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1
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"FACES AROUND THE CROSS"

Thursday February 28th in St John's
The Curious Crowd
Thursday March 7th in St Theresa's
The Dispersed Disciples
Thursday March 14th in United Reformed
The Weeping Women
Thursday March 21st in Quaker Meeting House
The Serving Soldiers
Thursday March 28th in United Reformed Hall
An Agape Supper
All Services and Supper at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(Interdenominational)

MARCH 1ST 1985

THEME

PEACE THROUGH PRAYER
AND ACTION

2 p.m. at Saint Theresa's Church

Speaker Sister Mary Paul
from Bishop's Stortford

(Creche available at 57 Recreation Ground)

Copy to reach 48 St. John's Road by
14th February for March issue
14th March for April issue

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

Quaker Homeless Action's own version of 'Crisis at Christmas' was in an enormous U.R.C. church hall in Bethnal Green - filled for the Christmas week by 250-300 homeless men (and some women), who enjoyed the warmth, and the large, filling meals provided, and perhaps a little more care and attention than they usually received.

Two of us went down in the fog for the day and managed to find the large hall, and church, in the back streets of Bethnal Green. The car was full of sacks of men's clothing, donated for the occasion. We arrived and took the clothing in: no-one seemed to be in overall charge - throughout the day, we did whatever job seemed most needed at the time. We spent the first hour sorting the clothing and footwear, to be given out during the day. Then, as lunchtime approached, we put out tables and chairs in the smaller of the two main rooms, which were quickly filled, in anticipation of the Christmas dinner to come; we then formed a chain to pass out the plates - with large helpings of chicken, stuffing, sprouts and roast potatoes, a really substantial meal. The chain of plates was endless, and continued to pass into the larger room, filled with countless rows of chairs, mostly facing the large television in the corner. Some wanted paper bags, to keep some for later, or for their dog; one or two managed to get two meals. Christmas pudding and custard followed - and all afternoon, new men appeared and asked for a dinner, and the reserve supply in the ovens gradually disappeared. Clearing, sweeping and washing up took hours, with the occasional pause to talk to one of the men, or to break up a fight: most had been drinking, and there was one particularly violent man who walked with sticks and used these to lash out suddenly if he became angry - some men carried wounds which had to be treated. Others were more gentle, just sitting, or tinkering on the piano. Later, we helped to supply all those who needed it with a new set of clothes: we 'kitted out' each man in turn, with time taken to give them the right things. Preparations had begun for the evening meal and I helped peel an enormous quantity of potatoes for the last main meal of the week. Some helpers had been there the whole time, including the nights, which could be quite difficult: they were looking very tired.

As we were leaving, Gordon Barclay, a member of our Meeting who is a doctor arrived, to look at any particularly bad cases. The fog was thicker, and we

wondered how the homeless would feel the next day, when they had to leave. I wonder how they are faring in the present cold spell, and hope that they are managing to find somewhere warmer than the streets at night.

Margaret Whitelaw

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.

In a small town on the banks of the River Elbe in Germany stands an unusual 16th Century church. It is unusual only in this, that it does not have (or used not to have) any lighting installation. This was at the insistence of the rich duke who lived in the nearby castle and who paid for the church to be built. Even in those days oil lamps could have been installed. But the duke did not want the building to be equipped in that way. Instead he paid for each family in the town to be provided with a lamp to bring with them when they attended worship.

Each family would prepare its lamp and carry it with them unlit through the town from home to church. In the church porch was a large, strong oil lamp representing Christ "the light of the world", alight and shining brightly. From it (or from Him) they would take light for their lamp (and for their family) and hook it on to the end of their family pew on a bracket fitted for that purpose. The more families who shared in worship, the more light and warmth there was. A full church gave the greatest light and warmth. Conversely, the more absences there were, the dimmer and colder were church, worship and fellowship.

Of course, we can press the point of this unusual practice too far, making more of it than is true of real life. There are doubtless many exceptions to its principle. None the less, it does remind us that each person has a unique and vital contribution to make to the full life and well-being of the church family. If we choose to be absent we miss out on what the church family has to give us. But just as important, the church family misses out on what we have to give it.

There is infinitely more in God than even the whole of mankind can grasp. And a particular church community will grasp even less. How tiny must the grasp be of an individual family or person! If we are to enter into life with God in any real depth we need to receive what He gives us through other people both in our own

church and in churches of other denominations. Thank God that we are discovering that there is only stunted growth if we do not grow together.

Furthermore, no one can become his or her full self apart from other people. We may be individual units on our own, but we can never be real persons that way. Most of my personhood has come to me through rubbing shoulders with other folk. I become what I am through them. It is true of all of us. Our Lord not only said "I am the light of the world", He also said "You are the light of the world". All light is from Him, but we often need to receive it from one another.

