSIONS TO SEAMEN & BLUE CROSS

The Headquarters of the two associations named above wish to thank all who helped to organise the sale and also all who supported the event by their coming and giving. The total raised was over £300.

### SUPER SAVER TO SLEAFORD

I wonder how many people were able to take advantage of British Rail's "Super Saver" offer to raidcard holders during November and a £2 Day Return to almost anywhere!

My own journey took me on the 7.30, on a shining morning, across well-known fields to Cambridge (a welcome cup of coffee at 8.0 - change for Ely and the Fens).

I cannot describe the beauty of Ely on that day. The low slanting sunshine from the

east flooded the cathedral on its "isle"; the foreground of river, boatyards, meadows park and dimly-viewed grey houses could only enhance the view. I have never seen Ely or any other cathedral look lovelier than at that moment.

Through rich pastures - 20 white horses in one field, a huge flock of geese in another - a pink farm by the road at our side; new wheat shining green out of rich black soil. The train draws slowly past a signal-box of "MARCH IN EAST". I thought: "John Betjeman would have written a poem about that one". Well, perhaps it't up to me ... Long before Peterborough (a quick walk to the cathedral square) the amazing height of Whittlesea church spire holds the eye for mile after mile as the line curves round to the west.

Over a causeway to Spalding between gleaming sheets of blue water (quite a surprising sight after our dry (Essex) October), every channel or "drain" awash with blue, moorhens, duck and gulls sunbathing on the water's surface.

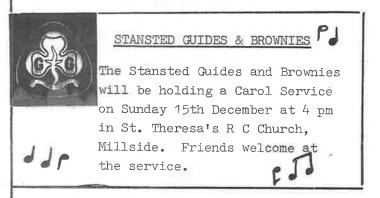
At Sleaford Station on November 7th the garden shone with chrysanthemums, yellow, cream and maroon, and the last of the summer flowers were untouched by the frost that hit our part of Essex: mallow, lobelia, alyssum, candytuft, antirrhinum, marigold, marguerite, shamrock, sunflower, petunia ... and roses. Time to wait in Sleaford, time to enjoy this very pleasant town, the old market cross and the quiet new precinct crossed by the old Slea River channel (must see this in summer!).

The object of my journey being to visit an old friend in Boston. I had the extra pleasure of seeing Boston Stump at noon against a deep blue sky as the train now headed east for Skegness (A nice day on the beach at "Skeg"? Wny not?).

All connections on time on the return via Grantham and a last coffee-break at Cambridge to give me courage for the creepy walk home up the long unlit lane:

Thank you, British Rail, for a happy reunion and a great day out.

Phyllis Harrison



### STANSTED AFTERNOON



At our A.G.M. Mrs. Stiles (President) thanked all the members of the committee for their work over the year.

A new committee was formed and it was the wishes of the members that Mrs. Stiles be President again.

After all the business was over a quiz was arranged in which all the members participated. The competition was won by Mrs. Calver for a homemade Christmas Card. The raffles were won by Mrs. Cianciola and Mrs. Rumney. An enjoyable after was had by all.

M. Thomason

CAROLS FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN

Sponsored by

MOTHERCARE

with

THE GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION

attended by

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE

at

The Royal Albert Hall

on

Wednesday, 18th December, 1985

at 7.00 pm

Come and join in the carols.

A coach will leave Stansted at 5 pm. The cost of £6 per head includes your fare and a seat in the arena.

Bookings: Miss Oswald 3 White Bear Tel: 814758





## NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Mr. Watson came along in October and gave a very interesting talk on furniture through the ages. Later in October Isobel Mayo lead a discussion into human and ecological disasters, concentrating on Ethiopia; it certainly gave us all something to think about.

At the beginning of November we made another very interesting visit to Stansted Hall. Two from our Group had messages from the other side and we thank Mr. Sherratt for making us so welcome at the Hall. At the time of writing we have the Programme Planning Meeting on 21st November when Lyn Inston will take over as Local Organiser and on 10th December Libby Martin will set a quiz "So you think you know your rights".

