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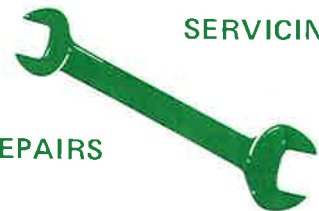
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S.A.C.C.

Lent Services take place on Thursdays at 8 pm.  
The theme this year is "Faces around the Cross".

March 7th at St. Theresa's

"The Dispersed Disciples"

March 14th at United Reformed Church

"The Weeping Women"

March 12st at Quaker Meeting House

"The Serving Soldiers"

March 28th United Reformed Hall

An Agape Supper

This takes the form of a united act of worship  
followed by a shared supper. Wine, soft drinks  
and coffee will be available but please bring  
"finger Buffet eats".

Please note the following dates in your diary:

Monday April 15th Executive Meeting.

United Reformed Vestry 8 pm.

Saturday June 29th Social Event.

Monday September 2nd at 8 pm United Reformed Hall

The Annual General Meeting.

## 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.

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 48 St. John's Road by  
14th March for April issue  
11th April for May issue

## 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.

A professor in philosophy once said, "Religion is what a man does with his own solitariness". Such a definition is a travesty of true Christianity, which from first to last is a corporate or social, or (to put it better) a family affair. I mean the family or community of the church.

Christianity can scarcely be seen, much less understood and accepted, if it is a solitary, individualistic, private matter. Personal it must be, of course. A personal relationship with God is the heart of it. But personal is not the same as private and individual. For I cannot be truly personal except as I relate to and interact with other persons. One who insists on being a loner diminishes and limits his personhood. So much of what we can become develops through relationships with others.

And when we know God as Father in the Christian way solitary religion becomes a contradiction in terms. Every time we say "Our Father" we acknowledge that Christianity is essentially a community or family matter. If you are taking your gift to the altar, said Jesus, and then remember that your brother has something against you, first go and be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift. We cannot go to God as true sons and daughters unless we are also true brothers and sisters.

In any case the very essence of the Kingdom of Heaven is loving relationships. It's about loving one another as Christ loves us, about forgiving and being forgiven, about sharing both blessings and needs. "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me". What we do for the needy we do for the Lord.

Unfortunately, in all our various churches, we have often made our religion a mainly private matter, a "me and my God" affair. We have gone to church but have not been the church; we have taken communion without being in communion. People may have left the church building just as lonely or pained or needy as when they arrived, week after week. The church is the agent of the Kingdom of Heaven. The world will not see the Kingdom, nor the Church experience it, unless we are a loving, caring, sharing community. And when that is all across the denominations so much the better.

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.

### STANSTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

We resumed our second session in February and it was refreshing to be transported to sunny Africa. Miss D. Conroy, with her slides took us on a long journey from Johannesburg to Cape Town, along the coast and returning by another route. The vast distances travelled gave us a great variety of scenery.

It was strange for us to see Christmas being celebrated in the garden in blazing sunshine.

Another highlight of the holiday was a visit to the National Park to catch sight of the numerous animals.

It was a most enjoyable evening, especially on a gloomy February evening.

M. C. Johnson



The sun warms our lounge and keeps the central heating down this February day, but outside it is bitterly cold, the icy pavements are a danger to life and limb and not far from Cambridge there are 10 or 12 foot deep snow drifts.

We often wonder about the extremes of weather - 10 feet of snow here, floods somewhere else and drought and famine in Africa. We may wonder but we will not get an answer; so complex is the world we live in (some might say 'so capricious') that such answers are not forthcoming. Even with the very latest in radar and satellite pictures our weather forecasters do not always get it right overnight!

What we do know is that year after year there is a marvellous consistency in the seasons; we know that as the world circles the sun there must be temperate zones, tropical zones and frigid zones at the poles. We know that spring will come and we will complain about the heat of summer or the rain

or something .....

What we also know is that men help to make deserts (ever since Abraham and likely long before) and famines. We could apply resources to irrigation and agriculture instead of to civil wars and star wars. There is in fact enough food to feed everyone on earth if we would only organise its transportation and distribution.