My best wishes to you all.

Harold Fisher

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.

I was watching the food and drink programme the other night (a vicarious thrill for one on a diet) but I needn't have worried; it was all about fish, potatoes and bottled water! Thrills? Not a lot.

They did say, however, that in this Year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five (that's the way we have to spell it all out in the Province of Quebec church register) the British public will spend 40 million pounds (don't say that too fast) on bottled water. We, who now have reasonably pure water from our taps and pay high water rates will spend 40 million pounds (say it again, slowly) on BOTTLED WATER.

Now the Government thought a generous response to the Ethiopian famine was an extra (but it wasn't extra at all) 5 million pounds.

I once got into trouble for speculating out loud how much Canadians spent on processed pet food as against their missionary givings. In this country I'd better stick to bottled water and leave beer and wine and smokes and pet food alone.

How many wells could be dug for 40

million pounds? Do you suppose that all the churches in Britain raise that amount for mission and world development?

I'm just wondering, during Epiphany, the Mission Season of the Church.

Eric McIlwain

U.R.C. SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 3 - 11.00 am - Mr McIlwain
Holy Communion
10 - 11.00 am - Mr E Swan of
Saffron Walden
17 - 11.00 am - Mr McIlwain
24 - 11.00 am - Mr K Reed of
Saffron Walden

And please remember that our Lenten Series - "Faces Around the Cross" - begins on Thursday Feb. 28th at 8.00, St. John's. Then Mar 7th - St. Theresa's, Mar 14th - U.R.C., Mar 21st - Methodist at Friends Meeting House, Mar 28th - the Agape Supper at U.R.C. Lecture Hall - all at 8.00 p.m.

REPORT FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

On our first meeting in December we welcomed the Caledonian Dancers who have visited us for the past 12 years. Among their Scottish dances was a sword dance which was enjoyable to watch.

Our last meeting was arranged by Mr. & Mrs. Trundle and, as usual, was a great success. We were entertained by the scholars of Bentfield School. Every word of the excellent songs was so clear and a new approach to the Nativity Play was unusual. Three American Astronauts accidentally landed and were confronted with the Nativity Scene.

Mr. Michael Dyer read an excerpt from the Christmas Carol and the evening ended with refreshments served in the Hall.

M. C. Johnson

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.

FROM THE VICAR

We are all aware that we live in a noisy and wordy world. Transistor radios and cassette recorders abound - words are thrown at us from all directions - we surround our lives with din and clatter.

Interestingly enough there has been a reaction to all this noise and the many words. There has been an increase in the demand for leisure pursuits which enable us to get away from it all and yoga classes are very popular. Also those who live stressful lives are encouraged to rake up transcendental meditation. The Church has also become aware that people need an oasis of silence and peace in their lives. Hence city churches try and stay open to those who want the few minutes of prayer; retreats, when we go away for a few days of silence and prayer, are increasing in popularity; more people are aware of the benefit of spiritual reading; and, many more Christians have a time of silence in their personal prayer.

So it was not surprising that our group which met to discuss our Lent programme for 1985 suggested that we should try and discover together how silence can be used in our worship, in our personal prayer life and in our daily lives.

Of course, silence in itself is neither good nor bad. Silence in some situations can be threatening or enforced. But the silence the Christians seek is the silence of God when we become more intensely aware of His presence. When lovers part they have so much to say to one another and yet anything they try and say seems meaningless. So the silence which comes from God is one when we want to say so much to Him, when we feel so comfortable in His presence - and yet we are struck dumb.

In four Sunday mornings in Lent we have invited visiting preachers to come and share

with us their experience of the silence of God.

They are:

Feb 24th Canon Peter Morris, Pleshey
Retreat House
Mar 3rd Sister Hilda Mary from the
Community of the Sisters of
the Church
Mar 10th Fr Mark Tweedy from the
Community of the Resurrection
Mar 24th Mr Peter Leatherdale, a layman
from West Bergholt who is
interested in the role of
silence in the Ministry of
Healing

I do hope you will make an effort to come along.

In addition, St. John's Church will be open every Friday morning at 7 a.m. for those who want a few minutes quiet before going to work and on Friday evenings at 9 p.m. there will be Compline followed by silent prayer.

In this year when a decision may be made concerning the expansion of our local airport it does seem appropriate to think about silence. And this reflection is neither anti nor pro the expansion of the airport - it is just a reflection.

God Bless.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16 8.00 p.m.

CONCERT

Music by Handel, Bach and
Butterworth

Tenor: Terry Harnetty
Violin: Sheila Roberts
Organ and Piano: Jeremy Rowe

Tickets £1 from the Vicarage

In aid of St John's Appeal
at St John's Church



MOTHER'S UNION

Meeting Wednesday February 27th in the Hall. Mrs. Christine Stiles will give an illustrated talk on work overseas.

