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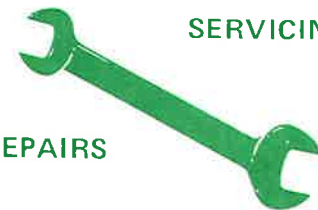
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To 1985 - WITH FLOWERS!

"The Snowdrop, in purest arraie,
 First rears her head on Candlemas daie;
 While the Crocus hastens to the shrine
 Of Primrose love on St. Valentine.
 Then comes the Daffodil beside
 Our Ladyes Smock at our Lady's tide;
 About St. George, when blue is worn,
 The blue Harebells the fields adorn;
 Against the daie of the Holie Cross,
 The Crowfoot gilds the flowrie grasse.
 When St. Barnabie bright smiles night and daie,
 Poor Ragged Robin blooms in the hay.
 The Scarlet Lychnis, the garden's pride,
 Flames at St. John the Baptist's tide;
 From Visitation to St. Swithun's showers,
 The Lily white reigns queen of the flowers.
 And poppies a sanguine mantle spread,
 For the blood of the dragon St. Margaret shed.
 Then under the wanton Rose agen,
 That blushes for penitent Magdalen,
 Till Lammas Daie, called August's Wheel,
 When the long corn smells of Camomile.
 When Marie left us here belowe,
 The Virgin's Bower is full to blowe;
 And yet anon the full Sunflower blew,
 And became a starre for St. Bartholomew.
 The Passion flower long has blowed,
 To betoken us signs of the holie rood;
 The Michelmas Dasie among dede weeds,
 And seems the last of the flowers that stood
 Till the feste of St. Simon and St. Jude;
 Save mushrooms and the Fungus race,
 That grow till All Hallowtide takes place.
 Soon the evergreen Laurel alone is green,
 When Catherine crowns all learned menne;
 The Ivy and Holly Berries are seen,
 And Yule log and wassail come round agen."

From an old Church Calendar.

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.

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

Copy to reach 48 St. John's Road by
 17th January for February issue
 14th February for March issue

SACC

The Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity

January 18th-25th is kept worldwide as a week when prayer is made for the unity of the Church.

It was inaugurated in 1908 by an Anglican priest Paul Wattson who later became a Roman Catholic, as a means of praying for unity between The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church. Since then all the other Churches have joined the movement.

This year the theme is "Christ our Life" suggested by the Church in Jamaica, from a text in St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians about being given the courage to believe that God's Kingdom is already in our midst and that they see the local Church as a place of hope where Christians come together to begin to experience the Kingdom, the power of God reconciling an alienated world and calling us to be one.

This year there will be the following opportunities for us to pray and worship together for this oneness in Christ.

FRIDAY JANUARY 18th in the Quaker Meeting House 8-9.15 pm. An evening of exploring our unity.

SUNDAY JANUARY 20th in Saint Theresa's Church 6.30 pm. Shared Worship.

TUESDAY JANUARY 22nd in Saint John's Church 7.30 pm. A Eucharist followed by a time of silent prayer 8-9 pm.

We invite you to come for all or part of the time.

FROM THE EDITOR

I am a collector - not of antiques, not of stamps nor of buttons advertising my favourite idol, but just one of those who come knocking from house to house, annoying some, I know, as we collect for the charity which has laid this duty on us. We know it invades your privacy and we try not to be a nuisance and we are grateful when we get a smile or a contribution at your door.

But that is just one side of house-to-house collecting. What I really enjoy is learning the by-ways of Stansted one by one, house by house; enjoying the friendly greetings; (learning from the criticisms, I hope!) the different garden arrangements, the gates that click or push or pull - or slide; looking for hidden bells and knockers on dark, wet evenings, for letter-boxes that bite the fingers! for children's faces peeping

down over the banisters or round behind mum and dad.

I think now of all these Stansted houses, some with the Christmas lights still burning and, as the new LINK drops in, it brings New Year greetings from my house to your house.

The Editor

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.

EXTRACT FROM MY DIARY

Christmas Eve

Well, all the decorations are up and the room is lit by blazing log fire and the fairy lights on the tree. The house is quiet, everyone is out and I can sit here in silence and think about you Lord and feel calm. Everything is ready for your birth. We are all waiting, the shopping is done, the turkey stuffed, the presents all wrapped, Christmas greetings deck the mantelpiece, holly on the door and mistletoe in the hall. This evening just before midnight we'll leave the house - apart from the seven cats - and steal away to Mass to welcome you. Then, singing carols, we'll celebrate with joy your coming; remembering the love, peace, joy and hope you bring with you. A tiny helpless babe only asking to be loved and adored. Help us to sincerely bring you Jesus, in our hearts, back into our homes where you belong.

Christmas Day

In between the cooking, the clearing up, the laughter and atmosphere here today I am reminded that there are those who are lonely and bereft. For us with young families Christmas is special but for some it is a time when memories are poignant, especially the good ones. For me Christmas was a time always spent at my Gran's in London and it was a time when I felt particularly loved. After the war the food at Christmas was always special; jellies and trifles, mince pies and chicken were a rare feast now sadly all taken for granted. Descending down a rickety staircase into a very dark cellar to fetch jellies was a job I was given to do. Feeling privileged I would hang perilously on to the handrail going into this dark place lit by a single bulb, the smell of coal-dust in my nostrils, looking out for mice! Lord help

me to build the rest of my life on good memories.