> Angela Khalil 813582 Lyn Inston 814051

### HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

Thank you to the Carnival Committee for the cheque for  $\pounds 250$  which has been presented to us. We realise how hard they work to organise the Carnival and are thrilled to receive this grand boost to our funds.

We have had a quite adventurous month. At one club evening a disco was held and we invited young people up to the age of 12 to come and join in the fun. Quite a few came and it was a successful evening. Towards the end a few of the visitors asked if they could Breakdance; one record only was allowed for this and our members were quite fascinated but did not want to join in. Our John's comment was that he didn't think his body was quite up to it.

On another Thursday we invited friends from Buntingford Venture to join us for a combined Halloween and Firework Party. The evening started with the making of witches hats all individually decorated by the members .... look out Mrs. Shilling! Luckily the rain stopped as the guests arrived and it was time for fireworks; the less enthusiastic went back into the hall but everyone was brave enough to hold a sparkler. Thanks to all the people who donated fireworks.

As it was quite cold the piping hot soup that Jean had been "brewing" in the kitchen was very welcome, so were the sandwiches, gingerbread and flapjacks that followed. Our guests were very reluctant to go home, a sure sign that they had enjoyed themselves. It was good to see them again.

Betty Lockwood

## STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

# THE IRVING SANDERS MEMORIAL APPEAL FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE FOUNTAIN

As you are probably aware, the above appeal was launched at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 1985. We are still a long way off the sum needed of approximately £4,000.00. A fund raising event in the form of a COFFEE MORNING is to be held on Wednesday 4 December from 10.30 - noon in the home of the Council Chairman, Mrs. Joan Turner, 24 Long Croft. There will be a bring and buy stall and, of course, refreshments. Please come and bring a friend.

A special thank you goes to the following local traders and businesses who have already contributed to the appeal either by donation and/or by accommodating one of the Irving Sanders Memorial Appeal Collection Boxes on their premises:

Stanford Eatwell & Assoc. Glasscocks Building Contractors Continental Cars John Monk (Heating) Ltd. Rayment & Co. (gift in kind!) Chick Printers Barclays Bank D. Honour & Son (Landscape) Ltd. J. Morgan ITT Marlow Drs. Hazzard, Jones and Hamilton partnership Mullucks & Co. Windmill Guest House Mingays Engineering Mount Pharmacy Agar Aids Mascall Bros Gilbeys Int. Distillers (another gift in kind:) Buntings Deamers The Cock Public House Mountfitchet Social Club Post Office Stansted Wine Company Shaws Delicatessen Dog and Duck Public House

Thank you also to the following individuals who have donated: Mr C J Knight, Mrs R Humphreys, Mr A J Snudden, Mrs V P Rand and Mrs J Turner.

## STANSTED DAY CENTRE

CAR DRIVERS - CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A WEEK TO TRANSPORT THE HOUSEBOUND TO THE DAY CENTRE?

PLEASE TELEPHONE MR. STONE 812482 WITH YOUR OFFERS.



### THE DAY CENTRE

December the month in which we celebrate Christmas and send greetings to everyone. We wish all our good friends in the kitchen who look after our needs week by week, also Mrs. Stevens who arranges the social side, a very Happy Christmas and a big "Thankyou" to you all. It is good to see the tables full of friendly people and no one sitting alone. Mrs. Scarr has found someone willing to take a class of any craft you would like, just let the organiser know when you come in for lunch or a cup of tea. All these things we have will help with the long winter afternoons and, of course, the "highlight" of the month will be the Christmas lunch and entertainment.

K. M. Jordan

## EVENTS AT DAY CENTRE IN DECEMBER

Thursday December 5th Keep Fit Afternoon Friday December 6th Evening Bingo Tuesday December 10th Beetle Drive 2.00 pm 25p Thursday December 12th Keep Fit Friday December 13th Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p Monday December 16th Christmas Dinner Tuesday December 16th Christmas Dinner Tuesday December 17th Films 2.30 pm Thursday December 19th Keep Fit Friday December 20th Evening Bingo

Centre closed from December 23rd

EVERY IHURSDAY "MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS PRESENTS"

### STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A lunch was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 30th October. Seventy people enjoyed a delicious meal served by the Ladies Committee. This was followed by a fascinating Antiques Roadshow, conducted by David Fletcher of Sworders. People attending the lunch brought along many beautiful and interesting items, including silver, pictures, ceramics and glass. David Fletcher gave a brief resume on each article and was able to value some items, although he explained that it was extremely difficult to be certain of prices that might be paid at a sale.