Please note that the meeting will begin with the Office at 2.30 p.m. as this seems to be a more convenient time.



ELECTORAL ROLL

Pat Clower, our Electoral Roll Secretary, is revising the roll in preparation for the Parish Annual General Meeting.

Electoral Roll application forms are available from 2 Clarence Road or the Vicarage. Those already on the roll do not need to apply.

MABEL ELIZABETH ROBINSON

Mabel Robinson died on 16th December and we heard of her death with mixed feelings. We were sorry that we would not see her again and yet there was joy that her suffering had ceased. In recent years she had not been well and yet she remained a character and continued to have her communion at home. We will have fond memories as we pray that she may rest in peace and rise in glory.

During this year several members of the Church, who have received communion at home, have died. We would like it to be known that we welcome invitations to take communion to the sick and housebound. We consider it a joy and privilege. Do ask us.

HELPLINE

THIS MONTH'S GOOD CAUSE

This month we are supporting HELPLINE. This organisation set up by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches is beginning to meet the needs of local people but, of course, there are expenses involved in the work. Collection plates will be available near the door of the church.

CONFIRMATION 1985

Confirmation classes for young begin on Wednesday 13th February at 6.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

Youth News

CITIZENS FOR THE YEAR 2001

This is a service for Lent as part of International Year of Youth. During the service there will be an opportunity for young people to share their opinions on the Church, the world and life in general.

The service takes place in St. John's Church on Sunday 10 March at 6.30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

The next football match will take place on Sunday 24 February. This is an away match and our team will depart from St. John's at 1 p.m.

PARISH DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 3rd Education Sunday
- 5th Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
- 7th Holy Communion at Normans Court 10 am
- 13th Confirmation Classes begin 6.30 pm
- 16th Concert in St John's 8 pm
- 18th Deanery Stansted in Church Hall 7.45 pm
- 19th Shrove Tuesday Social 8 pm
- 20th Ash Wednesday Holy Communion 10 am
- Sung Eucharist 8 pm
- 24th Lent 1 Preacher at 9.30 am
Canon Peter Morris
Quiet Hour 6.30 pm
- 25th House Communion at 26 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
- 27th House Communion at 7 Croasdaile Close 8 pm

MARCH

- 3rd Preacher at 9.30 am
Sister Hilda Mary
- 4th PCC meets at Fairfields, Silver Street 8 pm
- 6th House Communion at 9 Park Road
- 10th Preacher at 9.30 am
Fr Mark Tweedy C.R.
- 11th House Communion at 11 Loates Pasture 8 pm

(Full details of our Lent Programme printed on separate leaflet available free from back of church)

PARISH REGISTERS

Departed

- Evelyn Ella Prior, 28 Park Road
Aged 85 years
- Mabel Elizabeth Robinson, Long View,
High Lane Aged 93 years
- Sidney Lewis Patmore, 5 Queens Close,
Sawbridgeworth Aged 89 years
- Alice Maisie Holt, 25 Longcroft
Aged 68 years
- Frederick Ernest Turner, 14 Dimsdale
Crescent, Stortford Aged 71 yrs
- Jack Hutley, 7 Priory Drive Aged 70 yrs



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.

On FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH, at 8.00 PM at St. Theresa's Church there will be an ECUMENICAL LENTEN TALK given by our very good friend to this parish FATHER JIM BRAND.

We welcome everyone to this wholeheartedly, remembering how popular his last two talks have been and how so many of you have asked for his return. We look forward to seeing you again on the 15th March.

On February 17th during the 10-30 Mass a special service entitled 'Renewal of Marriage Vows' will take place. This has been an annual event in our church for a number of years and an ever increasing number of married couples take part. It is a simple 'ceremony' where couples gather around the altar to re-commit themselves to each other in love and kindness. It is especially beneficial in encouraging us in this age of 'quick divorce' and 'instant gratification' to help us to accept each other unselfishly and to make a new effort to grow together as married people although maintaining our individual personalities; thus growing ever towards maturity and a greater knowledge of God's infinite love for us.

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

"Crisis at Christmas" is a charity which for six days over the Christmas period provides shelter, warmth, food, clothing and companionship for the homeless and alone. Many who come have been homeless for years while others suddenly find themselves stranded for the first time.

This year, the Crisis centre was established at a London bus depot near St. Pancras Station. I went as a volunteer with a friend to help for two days on a 3.30-11 pm shift. My friend had been the previous year and found it such a rewarding and enlightening experience that she encouraged me to accompany her this year. I was not sure I could cope with the situation but nevertheless decided to see whether I could be of real help.