St. Stephen's Day

St. Stephen was the apostle appointed to take care of the needy and he was stoned to death! He was a zealous 'carer' which makes me question if I am? Especially when I feel like having a nice quiet break-down in the privacy of my room. Well, of course, I am not and I expect even Stephen had his moments. Each of us is totally unique; although we all have our funny ways we can be sure that they are all known to God our Father and He loves us in spite of ourselves. I have an awful habit of communicating my feeling through the expressions on my face - can't help it really. St. Theresa of Liseux once said that when she was unable to pray it was the time for giving opportunities to our Lord more than any other. She said "To smile or say a kind thing when I would rather say nothing or look cross".

Help me to follow that example.

A MEMORY OF CHRISTMAS EVE 1944

When our regiment was pulled out of the front line in Holland in December 1944 and told we would be based in Ypres in Belgium for 6 weeks to train on the new Comet tank for the invasion of Germany, we had been looking forward to a peaceful Christmas and, of course, the prospect of Midnight Mass. A week before Christmas we learnt that we were to move out at 2 pm and we thought they were pulling our legs. The truth was that the Germans had launched an offensive and had over-run the U.S. forces in the Ardennes and were threatening our H.Q. at Brussels. We arrived at Brussels after a journey in the pitch dark; we took our old tanks and set off we knew not where.

Eventually on Christmas Eve we found ourselves at Namour and I had my tank parked outside a big church. I was given an order to 'Hold the position at all costs, there must be no retreat'.

To my surprise I saw some people arrive at the church just before Midnight and also a priest. I found it hard to believe they were going to have Mass. With the doors open I could see right up the church to the altar and sure enough they were preparing for Mass which started as I watched. I followed the Mass from my tank and when the time came for Communion I told my crew to keep a sharp lookout as I was going into the church to take communion. As I walked towards the altar the congregation stood to one side and allowed me to go straight up to the altar to receive communion.

Christmas Day 1944 for me and my driver was a long freezing journey during which time our dinner was one slice of bread and margarine and a bowl of soup. Then followed the battle of the Ardennes. On return to Ypres we found that our Christmas dinner had disappeared, stolen they said!

Noel Purcell

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

On Silence.

One thing about being asked to write a piece for the 'Link' is that it often makes you stand back and think about some aspect of your faith that you may have too readily taken for granted.

Curiously enough, especially as our record collection at home has now surpassed 300, I have been thinking about the importance of silence to Quakers.

Friends Meetings for Worship have always been dominated by silence ever since they first began in the seventeenth century. They earned us this rebuke from some Cornish fisher-folk:-

"They Quakers just came here and sat and sat and nobody never said nothing until at last they all died and so they gave it up".

Even nowadays many people are at a loss to understand the workings of silence in our meetings for worship.

The first period of meeting may be described as settling down. We came, often in something of a rush, from home, our minds full of various cares and worries. For me this settling down period means shedding these cares and worries and beginning what we call the 'inward journey'. To understand what is meant by this phrase it is important to realise that our lives are lived at many different levels, some very peripheral, whilst others can only be described as deep. It is these deeper levels of existence that we explore in meeting for worship and where we find communion with God.

Nor is this inward journey entirely internal as we extend outwards to encompass those who share in our meeting and who seek what George Fox defined as "that of God in every one of us".

But the silence is not an end in itself but a means to an end for as Rufus Jones said "Silence itself has no magic". Rather meeting for worship should be invigorating and vital for worship is creative work.

Although not a Quaker, Charles Lamb, who lived at Button Snap in Hertfordshire for a short while, described the experience most adequately as follows:-

"When the spirit is sore fretted, even tired to sickness of the janglings and nonsense-noises of the world, what a balm and a solace it is to go and seat yourself for a quiet half-hour upon some undisputed

corner of a bench among the gentle Quakers. Although frequently the meeting is broken up without a word having been spoken, the mind has been fed. You go away with a sermon not made with hands you have bathed in silence".

Colin R. Cheesman

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.

I think that one of the best things I can wish for you and for myself for 1985 is the ability for each of us to laugh at ourselves. When we take ourselves too seriously we are heading for the terrible miseries of pride or self-pity or despair or disillusionment. And terrible they are! What tensions and hang-ups they give us! And by laughter I don't mean the barbed joke that belittles or the thinly veiled derision that mocks, or anything that's cruel or false. I mean a genuine, gentle delight in the comic, or even ridiculous things in our own nature or circumstances.

To laugh at ourselves in that way is healing. Fr. Harry Williams writes, "God, we believe, accepts us, accepts all men, unconditionally, warts and all. Laughter is the purest form of our response to God's acceptance of us. For when I laugh at myself I accept myself I receive myself in a sort of loving forgiveness, which is an echo of God's forgiveness of me". And such an attitude to ourselves greatly endears and relates us to other people too. All of which is a preface to my doing what many have asked me to do. That is, put in The Link the verses I wrote for the clergy to sing about themselves at the Harvest Supper Concert in October and in which we kindly laughed at some of the comic things about us.