A Cheese and Wine Party will be held on Saturday, 7th December at 8 p.m. at Bentfield House by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. T.A.M. Browne. The tickets are  $\pounds 3.25$  each.

The monthly meeting at the Football Club will be on Monday 9th December at 8 p.m.

The Annual New Year Dance will be held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 4th January. The tickets are  $\pounds$ 8 each.

All enquiries regarding membership or events to:-

Alan Corbishley B/S 813040 Peter Jones B/S 813252

### STANSTED ART AND CRAFT MARKET

In glorious October weather the Seventh Art and Craft Market again drew large crowds to the event which was held at the Youth Centre on 12th and 13th. Well over 2,000 people visited the function and some people are known to have visited several times.

Nearly 500 paintings were exhibited by 80 artists and it was noticeable that each year the overall quality improves. 50 artists sold at least one picture and 110 were sold in all to purchasers from far and wide. Additionally there were 28 craft stalls and we were delighted to welcome two new stallholders from Stansted among those exhibiting and selling a wide variety of items.

The object of the function is to provide the opportunity for artists and craftsmen and women, mostly local, to show their talents and to provide a true village function. It also makes money. This year well over £1,000 was raised and this is, of course, very useful for various local causes and charities. This year Stansted Trust and Stansted Trust for Needy Children will be receiving the major proportion with smaller donations to Helpline, Stansted Toy Library, the Tortoise Scouts amongst others.

We thank all those people who have helped in some way. There are some 60/70 people involved to a greater or lesser degree and all these helpers make this a truly village function and we hope you will agree a very happy one at that.

Greg Snow

### DR. BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The annual Christmas Fayre, in aid of Dr. Barnardo's will be held at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 4th December, at the home of Mrs. Browne, Bentfield House, Bentfield Bower, Stansted. (On the Stansted-Manuden Road).

Aswell as the well-known, generous raffle, there will be stalls of cakes, delicatessen, Christmas gifts and decorations 'bring and buy', 'guessing the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc.

Come and enjoy yourself in a good cause.

Entrance 50p, including refreshments.



## STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

Winter Tennis arrangements have now started. Adult members play on Sunday mornings commencing at 9.30 a.m. Winter members are always welcome.

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Cock Public House at Henham on Friday, 13th December, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets are £7.85p each and Adult Members who wish to attend should contact Richard Mott - B/S 812980.

Joanna King has just completed further Coaching Courses for Juniors and Adults.

Ladies mornings on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. continue throughout the winter.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

### THE STANSTED WOMENS OWN

On November 11th this meeting celebrated their 67 years with a birthday lunch, and tea. The hot lunch was prepared and cooked by the committee, over 40 members attending.

After a splended lunch we settled down to be entertained by Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Hammersly with music and songs. Then to end this happy day a birthday cake was cut and a nice cup of tea while we sang Happy Birthday.

This meeting was started on November 11th 1918 by the Wives and Mothers of the men serving in the First World War, as a Thanksgiving, a meeting of friendly Christian fellowship and a cup of tea, on Monday afternoon while the washing was drying. A different wash day all those years ago, no washing machines, just a washing tub, scrubbing board and a mangle.

Our meeting is still going strong. On Monday afternoons at 2.30 in the U.R.C. Hall, with the same warm fellowship and a nice cup of tea.

K. M. Jordan

The Post Office Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex. Stationery Haberdashery Phone 813610 Cards



The Supper Theatre in November was very successful and raised over £100 for Action Research.