The first day I felt a sense of shock on

entering the centre to see nearly 1,000 homeless and had momentarily to fight back the tears. Most were unkept, some very dirty, many alcoholics and a few drug addicts. I was aghast to see young people among them, although few in numbers in comparison with the older element. It was a very hardworking shift with a half hour break and I had little time during my duties to move among the "guests" as they were referred to.

However, the next day I spent mostly with them on various duties which brought me into contact, i.e. guarding volunteers' loos, blanket store guard, collecting used meal plates. This was my rewarding day and I could see why my friend was eager to go again. I found the majority of the guests very polite and touchingly grateful for our concern. Many were very friendly and eager to talk. I met one such chap who proudly told me he was a "gentleman of the road" and had chosen to be so. He cheerfully advised me of all the best reception centres the length and breadth of the country and the few shops where tramps could get good value for their 5p. He had been a "gentleman of the road" for 35 years. Another had been privately educated but after a series of bad luck experiences, had taken to the roving life, even tramping abroad from time to time - a charming man. Another had been a mercenary, another had spent the previous three Christmases in prison.

However, others were more pathetic. A youngster of 23 who had been out of work for three years and had left his home in Liverpool to look for work in London, another one from Durham. Another youngster on drugs who was so grateful that I had allowed him a 'forbidden' blanket because he was going through withdrawal symptoms. A couple of young men who had mental handicaps. A lot of them you couldn't approach because they were alcoholics and violence was near the surface, abuse was shouted at me several times and one could do little for them.

Apart from three hot meals a day, warmth, sleeping accommodation, clothes, the guests were provided with a shower unit, a haircutting service, a 'tailoring' service, and a medical unit where a doctor held surgery twice a day, and colour TVs were provided for their entertainment.

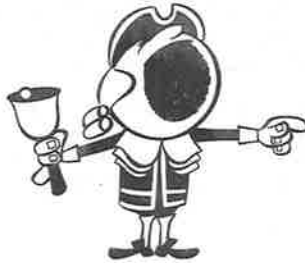
When I finally left, there were many shouts of friendly 'good-byes', and a wish to see me next year. A few came to kiss me a 'Happy New Year'.

The enlightenment I found in this work was that I had previously found tramps, unkept people frightening and had given them a wide berth. Hopefully, I may now be able to give them a friendly smile and accept them as they are, as they had accepted me.

However, I still feel distressed at their situation and the fact that most of them after Crisis would go back to begging, sleeping under arches or in cardboard boxes. Another alarming thought is that a series of bad breaks, mismanagement of finances, etc., and there is a thin line between them and me.

A Parishioner

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 16 8.00 St. John's Church. Concert
27 8.00 St. Mary's School.
Huw Johnson Club A.G.M.

MARCH

- 10 6.30 St. John's Church "International
Year for Ycuth" Service and
discussion
15 8.00 St. Theresa's Church.
Ecumenical Lenten Talk -
Father Jim Brand

THE RESERVE GOALKEEPER

Carols were sung around the Memorial in the garden just off Chapel Hill and in front of some of the folk present were the names of former generations cut in stone - just names now, but once live Stansted people. One of the names is that of Philip Brett.

Back in the autumn a very old friend of mine, Keith Jenner, a retired schoolmaster who survived terrible burns after being shot down in 1942, stood in front of the 1939-45 War Memorial in the Hall of Newport Grammar School and read the same name, Philip Brett. "I remember him" said Keith, "he was my reserve goalkeeper when I was the No. 1 in the first team back in 1931. I went down with 'flu I remember during the season and that was the only time Philip got the chance to deputise for me. He made a jolly good of the game too. I also remember I thanked him afterwards for doing so well and how surprised he was to be thanked. He was a lad of few words - 'only did what I had to do' - I think he'd have said the same about giving his life." said Keith

I wondered if we do as well - or said thank you!

A FOOTNOTE:-

The Brett family were the blacksmiths in Stansted since the days of Elizabeth I. The forge was formerly at the top of Chapel Hill but in more recent times in the premises now the Mace grocers lower down Chapel Hill. Keith Jenner is the son of a former schoolmaster in Thaxted. Philip and Keith both had sisters, Mary Brett and Eileen Jenner, pupils of the Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford, long ago.

"OUR VILLAGE"

So how many times have I been asked "Where can I find a book about Stansted?" (It is a shame so many of us forget Mountfitchet). "Sorry, there is not a book", you must reply. Would you be interested in making the reply "Of course there is".

I would like to hear from anyone who may be interested or willing to take a subject or help with one on any aspect of the village with views on a collective publication. There are so many subjects to choose from i.e. Past and Present History; Churches; Buildings; Families; Shops; Trades; Schools; Railways; Roads; Public Houses; Photographs, and Maps, just the tip of the iceberg. I am sure you can think of many more of great interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas.