So let us not ask (as many do) why God allows famine and the terrible pictures we see on television (but they aren't just pictures) - let us ask why we do not use our God-given natural resources, our God-given intelligence and scientific know-how, our God-given ability to care for others and our God-given power to choose life rather than death to make sure that such horrible scenes never appear on our television again.

I must say that I am not overly-optimistic or sanguine on that score. It was perhaps 70 or 80 years ago that Edwin Markham wrote:

"We men of earth have here the stuff of Paradise - we have enough! ...  
... Here on the paths of everyday -  
Here on the common, human way  
Is all the stuff the gods would take  
To build a Heaven, to mold and make  
New Edens. Ours the stuff sublime  
To build Eternity in time!"

Eric McIlwain

### MARCH SERVICES - 11.00 A.M.

- March 3 - Rev. E. McIlwain - Holy Communion
- March 10 - Mrs. Lydia Rapkin (Saffron Walden)
- March 17 - Rev. E. McIlwain
- March 24 - Mrs. M. Irish (Sawston)
- March 31 - Mr. A. Jameson (Stansted)

### SERVICES FOR EASTER

- April 4, 8.00 pm - Group Maundy Thursday Communion
- April 5, 7.15 pm - St. Theresa's, Stations of the Cross and Procession to St. John's for Village Good Friday Service
- April 7, 10.30 am - Group Easter Service and Communion

## 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.

### VICAR'S NOTES

"Why attach so much significance and importance to an historical figure who lived 2,000 years ago and is therefore so remote from the 20th century?" is a question which must have crossed our minds from time to time. The question requires an answer.

Jesus, we say, is not only an historical figure but he is alive today - teaching, healing, forgiving, revealing and loving through the Church which is His Body. Central to our faith is the Resurrection, and although Christians may differ in the ways they present this belief, yet all agree that Jesus is alive - Jesus is Lord.

Christians emphasise the truth of Jesus' Resurrection in two particular ways. One way is through the Eucharist, the Holy Communion service. On Sunday mornings, when we gather together to break the bread and share the risen life, we begin our service with the words, "The Lord is here". We are therefore saying that Jesus, the Risen Lord, is present with us as we gather round his table. Gathered together we make a memorial of the offering of his life, which culminated in his death on the cross, and by doing this we bring into the here and now the events of Galilee and Calvary.

Another way we emphasise that Jesus is not only a figure of the past but is the Risen Lord, is through our belief in the work of the Holy Spirit, which is essentially the Spirit of Jesus. In the Communion service when the president has said the words "The Lord is here", the congregation reply (hopefully joyously) "His Spirit is with us". We believe that the Holy Spirit is alive in the lives of Christians working to reproduce in them the characteristics of Christ himself. These characteristics centre round Christ's absolute and complete love.

So, in the Eucharist and through our belief in the work of the Holy Spirit, we claim that Jesus was not only alive and present 2,000 years ago walking the hills of Galilee, he is alive and present today working in the world and in the lives of his people. Something else follows.

If we claim that Jesus is present in the Eucharist and we have union with him, it follows that we have union with one another - our lives

are bound together with his. So we proclaim "We are the Body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life". Then we believe we have fellowship in the Holy Spirit and pray that "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore". This all sounds somewhat easy and cosy. It is not.

True and real Christians fellowship is costly and always looks out to the world in love and compassion - and - because it is so costly it is not always found in abundance in Christian congregations.

As we approach Holy Week we are no doubt looking forward to our Easter Communion - but we need to remember that before Easter Sunday came Good Friday when love was displayed through suffering and death. There is no Easter Day - no resurrection - without Good Friday and death. There is no Christian fellowship where the Risen Lord can be discovered without cost and sacrifice.

Do have a joyous Easter when the Risen Lord stands among us and says "Peace be with you".



#### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday	Holy Communion 8am Blessing of Palms, procession and Parish Communion 9.30am Quiet Hour 6.30pm
Monday and Tuesday	Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm
Wednesday	Holy Communion 10am Stations of the Cross 8pm
Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm Chain of Prayer 8pm to midnight
Good Friday	Holy Hour 12 noon, conducted by Deaconess Margaret Children's Service 2pm Stations of the Cross at St Theresa's 7.15pm, followed by procession to St John's. Unity service in St John's 8pm (approx).
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil Service of Light 8pm
Easter Day	Holy Communion 7am St John's Holy Communion 8am St Mary's Parish Communion 9.30am St John's Communion and Hymns 11.15am St Mary's Baptisms 4pm St Mary's Sung Evensong 6.30pm St Mary's

#### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 19 March

8pm

St John's Church Hall



#### ST. JOHN'S APPEAL AND REPAIR

It is now nearly a year since we completed phase 2 on St. John's Church. During that time the appeal has reached the magnificent total of £58,000. The next phase of the work is to repoint and repair some of the brickwork. We have the specification and the faculty and now are waiting to hear from the Department of the Environment concerning a grant. Of course, it is very difficult to carry out pointing in the cold and frosty weather so we hope work will begin in the spring.

#### OUTING TO CANTERBURY

On Saturday 27th April we have a parish outing to Canterbury leaving St. John's at 9 a.m. The cost is £2.25p for adults and £1.25p for young people under 16 years. For those who want it there will be a guided tour of the cathedral and other historical sites. Please book with Derek Collier on 870915 or sign your name on the list at the back of St. John's.

#### MOTHER'S UNION

This year the Deanery Mother's Union Annual Service is to be held in Stansted at St. John's on Thursday March 21st at 2.30 p.m.

We have been asked to provide tea for everyone afterwards in the Hall. Each branch will contribute food but we shall need plenty of help in the kitchen please.

On Wednesday March 27th we shall have our quarterly corporate Communion at 2.30 p.m. in St. John's, followed by a cup of tea afterwards in the Hall.



#### CALLING ALL CHILDREN!!

On Sunday mornings, 10 and 17 March, after the 9.30am Parish Communion, there will be a stall in St John's Church where you may purchase gifts for your mothers on Mothering Sunday. Sweets, toiletries, plants etc will be on sale - all at 'pocket money' prices. All proceeds will go towards St John's Appeal.

# Youth News

## CITIZENS FOR THE YEAR 2001

This service is part of our programme of Sunday evenings in Lent and will take the form of a time of meeting and talking with young people in this International Year of Youth. The service takes place in St. John's Church on Sunday 10th March at 6.30 p.m.

## ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CLUB COMMITTEE

The next Youth Club Committee will take place at Sumach, Robin Hood Road, Elsenham, on Monday 11th March at 7.30 p.m.

## ST. ALBANS INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

The 1985 St. Albans International Ecumenical Youth Festival takes place from Monday 8th April until Friday 12th April (returning home on the morning of 13th April). The festival is an occasion of work, rest and play involving over 300 young Christians from many places in the world. Further details from Fr. Tony (814463).

## CIRDAN TRUST SAILING CRUISE

At the time writing a few places on our Cirdan Trust Sailing Cruise from 14-21 August 1985 remain unfilled. Contact Fr. Tony (814463).



## PARISH DIARY

### MARCH

- 3rd Preacher at 9.30 am Sister Hilda Mary
- 4th P.C.C. Meeting at Fairfields, Silver Street 8 pm
- 5th Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
- 6th House Communion at 9 Park Road 8 pm
- 7th Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am
- 10th Preacher at 9.30am Fr Mark Tweedy C.R.  
"Citizens for the Year 2001" 6.30 pm
- 11th House Communion at 11 Loates Pasture 8 pm
- 12th Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm  
Tuesday Club 2 pm in Vicarage
- 13th House Communion at 9 High Mead 8 pm
- 14th House Communion at The Rowans, Bentfield Causeway 10.30 am
- 17th Mothering Sunday - distribution of flowers at 9.30 am service
- 18th House Communion at 29 St. John's Road 8 pm
- 19th Annual Parochial Church Meeting 8 pm
- 20th House Communion at 34 Bentfield Gardens 8 pm
- 21st Mothers' Union Deanery Service in St John's 2.30 pm
- 23rd Jumble Sale 2.30 pm