Using poems and excerpts from well known authors, aswell as their own original material, Tim and Elayine gave us a witty and amusing, light-hearted look at the battle of the sexes. Looking around the audience, I saw smiles of recognition and meaningful, not to say embarrassed, glances exchanged between spouses, as the words and situation struck a chord (or maybe a raw nerve!).

Many thanks to all who supported this event.

Catherine Dean

### CAROL SINGING 1985

This year the annual street Carol Singing will be in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Please give this effort your practical support both by donating and singing. Anybody - yes, anybody would be welcome.

Friday 20th December

Meet at 7.30 p.m. at the corner of Blythwood Gardens and Silver Street

Saturday 21st December

Meet at 7.30 p.m. outside the Rose and Crown at Bentfield End

Tuesday 24th December

Meet at 7.30 p.m. at the corner of Chapel Hill and Spencer Close

Do come along, enjoy yourself and help to raise some money for a very worthwhile cause.

Derek Honour B.S. 813160 Judy Goddard B.S. 812498



### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Poppy Appeal

Preliminary reports suggest that this year's collection has been supported most generously. The Organiser wishes to thank everyone who helped with the collection and, of course, all those who gave so readily. As soon as the total is known it will be publicised in 'The Link'.

Unfortunately there were a number of 'hiccups' in the arrangements. Col. 'Bill' Dod took over as Organiser only a few months ago, without the opportunity to work in tandem with Fred Cheal - who was Organiser for so many years that he knew who had what, or did what, almost off by heart.

Inevitably, this year errors and omissions occurred and we apologise to all those affected. The mistakes will be noted and. rectified next year.

### Remembrance Sunday

There was an encouraging turnout to witness the wreath laying and other ceremony at 11 a.m. around the memorial. It was good to see the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mrs. Joan Turner, lay a wreath this year. The Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation which followed in St. John's Church was very moving, and we thank the retired Methodist Minister, the Rev'd Ronald Rawlings (who now lives at Thaxted) for his sermon.

### Annual General Meeting

This was held at the Bowling Club on 31st October. Attendance was reasonable but could have been better. Several important issues were discussed - which will make the substance of the January report in 'The Link'.

### Season's Greetings

May we wish all members a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.



LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

ACMs are not popular, but this year ours was well attended. Our President, Mrs. Gabb, thanked all officers and members for their continuing help and support throughout the year. Officers and committee were reappointed as follows:

President - Mrs. M. Gabb Vice Presidents - Miss G. Trott, Mrs. Q. Sweet Chairman - Mrs. E. Little Vice Chairman - Mrs. J. Bugg Secretary - Mrs. C. Whall Treasurer - Mrs. V. Levey

12

Committee - Mrs. J. Brace, Mrs. P. Clower, Mrs. J. Fuller, Miss E. Tawe, Mrs. B. Traveller, Miss D. Wiffen, Miss E. Winckworth

Our speaker, Mrs. Tinker, Eastern Area Publicity Officer, gave an interesting and stimulating talk. She said that the Women's Section badly needed publicity if it was to recruit new members, and National Committee were organising market research to find out what the public knows about the Women's Section. They were also preparing new posters and drawing up a panel of speakers to talk to other organisations about our activities.

Mrs. Little thanked Mrs. Tinker for her talk, and while the raffle was being drawn we all enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Mrs. Little and Mrs. Fuller.

On Wednesday, 11th December, our quarterly Group Meeting is being held in the Day Centre at <u>7.30 p.m. sharp</u>. We are expecting fellow members from Birchanger, Clavering, Dunmow, Felsted, Saffron Walden and Thaxted. There will be entertainment, a special Christmas Bring and Buy and a Raffle. So do come along and join us.

As is our normal practice we have no <u>branch</u> meeting in December.

Pat Clower

## SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

As Christmas approaches the nursery school will be putting on their brief but very sweet nativity play on Wednesday 11th December at 11 o'clock.

The children will then be celebrating with parties for each group when an entertainer will be visiting to add to the fun.