The pale moon was rising o'er Stansted Mountfitchet,
The clergy were plodding their weary way home,
Thinking, "That is the question: to do it or ditch it?
Do I stick with tradition or far from it roam?
Should I go round in cassock and clerical collar
Or wear sloppy sweaters, old jeans and soft shoes?"
Dear friends, upon this you may bet your last dollar -
The men of the cloth nowadays have to choose!

Now each of us here, to be sure, has got with it;
We're into the latest, we're right up to date.
We pray you, please take up our lead as we give it,
As A.D. 2,000 we anticipate.
Father David gets with it on his motor cycle,
Beside him the Mods and the Rockers fall flat.
And "doing a ton" is for him a mere trifle,
So he's never late - you can guarantee that!

Our Eric was brought up on Canada's prairie -
The land of the new and the bold and the free.
Of things avant garde, folks, he's not the least chary,
He's brought the new world to the old U.R.C.
And Margaret is tipped to succeed Bishop Trillo,
For women must come to the cloth, without fail.
She'll replace the mitre - a mere peccadillo!
And make sure her clergy all serve up real ale.

Then Tony's a man for the pops and the football,
A clerical Elvis, a clergy Garth Crooks.
To join the Spurs Team he's expecting a 'phone call;
Now! Will he get into the referees' books?
And Barry, you know, is at times absent-minded,
And when he forgets he will burst into song.
So sing Vicar now as tonight you're reminded -
You've gone back, not forwards - you've got it all wrong!

The Friends, you all know, do not go in for parsons,
Consensus and silence are their major notes;
They're lucky, they don't have to listen to sermons
And all their wild sowing is just Quaker Oats!
Then finally Harold, that scribbler of verses,
Who's written for you this insane load of junk.
O spare him, yes spare him the worst of your curses,
For to be really with it he's taken up punk!

On the night, to my delighted surprise, I found that Eric has written some extra lines about me and my involvement with the Fr. John Powell "Fully Alive Experience" course.

And now here is Harold, who's fully alive.
He took the six courses of Father O'Flynn.
His attitude's changing; by course number five
He started to gamble and guzzle the gin!
He was off to the races by course number four
And singing the prizes of Father O'Flynn!
And as for the course numbered three,
two and one,
They made him change Wesley for
Father O'Flynn!

MORE! →

And OH! There's a moral for those lost in sin -
Beware chucking Wesley for Father O'Flynn!

We sang this to the tune of the Rose of Tralee. Much is lost without the costumes and the actions, but at least you have the words to remind you of what was a very happy evening for all who were there.

A very happy New Year to you all and God bless you.

Harold Fisher

Dates and venues for the Fully Alive Experience Course:

Monday 7 January at 7 Burnells Way
Monday 21 January at 5 St. John's Lane
Friday 1 February at 21 Woodfields
All at 7.45 p.m.

Stansted Methodists enjoyed a new form of Family Service on December 9th with 20 "souls" (in bodies aged 1½ to over 60) taking part. The service included poems, stories, drama, songs, readings from the Bible (which has the lot!), prayers, carols, questions and answers ... and one candle that wouldn't stay lighted (too much fervent prayer in that corner?)

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.

A joker friend of mine in Canada recently sent me a note. It was written on a slip of "reminder" paper which is headed with the words "DUMB THINGS I GOTTA DO". He didn't mean (or so I prefer to believe) that the note to me was one of the "Dumb Things".

I think, at the New Year, we should have a list headed "DUMB THINGS I DON'T GOTTA DO". I suppose the Ten Commandments are that kind of a list of Thou Shalt Nots, things we don't gotta do. But two of the commandments are positive, not negative; not "don't" but "do".

May I just remind you of them for 1985?

1. "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy". Our ideas of the details of "holiness" may change but in the midst of so much change we do well to have one rock amidst the shifting sands. "Remember the Sabbath Day".
2. "Honour they father and they mother". No sexism there, but the larger meaning is to remember our debt to the past. In a day when every novelty becomes "God for a day" let us remember Him "who from the beginning was the mighty Word".
3. And simple minded as we preachers (Bishops among us) are said to be by those who are "expert" in other things (marvellous, isn't it how being elected to parliament suddenly makes people expert in so many things?)... So, simple minded we may be, but let us always remember that we are commanded to love others as He has loved us. 1985 years later we are still struggling with that apparently "simple" message.

May you be blessed in 1985 in the struggle. And thank you for 1984.

Eric McIlwain

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

On November 5th Miss D. Whiffen came to shew us her slides of her visit to Thorpe Park with its various interesting features. We also saw views of the lovely spring flowers in Holland. We then went further afield to Scotland and back nearer home to a flower festival in a Suffolk village.

On November 18th our minister came with his lovely views of Canada: of the sea, lakes and the Rockies. With his wife and our secretary Miss D. Oswald they travelled by train going through long tunnels with their hairpin bends.