I will leave you with two questions:-

What or who was a Fellmonger?

Why does "End" follow (Button) now
Burton - Bentfield?

Answers and more questions next month.

Peter Brown
812816

BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

First a bit of late news. Before Christmas Class 8, and in particular Jemima Hall and Katherine Luck, decided to do some fund raising for the starving African children. Their plan was to make a ring of coins around the hall, and to this end they sent a letter around the school asking all pupils to bring in pennies and half-pennies. Their idea was a great success, and resulted in the "Ring of Hope" which went several times round the hall and raised over £100.

Children in Class 7 were also fund raising for the same cause and their stall, selling pom-pom animals and other hand-made goods raised another £20.

Carol singing by a group of parents and children, just before Christmas, also raised money to be used locally in helping to cover administrative costs for 'Helpline'.

Looking forward, this term will be a particularly busy one for the children and staff. As well as Football and Netball Rallies, there will be a gradual build-up for our Gymnasts towards the Area Competition, held at the end of term.

Many new projects are being undertaken. At the beginning of January Class 5 took a walk around Stansted, tramping through the snow to explore the neighbourhood, for their new project. This outing gave rise to a lot of discussion and written work about different aspects of the village; i.e. which are the quiet and which the noisier areas, why do some roads carry more of the traffic, what different shops do we have in Stansted, how

do the older parts of the village differ from the more modern areas, and so on. They also looked at some of the older houses in Stansted and observed the old beams, pargetting and basements in different properties. Class 5 will discover quite a lot more about their locality as their project develops.

Rachel Irven



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

With frozen snow covering the courts at the moment even our hardiest members have been deterred from playing tennis.

Two floodlit league matches at Bishop's Stortford against Hoddesdon and Ongar have been postponed because of the weather, but they are hoping to re-arrange them at a later date.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27th March at 8 p.m. at Little Fosters, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

All enquiries to:- Janet Hollis
B/S 812073



STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

The meeting on December 12th was chaired by our new President, Mrs. Stiles. Christmas was our theme this month, when we sang carols accompanied on the piano by Mr. A. Williams. In between the carols members gave readings, recited poems and Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Stiles sang solos.

Tea was served with Mince Pies and a Christmas stall helped to boost funds.

Competition was for a homemade Christmas cracker which was won by Mrs. Lockwood.

The raffle prizes were won by Miss Chown, Mrs. Patmore, Mrs. Buttery and Mrs. Thomason.

The entertainment at the January party was provided by our guest, Mrs. Sayer, who with her variety of musical boxes set the scene for a musical quiz, the tunes being played out on the different types of boxes on show. This unusual quiz was won by Mrs. Cooper, and three other members. The prizes were kindly donated by Mrs. Sayer.

The excellent tea with cakes, sandwiches, made by the committee was enjoyed by all present. Miss Oswald gave a vote of thanks.

M. Thomason

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

There was definitely a party atmosphere at our December meeting - the first for our new committee since the November A.G.M. when Mrs. Sylvia Osborne was elected our new President.

We were well entertained by several of our own members with song, dance, recitation and carols and this was followed by wine and seasonal food prepared and served by the retiring committee.

Despite bad weather many members were present at our January meeting to welcome Mr. Tween, who is the Area Organiser for the RNLI. He gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on the work involved in sea rescue. We were amazed at the implications of a force 10 gale and moved by the dedication and skill of the lifeboat men who all volunteer for these rescue missions. We were told of the continued need for financial support to the RNLI as nothing is received from the State. Mr. Tween was thanked by Mrs. June Mellor.

After refreshments, plans for the coming year were discussed.

We are always pleased to see new faces and if anyone would like to come along to our meeting they are very welcome. Either phone Pat Lock on 815984 or come along to St. John's Hall at 7.45 p.m. on the second Thursday of any month. On February 14th our speaker will be Mrs. Elton Barratt on "TEAPOTS" and our social time will be a "Seconds Party" where members and friends have a chance to buy Brand named items at bargain prices.

June Riley

THE SUE RYDER HOME FOR THE SICK AND DISABLED, CAVENDISH - SUFFOLK

The Sue Ryder Foundation cares for peoples of all ages in homes in various parts of the country and overseas for concentration camp survivors. Miss Tame has supported the cause for 20 years and will be glad to hear of anyone who has anything she can personally deliver to Cavendish, like fairly good childrens clothes and warm clothing for adults. Kindly let her know and she will collect. 58 Cambridge Road, Tel. no. 815639.

Thank you, and at such a poignant time of the year when we especially think of the sick, those in pain, the hungry and the homeless and indeed those of all age groups who continue to suffer in countless places, with their incredible courage and faith.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

We hope that by the time you're reading this there'll be no snow or frost to hamper your journeys to our events.