## J U M B L E   S A L E

Saturday 23 March

\*\*\*\*\* 2.30pm \*\*\*\*\*

### St John's Church Hall

- 24th Preacher at 9.30 am Mr Peter Leatherdale
- 26th Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm
- 27th Mothers' Union Corporate Communion 2.30 pm  
House Communion at 43 Stoney Common 8 pm
- 31st-April 7th Holy Week - notices of services elsewhere

### APRIL

- 9th Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am  
Tiny Tots 2.15 pm
- 11th Holy Communion at Normans Court 10 am

### PARISH REGISTERS

#### Departed

- Jack Frederick Steer, 7 St. Mary's Drive  
Aged 81 years
- Hilda Palmer, 13 Normans Court Aged 81 years

## *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.

At this time of Lent we are asked to prepare ourselves by self-denial, by penance and by looking at ourselves more closely in relation to our God, our prayer-life, our relationships - Is my fig tree bearing fruit? Or is it a bit withered and neglected for lack of spiritual watering?

The time of Lent gives us all an opportunity to give ourselves a good spring-clean!

We often find ourselves in situations which are difficult, maybe through our own fault or maybe not self-inflicted and we cannot or will not accept happily - we worry and fret and fidget which gives rise to even more discontentment. We are told in the Bible that God will prune (if we will let him) all the dead branches that don't bear fruit but we rarely trust him enough.

"Do not NECESSARILY try to change your circumstances to your liking but permit God to change you to His

liking through circumstance".

Remember God loves us - he wants us to feel that we are his beloved children. Trust in His love and care, accept His love which surpasses all understanding.

Remember Jesus accepted the circumstances of his life, he didn't try to wriggle out of situations which he obviously must have felt very uncomfortable in and he was rewarded so richly and is so Beloved.

Dates to remember for the month of March.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is to be held at St. Theresa's Church at 2.00 p.m. The speaker is Sister Mary Paul, former headmistress of St. Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford. Creche available.

Stations of the Cross and Benediction are to be held on the following Fridays in March - 1st, 8th and 22nd at 8.00 p.m.

DON'T FORGET that Fr. Jim Brand will be here on Friday March 15th to give an ecumenical lenten talk. All are welcome to hear this excellent speaker. 8.00 p.m.

### THE GIFT OF BAPTISM

At a recent lecture for Lay Ministers at Brentwood the question of baptism arose. We were posed the following thought provoking questions: Is baptism a rigorole? Is it a superstition? Is it an insurance policy? Certainly in the scriptures it was portrayed as a very important event especially when John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. When he stepped into the river he was accepting his destiny and what it involved. The great ministry of new life in the form of Christianity had begun.

In the fourth century baptism was only performed on adults ready to give their lives to God, who had already experienced a conversion of heart. It was an amazing ceremony carried out by the 'bishops' and 'priests' of that day. A man would be asked first of all to strip naked, symbolising the shedding of all self-protection, he would then be rubbed with a precious oil symbolising God's protection. A white garment symbolising new life and purity would have been given to him and thus clothed he would then be led into a building which was ornate with paintings of biblical baptisms and in which was a large pool with steps leading down into it. The bishop would have stood by the pool and after every question asking to denounce evil, to believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, he would be dipped into the water until he was literally gasping for air - near to death by drowning - symbolising the washing away of sins and going down into death and rising to new life again, so making ready to sustain the Christian faith.

When I heard this I was deeply affected by the total commitment that had been made by the adult ready to receive baptism in its fullest meaning and one has to compare it with today when many are baptised and few are chosen. Christian baptism should not be an insurance policy, Christianity is a way of life. Neither should it be a superstition which is promoted by a fear of the unknown, nor a meaningless rigorole because society demands it. It should be a conscious act of giving oneself totally to God, believing

that in His hands we are totally protected from anything which will harm our souls:

Do we need to change our attitudes?  
Should baptism be an initiation instead of a ritual?