We also saw the small town of Pitham in Manitoba where he started his ministry and where his eldest son was born. We hope to see the rest of his journey at a later date.

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) (2nd and 4th Sundays) | - | 11.15am |
| Evensong | - | 6.30pm |

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

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

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



Vicar's Notes

What did we hope for in 1984? Well, from reading my Link Notes for January last year I hoped we would deepen our spiritual lives. Our theme for the year was "Let go Let God". Did we succeed? Who is to know. Certainly we have, I believe, seen growth in many different ways in our Church and for that we must be grateful. So many good things have happened over the past year and I am sure it has been a time of consolidation. There have been disappointments too, as indeed there will always be - and one such was that we had to cancel the Quiet Day planned for October. On reflection I think we tried to do far too much in the latter part of the year.

Last year so many spontaneous events sprang up, all very good in themselves, but at times we hardly had a free Saturday or weekend. So, for 1985 I have purchased a Year Planner and I am asking anyone who wants to do something in the parish, which affects others, to come and see me so that we can plan the year and not overcrowd the programme.

Two other things I want to share with you. Whenever we have had home groups it has been reported back that we must have more. Home groups are a way to meet one another and indeed can think things over together. I would like to know how and when you would like these to be organised.

Then I am sure we should try and plan times when we can be together for quiet reflection - perhaps an evening or a day. Here again the question is when and how. For example could we plan a quiet evening to take place in London so that those already there would go from work and others of us would travel down?

The pace and change of life for us, I suspect, will not decrease. It is therefore doubly important that we find time to pray and be quiet. We can do this on our own and we can also be together in small groups. Please let me know what you are thinking.

In his will Fred Sanders left £366 for the Church to be used to help St. Mary's. It was good that Fred remembered the Church in this way. His generous act has reminded me to mention something that has been on my mind for some time. It is wise always to make a will for it makes things so much easier for those left behind. Further, for some it may be appropriate to remember the Church. The Church exists for the sake of others and yet so much of our energy has to go into raising money. Just think what good would come if some of this energy could be released for other tasks.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Barry Rose

ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Our thanks to several volunteers who over the past year have helped keep the churchyard tidy. The majority of the grass cutting is done by contract by the Parish Council with the Church contributing to the cost. We are more than grateful for this help. But in addition other jobs have been done by Ken Turner, Joe Watson, John Ansell and members of the Womens' Institute. There may be others. But to all we say "Thank you".

Win De Boodt and Connie Boothby

Win De Boodt died in hospital on Sunday 18th November. Sunday was an appropriate day for her to die and be with the Lord because we shall remember her as one of the faithful and loyal members of our Church. Coming to Stansted in 1959 with her husband, who was to be the new verger at St. Mary's, she worked hard for the church and we shall miss her - not least on Sunday evenings when her rich contralto voice filled the church.

Connie Boothby died suddenly in her home on Saturday 1st December. She had been ill for some time and it is a great comfort to know she died in her home with a friend beside her. She came to Stansted in 1941 and was soon asked to be PCC Secretary and Treasurer. In the latter years she felt the loss of her husband, Len, and in many ways death came as a happy release.

This month has seen the passing of two of our communicant members.

PARISH DIARY

January

- 6th The Epiphany of our Lord. Youth Service 6.30 pm
- 18th-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All Eucharists during the week offered for Christian Unity
- 21st P.C.C. Meeting, The Rowans, Bentfield Causeway

February

- 3rd Education Sunday
- 16th Concert in St. John's 8 pm
- 20th Ash Wednesday

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 2nd December Thomas Maclean-Maxwell
3 Sunnyside
Gemma Louise Scraggs,
2 Brooke Road

Departed

- Winifred Ethel De Boodt, 54 St. John's Rd
79 years
- Constance Ethel Boothby, 29 Sunnyside
76 years
- Nellie Haggerwood, 19 Grove Hill
74 years
- Dorothy Emma Wetzel, 4 Blythwood Gardens
- William Ernest Wright, 20 Manor Road
73 years
- John Benjamin Foster, 9 St. Mary's Drive
70 years



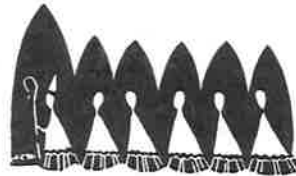
OXFAM AND KNITTING

Patons and Oxfam have joined forces to produce a knitting pattern for a very simple sweater for needy children overseas. The pattern is free and when the sweater is completed it can be taken to the nearest Oxfam shop. If anyone would like a pattern would they please contact Susan Robinson (813629).

FORMER CHORISTER RETURNS FOR CONCERT

Terry Harnetty, who once sang in our choir at Stansted, has offered to return and give a concert in aid of St. John's Appeal. We are delighted that he has made this offer and the concert will take place in St. John's on Saturday 16th February at 8 p.m. The pianist and organist will be Jeremy Rowe and the recital will include words by G.F. Handel, J.S. Bach (both born in 1685) and George Butterworth (born in 1885).

Tickets £1 are available from the Vicarage.