Friday morning get togethers take place for expectant mums and those with babies under 1 year old, 10.30-12.00. The venues for February are as follows:-

Fri. 1st - Theresa's, 14 Poulteney Road
Fri. 8th - Claire's, 19 Cawkell Close
Fri. 15th - Maxine's, 11 Spencer Close
Fri. 22nd - Fiona's, 28 Sunnyside.

Mums and Dads don't forget it's Valentine's Day on Thursday 14th February. It's an important day for the little ones as well this year because instead of a traditional Open House you're all invited to a "Tiny Tots Disco", 2.30-4.00 at the Quaker Hall. Entrance 50p per child, babies free.

Our first morning talk for 1985 is on Thursday 21st February. Dr. Ann Nida is coming to talk about "Well Woman Clinics". The talk (price 75p inc. refreshments) will take place at Chris', 49 Gilbey Crescent 10.30-12.00. A creche for pre-school children will be held next door at 48 Gilbey Crescent.

The most important event this month is our Annual General Meeting on Friday 22nd Feb. 8.00 -10.00 p.m. at the Day Centre. After official business the guest speaker will be Margaret Gould, a local midwife, talking about "The Role of the Midwife in the Community". Everyone is most welcome.

I'd like to remind local members that membership renewals are due at the beginning of February. Anyone who wishes to join will be most welcome. Subscriptions may be paid to Chris Picket, 56 St. John's Road. National and local members may vote at the A.G.M. and nominate people for the committee. Proposal forms are available from Maxine Levy, 11 Spencer Close.

Don't forget if you have any problems with breastfeeding or would like any information on Mava products Cathy Leek, telephone 813068, would be willing to help. Cathy would also be pleased to hear from you if you're breastfeeding and are willing to express some milk for the babies in the Special Care Baby Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. Even a few drops helps a tiny baby. The milk would be collected from your own home.

Sally Brown

N.H.R.

At the end of November a speaker from the N.S.P.C.C. came to tell us about the valuable work they do with children at risk in this country. 1984 was their centenary year, but the burden of their work does not seem to diminish. Instead of our usual charge for the evening, members were given the opportunity to make a donation to the society's funds.

At our only meeting in December four of our members tackled the vast subject of India. We were told a little about Indian Art, the lifestyles of Indian Women, religious differences, and regional differences. After discussing these aspects briefly, and realising that each one of them could have occupied a complete evening's meeting, we turned our attention to the contributions made by the rest of our membership. These ranged from a jar of mango chutney to a large dish of delicious channa dhal, and our research into this aspect of India was most enjoyable!

Our book group met at the beginning of January and discussed two of the books chosen at their last gathering. No-one had managed to complete Paul Scott's "The Day of the Scorpion", so it is to be carried over for the next meeting in April. The other two books to be dealt with then are "Anna of the Five Towns" by Arnold Bennett (pub. Penguin) and a children's book "The Velveten Rabbit" by Margery Williams (pub. Carousel).

We had our "After-Christmas Dinner" at the Crown, Elsenham, during January. This meeting was very well attended, and greatly enjoyed. A report on our last meeting in January, a discussion on Surrogate Motherhood, should appear in next month's Link. Meetings in February will be on Wednesday 13th, our own version of "Call my Bluff" and on Wednesday 27th a programme planning meeting. All members are requested to apply their minds to the question of subjects for the next programme, and to pass their ideas on to the local organisers as soon as possible.

Local organisers are:-

Angela Khalil 813582
Sharon Frogley 812617

STANSTED S.D.P.

The Alliance New Year Party at Stansted Hall on January 12th was much enjoyed by about 120 who braved the snow.

Forthcoming events:

February 22nd SDP Discussion Evening on local matters, the airport, etc.
Details from Jane Freeman, Tel: 814084.

March 9th Alliance Jumble Sale
St. John's Hall. Details next month.

Alan Dean 813579

ST. MARY'S SINGERS

On 1st December St. Mary's Singers held another very successful "homebake" at the Day Centre, which enabled them to support the new Helpline project with a donation of £100.

St. Mary's Singers spent a somewhat chilly, but nonetheless enjoyable, weekend at Ely, on the Saturday and Sunday after Christmas, singing Evensong in the Cathedral on the afternoon of 29th December and leading the congregation's worship at the Eucharist on the following morning. All but a few of the 37 in the choir stayed overnight at the Bishop Woodford House of Retreat.

In the afternoon of Sunday 30th December St. Mary's Singers sang in a service of Carols and Lessons. The choir was seated under the Octagon, beside a magnificent 50 foot high Christmas tree, draped with lights which shone brightly in the dimly lit Cathedral, as did the candles which illuminated the choir stalls. This beautiful setting added an extra dimension to what was a very moving service.