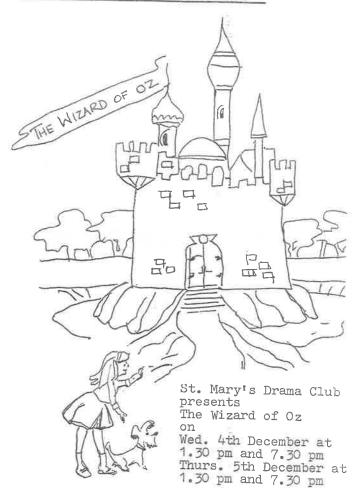
Meanwhile they will be busy making calendars, cards, decorations and crackers!

There are several vacancies at the nursery school after the Christmas break and anyone interested should contact Olivia Wilson on 813405 or call in at St. John's Hall any morning between 9.00 and 11.45.

Seasons greetings from Sideways.



OPEN Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex. CM24 8AP MON - FRI 8.30 - 5.30 Tel: Bishops Stortford (0279) 812009 ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Nativity and Carol Service

The Junior and Infant departments will hold their Nativity and Carol Service in St. John's Church on Monday 16th December at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Parents and friends welcome at the service.

## Mrs. Audrey Costley

At the end of this term the staff and children will say goodbye to Mrs. Audrey Costley. Mrs. Costley has taught in the infant department since its formation in 1978. We all send our best wishes and hope she enjoys her new teaching appointment at Waterside School.

The staff, children and friends of the school wish everyone joy and peace at Christmas.

Christine Hope

STOP PRESS!

We have received a latter from Ann and Pater Wibb in Bogota, telling us that all is well and they are safe. They send all their friends the Swasons Graetings.

Nore news from Their letter next north.



CHILDREN'S PAGE

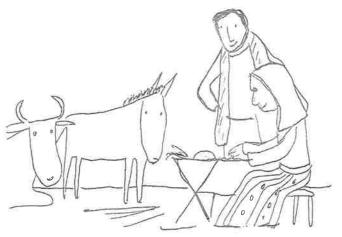
Dear Children,

I am sure you are all very busy with Christmas activities at school, making presents, practising plays and making decorations. It will soon be holiday time and the excitement of Christmas.

Over the past year I have really enjoyed reading your stories. Here is another story; true story written nearly 2000 years ago by a special person about a very special person. The story teller is St. Luke. Do you know who the very special person is? It is his birthday on 25th December.

"Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth but one day he had to go all the way to Bethlehem with Mary even though she was going to have a baby.

While they were in Bethlehem, the baby was born - it was Mary's first little boy. She dressed him up in baby clothes and made a bed for him in a stable because there was no room left for them at the Inn.



Christine Hope

### BENTFIELD SCHOOL

I hope everyone enjoyed their fireworks. The children of Class 7 have made a book of their firework poems and pictures. Here are a few of the poems. It was difficult to know which to choose, as they were all very effective, and I'm only sorry that I can't show you the illustrations.

It's the second of November The big day. Dad's got the matches Mum's got the rockets Caboom! The bonfire's lit. Look out! Mum's lit the rockets Whoosh up they go. Bang, a rocket's blown up, There's a shower of colours. Yum, jacket potatoes.

Thaddaeus Frogley



### The Bonfire

Light the twigs, Waiting, waiting, Put on some white spirit. Woosh flames up high, Orange, red, blue, purple, Glistening, sparkling, shimmering bonfire.

James Martin



#### The Firework

4

It is lit, Waiting patiently for it to start, Then pow wiz bang, Look at the wonderful colours, It wizzes again and lands on our guy, The firework dies out as it sizzles to bits.

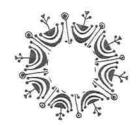
Elizabeth Wray

Darkness, Suddenly a rocket goes up a blaze of colour goes bang There's the rocket gone.

A catherine wheel goes whee stars flicker Suddenly it's gone.

Suddenly a fountain goes SSSSS colours sprouting and splaying The last sparkle flickers out.

Jennifer Harris.



Steven Kienlen has high ambitions for his future.