CONFIRMATION 1985

This year the Bishop of Colchester is coming to confirm on Sunday 28th July. This is somewhat late but it is the only date we have been offered. There is a Confirmation Enquiry evening in the Vicarage on Wednesday 16th January at 7.30 p.m.

If you would like to come and discuss the possibilities of being confirmed then please speak to one of the clergy. We do like at least one parent to come with young people.

FAMILY WEEK ORGANISER

Every year the Church of England Children's Society has a Family Week when a house to house collection takes place. Judy Goddard has done this for a few years but next year she will be in America in March when the week takes place. Is there anyone else who can take this job on? Please have a word with the Vicar if you can help.



MONTH'S GOOD CAUSE

In January our Good Cause is the Corrymeela Link which works in Northern Ireland to bring the communities together. So often we pray for the people of Northern Ireland but do not know how to help. So here is our opportunity to help build bridges and work for peace in that troubled land. We have chosen Corrymeela Link to support in January because this is also the month when the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place.

Youth News

ICE SKATING

The trip to the Lee Valley Ice Centre on Friday 4 January leaves from St. John's at 1.00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

The United Nations has designated 1985 as International Youth Year to highlight the specific needs and aspirations of young people. The themes of the year are PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT and PEACE. "Youth" for this purpose, is defined as any young person between the ages of 15 and 25.

To mark the beginning of International Youth Year there will be an ecumenical service for young people and adults in St. John's Church on 6 January at 6.30 p.m.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Diana Crook, the local organiser of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards will be at St. John's Youth Club on Sunday 13 January to talk about the scheme.



MOTHERS UNION

Since writing last month, two of our members have died, Win De Boodt, who rarely missed a meeting and Connie Boothby who though latterly was confined to the house, yet never lost interest in the branch. Both had been members for many years and were faithful communicant members of the Church. We shall miss them both very much. Donations in their memories were sent to the funds that they requested, The Cardiac Unit at the Herts and Essex Hospital for Win and to St. John's Church for Connie.

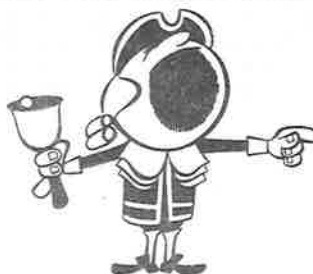
Last month we had a very interesting and informative talk from Mrs. Chambers of Thorley about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau. A donation for the Harlow branch where Mrs. Chambers works was given to her.

Our meeting in January on Wednesday 23rd will be in the Hall at 2 p.m. and will be a Christmas Tea and party.

A very happy and prosperous New Year.

Dss Margaret

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

January

- 4 Day Centre re-opens
7.30 Bingo
- 6 6.30 St. John's Church -
International Youth Year
Ecumenical Service
- 14 7.30 Day Centre W.E.A. lecture
course - enrolment (see notice)
- 18) Shared worship in Week of Prayer
20) for Christian Unity (see S.A.C.C.
22) notice for times and places)

February

- 16 8.00 St. John's Church Concert
(see notice)



We would like to thank all those who supported the Ethiopian Appeal. In the end over £1,450 was raised in 2 weeks. We received a generous letter of thanks from Oxfam which asks us to pass on their thanks to all who contributed to our local appeal.

Anthony Hazzard Barry Rose

CHAPEL HILL PLAYGROUP

Christmas - was it only just a few weeks ago? Our childrens' interpretation of the Nativity left us all with many happy memories. Through the Link we would also like to thank the kind lady who "just popped in" and gave us a beautiful model of the Nativity scene.

Our Christmas party was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Magic Man kept the children enthralled but even the party fare couldn't compete with the appearance of Father Christmas, as always the highlight of the afternoon.

As 1984 leaves us with many happy times shared, we extend a warm welcome to all our new children and parents and a sad farewell to those children leaving us to start school.

We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Madeleine Hart

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB



Thirty one people attended the Christmas Dinner at the Fleur-de-Lys at Widdington, on Wednesday 5th December. It was a most enjoyable evening with excellent food.

Two men's doubles matches have been played at Bishop's Stortford in the Floodlit Winter League. Stansted, unfortunately, lost these matches, but it is our first experience of floodlit tennis and we are hoping to get used to it and improve in our next 10 matches in the New Year.

All enquires to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Our social evening on 15th November, with home cooked refreshments and entertainment by Richard Thomas and his guitar was enjoyed by all.

The Group meeting on 5th December at Birchanger, was attended by 82 members from surrounding branches and a good profit was made on the Christmas "Bring and Buy" and the raffle.

The visit to the Civic Theatre on Wednesday 20th February 1985 will be to see "Witness for the Prosecution" by Agatha Christie. Tickets to theatre together with coach fares will amount to about £5 a person, and those wishing to go should give names and pay money to either Mrs. B. Little or Mrs. J. Fuller as soon as possible.

The January meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday, 17th January.