Future events for St. Mary's Singers include a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion, at Hockerill Parish Church, on Saturday 30th March, and visits in the summer to Bury St. Edmunds and St. Albans Abbey.

When Keith Turner, St. Mary's Singers' Choirmaster and Director of Music, takes the choir to Bury St. Edmunds this year, it will be the 21st year in succession that he has taken a choir to this Cathedral.

On this occasion all choristers who have sung with Keith Turner over the years are to be invited to come and join St. Mary's Singers at Choral Evensong and make this a very special anniversary. Ex-choristers reading this are invited to contact Keith Turner (Bishop's Stortford 812495) regarding the arrangements and make a note of the date in their diary - Sunday 18th August, 1985. The anthem that afternoon will be Hubert Parry's rousing "I was Glad". It will be an anniversary not to be missed!

Christopher Marshall

CAROL SINGING

£147.10 was raised for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The good number of carol singers who turned out this year was a great encouragement to the organisers. Our thanks to all who donated so generously and to the hosts and hostesses who provided refreshments at the end of each evening.

The Carol Singing Bank Account will be kept open until 22nd February should anyone else wish to give. Barclays Deposit A/C No. 71118919, or your donation can be handed to Judy Goddard, 23 Burnells Way, or Derek Honour, 59 Blythwood Gardens.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At their first meeting of the year the Club heard about the work of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens from Mrs. Ramsdale, a member of the Essex Group. This Council was set up in 1978 by the Royal Horticultural Society, who were worried about the disappearance of many of our garden plants. It has been estimated that there are about 10,000 species and 20,000 varieties of plants in English gardens. The reasons why plants disappear are varied:- some go out of fashion, some are barely hardy and may die in severe winters. Some are difficult to propagate and others may be prone to disease or require special conditions.

In an attempt to prevent further plants being lost the NCCPG have undertaken to find, maintain, preserve and conserve plants thought to be in danger of extinction.

The Council comprises county groups, who survey gardens within their county and do their best to conserve and propagate the rare plants they find. Some of the propagated material may be sent to the national reference collection for that particular group of plants. These reference collections form a network all over the country, and are usually kept in private gardens, but sometimes form part of a commercial growers nursery. There are fifteen collections in Essex.

In addition to saving plants the NCCPG also maintain and conserve gardens - usually those where the owner has died and the garden would otherwise decline.

Mrs. Ramsdale showed us some of her collection of slides of rare plants and threatened gardens where work is now being carried out. We also saw slides of some gardens like Great Camp, Great Dixter and Sissinghurst which are run by Trusts and are therefore in less danger of disappearing.

At the next meeting the speaker will be Mr. Howe, who will talk about raising plants from seed.

Ros Allen



THE DAY CENTRE

How pleased we were to have the Day Centre opened again after the Christmas recess. Stansted is a large village and when friends live on the outskirts it is so good to be able to meet at the Centre for lunch or coffee together and have a good old chat. Also during the afternoons there are various activities if you want to join it, but if you would rather sit and talk or do knitting, etc. well you can.

Do come and try it. Don't mind coming in alone, you will be sure of a warm welcome and there's always someone ready to have a chat.

An O.A.P. that enjoys
the Day Centre

HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

December was an exciting time for the club, each club evening turned into an occasion.

The first was when all members and helpers went to see Aladdin at St. Mary's School. It was a super production and our club gave the utmost support in shouting and singing. Tim on one side of me kept saying "Shshsh" obviously thinking that I was making too much noise and Matthew on my other side was almost overcome with enjoyment and ended up with his head on my shoulder when he saw his friend David as the Emperor.

Caroline was the star at another meeting - it was her 18th birthday and a party was held to celebrate. The evening ended with another of Father Tony's lovely services at which carols were sung.

Then, of course, we had our Christmas Party, again thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Lots of food, fun, laughter, noise, music and games. Members throughout the evening were continually asking "Is Father Christmas coming?" Needless to say we teased them by replying "We don't know, he is very busy" or "It depends how good you are", but eventually we admitted he was coming and that added to the excitement.

The highlight of the evening is the arrival of Father Christmas and the handing out of presents and then everyone is tired and it is time for home.

We sincerely thank Father Christmas for always finding time to call. Our A.G.M. is on February 27th. Please try to come.

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

Betty Lockwood

CONSERVATIVES

The Conservative Christmas Party was held at the Football Club, on Monday, 10th December. About 50 members attended a most enjoyable evening with games and refreshments.

The next event was the Annual New Year Dance at Stansted Hall on Saturday, 5th January. This was attended by 180 people, including Mr. Alan Haselhurst, MP for Saffron Walden and his wife Angela, Mr. David Curry, Euro-MP for North-East Essex, and his wife Anne and Mr. Ken Baker, Saffron Walden constituency agent. Also present were members of Henham and Widdington, Quendon and Rickling, Birchanger, Great and Little Hallingbury Branches.