### Ambitions

When I grow up I want to be a super megastar like Rambo and Robert Redford, John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and others. I would like to be a star because they live in mansions and have a lot of money. They are very lucky people. I think stars are the best people in the world. The things I like about stars like cowboys, are shootouts and fights and wars. I would also like to be a pilot in an aeroplane. The aeroplanes I like best are Spitfires, Concordes and F16's. They are my best ambitions. I would also like to live in Florida. I would like to get married to a nice rich American woman. I would like to give most of my money to the poor.

#### Steven Kienlen

Phew! Sounds as if you are going to lead a very busy life, Steve.

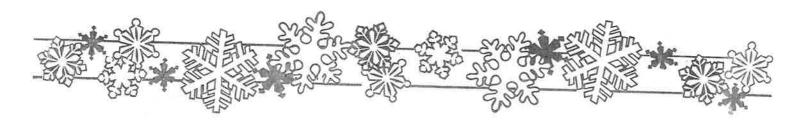


The end of the Christmas term is always busy, but a group of children, teachers and parents are making time to do some carol singing around the village. We are coming around on the evening of Monday December 16th, and any money collected is to be donated to a local charity.

All at Bentfield School wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rachel Irven





### "OUR VILLAGE"

Continuation from last month:

There were in the village two postings by 1870 letters arriving at 6.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. being dispatched 9.40 a.m., 8.10 p.m. At about this year a Telegraph Office was set up here. Also, the telegraph service was taken over by the Government in 1870 and was made a department of the Post Office, becoming Her Majesty's Telegraph and nearly 922 million telegrams were being sent in the year ending 31st March 1903. It was through this service that John Tawell was arrested, later convicted and executed, and it was said "Them there cords (Telegraph wires) have hung J.T." Another well voiced saying by older folk was that "these ere wires are taking all the goodness out of the air". (Could this be true?).

The Central Hall was used at this time for the Post and Telegraph Office, Literary Institute, Reading Rooms and Lecture Hall. By 1874 Miss Emma Sarah Hassell had taken over as Receiver from Thomas Hassell (was this his daughter?). The village population at this time being 1,988 including Bentfield. 1878 saw Miss Rochester as Receiver. From about 1886 Mrs. K. White taking over this post. 1890 postings increased letters arriving 4.30 a.m. 12.15 and 4.40 p.m. Dispatched 9 a.m., 2.20, 7.40, 8.35 pm weekdays. On Sundays dispatched only at 7.40 p.m. 1892 The brought a big change for a new Post Office on Chapel Hill was opened with Mrs. K. White promoted to Sub-Postmistress. We also now had an express parcel post. The population had increased by approximately 130 over the last 20 years. At the turn of the century Miss J.M. Holliday became Sub-Postmistress. In the next few years the value of writing their addresses as "Stansted R.S.O." was very apparent to villagers, for a letter addressed as such would be delivered much sooner than a letter addressed just

"Stansted". Letters posted in London by midday would be delivered in the village that evening, instead of next morning, as long as R.S.O. was added. R.S.O. meant a Railway Sub Office, that is a sub office which received correspondence from a travelling Post Office. So if you want your letter quickly, remember Stansted R.S.O. Essex. Mr. J. Harvey was a postman at this time, and by 1912 Mr. E.H.A. Haestier was our Sub-Postmaster. Mr. Charles James Smelling was in office by the mid 1920's. It was also at about this time the magic of the telephone came to the village. The switchboard being at the Post Office. A few useful numbers for your book:-Dyer & Young No. 3, Barclays Bank No. 4, and Pamplin Bros. No. 9.

Post 1920's to follow later.

If you knew of any other postmen at any of these times I would be very pleased to hear.

Questions: Where were these shops and what was their trade:-

Messrs. Tory, Roast, Herrington, Hammond, Smith (2), Kitson Barrett and Grey.

P. J. Brown

## THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC CLUB

The Club is now meeting in the Day Centre and would welcome new members or visitors. The next meeting is on Thursday 12th December at 8.00 p.m. The programme includes:-

Prokofiev - Symphony No. 1 Mozart - Piano Concerto No. 21 Beethoven - "Archduke" Trio Beethoven - Piano Sonata Op. 31 No.1

Mary Scholes