Pat Clower



WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

STANSTED WEA

Our autumn course "Law and Everyday Life" was very successful with good attendance by our members. This was due to our lecturer, Mrs. V. Chiswell, LLB, who is a magistrate and member of the Citizen's Advice Bureau at Chelmsford, explaining a complicated subject in an easily understandable and friendly manner. She particularly concentrated on recent legislation covering consumer affairs, employment and redundancy, matrimony and civil rights and gave advice on how best to seek help in these matters if required. We all agree it has been a most worthwhile set of lectures.

The next course begins in January, this time "Essex History since 1700", tutor Mr. J.H. Holmes, M.A. This will complement the recent set of lectures "London since 1700" which was held in the spring. Although covering the whole of Essex the lecturer will concentrate on our own area as much as possible. Once again we hope our meetings will be well supported and new members are always welcome.

The ten week course will be held, as usual, at the Day Centre on Monday evenings, starting on January 14th. First evening 7.30 p.m. to allow for enrolment. Lectures at 8 p.m.

If you would like further details please phone B/S 812214.



DAY CENTRE

On a dreary November afternoon fun and games took place at the Day Centre in the form of a social, with Mr. Booker at the piano. We had a lot of laughs, especially with the forfeits.

We have also enjoyed another slide show, kindly organised by Mrs. Stevens.

On the first Saturday in December over 30 of our members went to London to see the lights. This trip was arranged and given by the Stortford Lions, who did everything possible to make sure that it would be an evening to remember. Chocolates and all sorts of refreshments were generously provided, but this didn't stop us singing on the way home.

On 6th December school children from Henham gave us a taste of Christmas when they came to sing carols.

By the time you read this we will have had our second Christmas party, but at the moment organisers and committee members are busily preparing to repeat the success of last year.

Dates for January

| | |
|-----------|--|
| January 4 | Bingo 7.30 p.m. |
| 8 | Trading stall 11.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. |
| 8 | Beetle Drive 2.00 p.m. |
| 15 | Slides of Norway 2.30 p.m. |
| 18 | Bingo |
| 22 | Talk by Mrs. Gray of Thaxted on her experiences in India |
| 25 | Whist Drive 2.00 p.m. |

Keep Fit every Thursday at 2.30 p.m.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

We had fun recently playing Bingo. It was a very original and colourful version of the game which proved very popular with our members.

The preparation was the tricky part. It was alright cutting out different shapes in various colours - that was easy. Then we had to stick a selection of shapes onto the large "Bingo Cards"; but had to be quite certain that no two cards were the same. We ended up with orange squares, purple circles and green diamonds before the eyes!

Then everyone sat down with their cards and there were squeals of delight or groans of despair as Marion dived into a box and held up a blue spot or red oblong shape (our version of ping-pong balls).

Assistance was given as always by helpers and sometimes by enthusiastic members to each other. Close watch was kept in case anyone cheated - as if they would.

To our great relief we only had one winner; proving that we had worked out the cards correctly and the prize was handed out to great applause.

No-one moved, there was a quick exchange of cards but everyone stayed firmly in their seats ready for the next game. Ann, who thought of the idea, was delighted that it was so successful.

We were very pleased as it kept members happily involved and interested altogether, and it was quite peaceful, which cannot always be said about club evenings.

Without a doubt there will be more bingo sessions in the future.

Betty Lockwood



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - STANSTED AND DISTRICT BRANCH

At Watermill Farm on 6 December, 1984, at the first Committee Meeting after the A.G.M. on 1.11.84, the Branch Committee pressed forward with the arrangements for the residual funds in the 1939/45 War Relief Fund to be put to good use for deserving qualifying residents of Stansted. This concludes a great deal of hard work by the Committee including unravelling a complicated "charitable fund" problem.

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FANTASY ON THE SCHOOL BUS

Driving one morning down my favourite
country lane,
Behind a bus scraping the hedgerows for
loose rain -
What is this blazoned magic, stirring my
soul? -
"ROME, NICE, CASABLANCA, ATHENS AND
ISTANBUL!"

Shall I drive by the plane-tree avenues,
tunnelling down to NICE,
Or take the high road over the mountains
to ATHENS (Greece)?
(They won't really miss me so very much at
home
If I take a short winter break in ROME)....

But, just as I am beginning to hanker
After a warm week in CASABLANCA
or - why not? - Easter in ISTANBUL,
My dream shatters with the driver's cry:
"Any more for the MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL?!"

Phyllis Harrison

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All advice is free, confidential, impartial. If you can't travel, give us a ring, or get a kind friend to ring us. An Adviser could visit in Stansted.

CHILDREN



Hello children,

A very happy new year to you. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas holidays. Many of you have sent me your stories, but I still need more. Perhaps you could tell me what you did during your holidays.

Christine Hope
57 Recreation Ground

Did you know
that January
6th is a very
special day?
It is called
the Epiphany,
the day when
the Wise Men
visited the
new born baby
Jesus.



MY SPECIAL PRESENT

I would like to give a present to Father Christmas of a tool box and a joke book so he could send his dwarfs to make more boys and he could put his feet up and laugh his head off by reading his jokes. I would give him a robot to make him a cup of tea when he has done his rounds and I would give him a nice sledge.