On 7th January, the monthly meeting was held at the Football Club and the speaker was the head of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Bishop's Stortford. She gave a most interesting talk about every aspect of their work and encouraged people to call in to seek help and advice on any type of problem.

The next meeting is on 11th February at the Football Club, at 8 p.m. and it is planned to have a Wine-Tasting evening.

For further information please contact
Alan Corbishley B/S 813040
Martin Cowan B/S 814596
or Sonia Cheshire B/S 813547.

CHILDREN

Dear Children,

Isn't this snow fun?

Here are some lovely stories and poems about the snow.

THE SNOWFLAKE

The Snowflakes are lovely to watch,
They twirl and dance,
float and flutter.

Oliver Butler
Age 5 yrs





ILL IN WINTER

When I'm ill and lay in bed,
And feel quite giddy in the head,
Creeping slowly up the stair,
A burning smell hangs in the air.

My old mum she loves me really,
She tries to cook, she does it nearly.
Blackened toast with melted butter,
Thank-you mum I weakly mutter.

The alarm goes off,
I start to cough.
Presents under the Christmas tree,
Here's one for you and one for me.

Elizabeth Reed
Age 11 yrs



THE MORNING OF THE SNOW

Last night when I went to bed
It was freezing. When I woke up I opened
my window and I was amazed by the sight I
saw. Everywhere was white, the trees
looked like snow capped mountains because
the tops were covered in snow. The roofs
were completely white. It had been
snowing overnight. Snow! That meant
snowball fights and snowmen. I quickly
got dressed to go outside. When I got
outside I had a lot of fun with my friends
tobogganing and snow balling.

Paul Morrison
Age 7 yrs

THE SNOWFLAKE

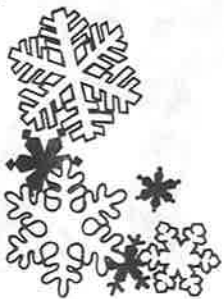
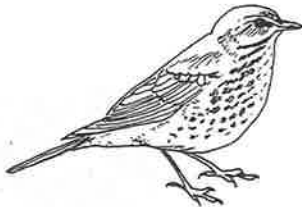
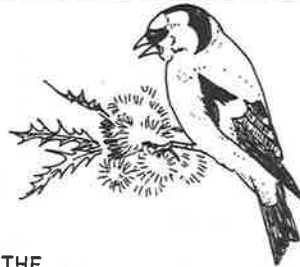
The snowflake falls carefully
They fall slowly
You cannot hear them
When they fall to the ground.

Matthew White
Age 6 yrs



NOTICE

PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE THE
BIRDS SOME FOOD AND WATER
DURING THE ICY WEATHER.



WINTER TIME

1. Raining Raining everywhere
Raining all the time
Splish Splash on the ground
Splashing all around.
2. Snow Snow its on its way
Sliding skiding all the day
Melting snow is wet and slippery
People sometimes fall away.
3. Blowing wind is whistling
Whistling all day
Whistling through your hair
Whistling everywhere.

Sarah Kettle
Age 11 yrs



The frozen leaves on the trees
and the frozen car and
the frozen trains
And icicles hang down
Everything is silent
and waits for the sun
to appear.

Darryl Robins
Age 6 yrs



THE SNOWMAN

The snow is falling all around
Glistening, sparkling, on the ground
Making snowballs is lots of fun
Throwing them at everyone
But Making snowmen is the Best
Make him wear an old string vest
Put on him an old top hat
Go indoors and that is that!

Charlotte Boucher
Age 10 yrs

THE LINK

The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches.

Annual 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.

Items for publication should be delivered to Mrs. Mair Muir, 48 St. John's Road.

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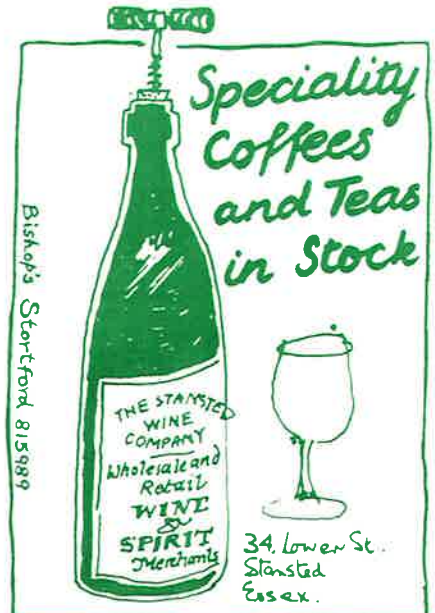
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