Amy Robinson
Age 6 years

THE CAT

Stalking, walking, checking the route
To catch the brute
He thinks he's mighty
Made by God almighty

But only very slightly
Does he wander into gardens
Where there's a gun around?
He's got a higher I.Q. than that
He checks so that
Only those who dare
Shall want to come and stare
At this tree-like beast
Stretching his branches
Up, up, up ...

Pounces.
The victim falls
Like snooker balls in the table.

David Richardson

THE KING IS BORN

On a windy December day
the King of the world was
born.

On a bed of straw, or
corn He lay;
In a manger.
Mainly in danger.
With Wise men around,
He must be crowned,
For ten million years or more.

Many kings have gone,
But the greatest one lives on.
He was crucified
But not terrified.

So there He was on a cross
With yeering crowds around
Him.

Alexander Dockerty
Age 9



GUIDES AND BROWNIES

On Monday May 6th at St. Mary's School, the Guides and Brownies will be holding a special fete to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the movement. I wonder if any of the readers have any 'older versions' of the guide or brownie which we might borrow. Or have you any old photographs for our exhibition. We will take great care of them.

We will be having lots of stalls and a running auction. If you have items you would like to donate for these would you please ring B/S 815007 and I will arrange collection.

Thankyou.

Christine Hope
Sec. Guide/Brownie Parent's Committee



ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The recent Christmas Fair was a huge success. The school was crowded to capacity with early Christmas shoppers and what a lot of super things to buy and to be won. I don't think anybody left empty handed. The queue of children (and parents) to meet Father Christmas was endless but he just managed to see them all before his next appointment.

A big thanks to all who supported the PTA fete. Just over £600 was raised which will be used to buy a new computer.

Aladdin

A sparkling four performances of the pantomime Aladdin rang out to packed audiences to start the Christmas season at St. Mary's School. Under the guidance of producer Mrs. Johnson and pianist Mrs. Catton, the seventy children from the drama Club gave a glittering performance. The interval song was especially well received with many renderings of 'We are the Champions'. Many thanks to Stansted Football Club for bringing the F.A. Vase and for giving all the children in the pantomime a scarf, banner or hat.

Judy Goddard is moving from

26 Maitland Road
Stansted

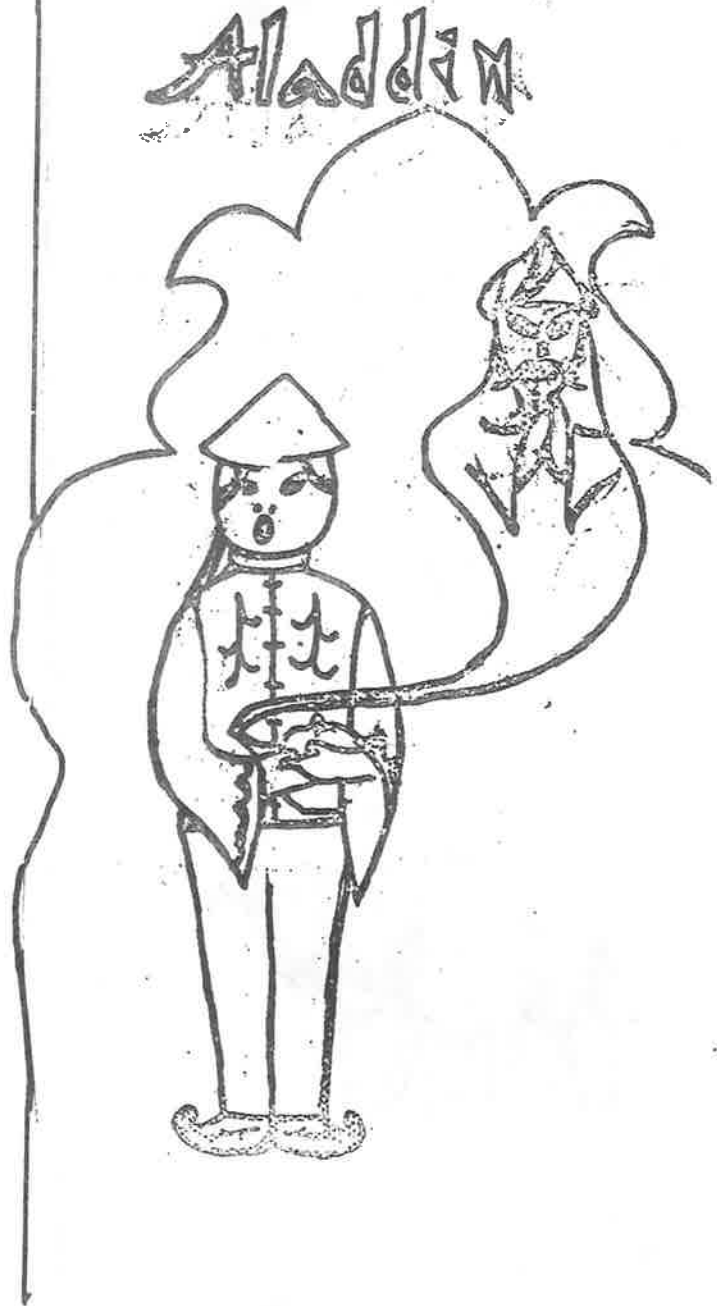
To Sanders Meadow
23 Burnells Way
Stansted Essex
CM24 8LA

The telephone number remains as
Bishop's Stortford 812498.

P.T.A. Family Disco

The P.T.A. are holding their popular family disco on Friday 18th January at 6.30 p.m. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Christine Hope



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

As always the Sale in November was a very happy occasion, and we thank all who supported us, and all the members who worked so hard.

The annual meeting was held on November 21st and Mrs. Winch, our President, thanked all helpers. Mrs. Buttery, the Treasurer, and Mrs. McKee, the Secretary, gave their reports. Members then voted for the Committee as there were 14 nominations.

The following were elected:

Mrs. L. Winch, President, Mrs. Buttery, Mrs. KcKee, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Eagleton, Mr. Miller and Mr. Hunt.

About 70 members went to St. Mary's School to see their Pantomime 'Aladdin'. This was a super production, very professionally performed by the children, and produced by Mrs. Johnson, music by Mrs. Catton. We do thank the headmaster, all staff and the children for this most enjoyable afternoon. Not forgetting the lovely cup of tea and biscuits!

We would like to wish all the Link readers a Very Happy New Year.



STANSTED ART & CRAFT MARKET

The profits of the October 1984 event amounted to almost £1,500, the highest ever in the six years of the Market's existence, and the usual presentation was held on 21 November at the Peter Kirk School.

The donations were as follows:-

£600 Peter Kirk School
£225 First Stansted Guide Company
£225 First Stansted Scout Group
£150 Stansted Windmill Appeal
£150 St John's Church Appeal
£75 Bishop's Stortford Talking
Newspaper for the Blind
£75 Mountfitchet High School

On behalf of the Peter Kirk School, Headmaster Martyn Phillips said he proposed to purchase a teaching aid known as a "Turtle" which would assist the pupils' reading. The Scouts and Guides will use the donations towards camping equipment and other much needed items and Headmaster Ron Davies of the Mountfitchet High School announced his intention of purchasing books for the school library.

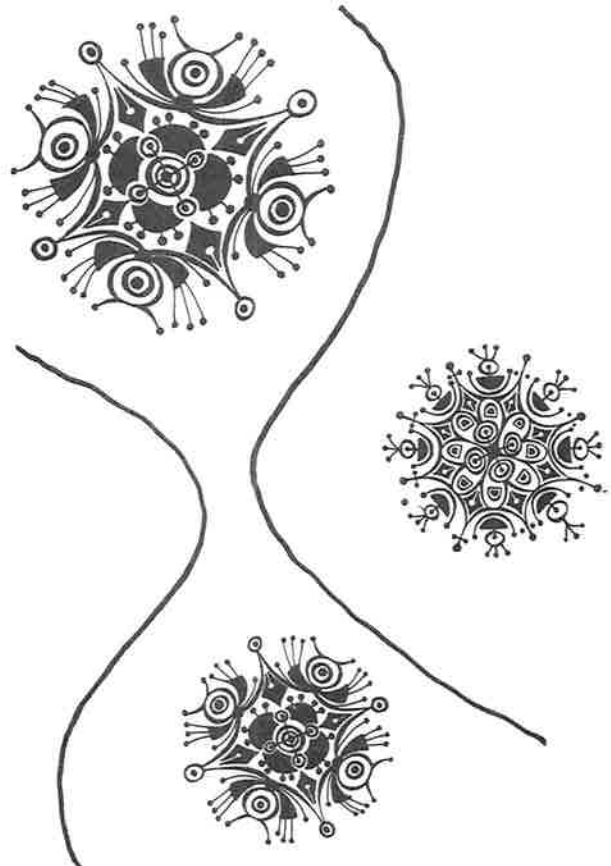
The remaining recipients had all benefited in previous years, but further funds were, of course, very welcome. The Committee of the Art & Craft Market was pleased that the funds will be used almost fully in the village, and even the Talking Newspaper, which is based in Bishop's Stortford, has several members in Stansted.

It is perhaps appropriate at this stage to consider the achievements of the Art & Craft Market over the past 6 years. A total of £5,100 has been given to charities and worthy causes, including the Herts & Essex Hospital Cardiac Unit Appeal (£500) and Stansted Day Centre (£950). The Art & Craft Market is run by a small hard pressed, volunteer committee and is quite independent of any other organisation and is one of Stansted's few truly village events. There is no major sponsorship, although assistance given by Concord Motor Services, Mountfitchet School, Peter Kirk School, Youth & Adult Centre, Walter Lawrence and Curry's Limited, is gratefully acknowledged.

From modest beginnings in 1979 the Market has grown to be an important event in the Art & Craft calendar and its popularity in Stansted is borne out by the rising attendance each year.

To build on this success, more help from public spirited villagers is needed. The only incentive offered is the satisfaction of a job well done which enables useful donations to be made.

Geoff Wright
812599



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keep the weeds down feed and exercise the dog
feed the cat, budgie or fish forward the mail

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If out, messages may be left at Bishop's Stortford 813160.