Do we appreciate baptism as a gift from God?

Jan King

## **Society of Friends**

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for worship:** 11am.

Where the words come from

Having written about the importance of silence to our Quaker meetings, I have been asked to balance the picture presented by writing something on vocal ministry.

This is something which is highly personal to each individual. Ministry in our meetings is never prepared as a sermon might be, though some may be delivered as such! It is a person's intimate relationship with God and ministry is part of the fruits of this relationship.

It is most accurately described in one of the books I was given when I came into membership of the Religious Society of Friends called 'Church Government'. It reads as follows:-

"It (Ministry) is not the utterance of careless, surface thoughts that flit through the mind, nor even the sharing on a merely intellectual level of riches won from reading and reflection: it is the offering of experience won in thought and in life which through prayer and obedience has led to a deeper vision of God and of his ways of dealing with men." (851)

For myself 1985 is something of an anniversary as it is ten years since I attended my first Quaker meeting and in the intervening years I have experienced different meetings in the Wirral, Devon, Hertfordshire and now Stansted and with them many different ministers. But I have only felt the compulsion to minister on three occasions and twice my own human weaknesses failed me. The experience of ministry is quite awful (in its original sense) and though you may think that there are elements which could be mis-identified as 'stage-fright', I know from my own experience of both that to stand up and minister is a unique experience.

Here is Elizabeth Salisbury writing about her first ministry in Quaker Monthly in 1968.

"On this Sunday morning though I went quietly to meeting with the family, my recent preoccupations submerged by the business of getting us all dressed and breakfasted and to meeting on time. But as the minutes ticked by and I sat in the heading peace I began to be aware of something inside me formulating a question which urgently needed to be asked. I discovered to my horror that this



something was urging me to get up and ask my question. My heart was pounding uncomfortably and I began to shiver. To start with I resisted this prompting. I looked around the room and noticed several Friends before whom I was reluctant to make a fool of myself. I could not get up and speak in front of them. The shaking and pounding diminished a little after I decided this. But not for long. It started up again, insistent, not to be denied. I sat conscious of this overpowering force which was pushing me to my feet until finally I gave in.

Afterwards I found it difficult to believe that I had spoken. I had been driven by some inner prompting which for want of a more precise word one might call spirit: and yes I had quaked which was something more than just the fear of making a fool of myself".

Colin R. Cheesman

### Village News



#### FUTURE EVENTS

#### MARCH

- |    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|
| 6  | 10.00 | Day Centre Coffee Morning  |
| 8  | 8.00  | Conservatives A.G.M. Day Centre<br>Alan Haselhurst M.P.                |
| 9  | 2.00  | S.D.P. Jumble Sale. St. John's Hall                                    |
| 10 | 6.30  | International Year of Youth Service<br>St. John's                      |
| 13 | 10.30 | Conservatives Women's Branch A.G.M.<br>Day Centre                      |
|    | 2.30  | National Childbirth Trust "Clothkits"<br>Fashion Show. St. John's Hall |
| 15 | 8.00  | Fr. Jim Brand, Lenten Talk.<br>St. Theresa's                           |
| 16 | 2.00  | Spring Fair. Mountfitchet High School                                  |
|    | 8.00  | St. Mary's School PTA Disco in Hall                                    |
| 23 | 2.30  | Jumble Sale. St. John's  |
| 27 | 8.00  | S.D.P. A.G.M. Quaker Meeting House                                     |
| 30 | 9.30  | St. Mary's School Car Boot Sale  |

#### STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

A meeting will be held at the Football Club, Cambridge Road, at 8 p.m. on Monday 4th March.

The Annual General Meeting of the Stansted Joint Branch will be held in the Day Centre on Friday, 8th March at 8 p.m. The speaker will be our Member of Parliament - Mr. Alan Haselhurst.

The Annual General Meeting of the Stansted Women's Branch will be held at the Day Centre on Wednesday, 13th March at 10.30 a.m. when the speaker will be Mr. Stephen Dorrell, M.P. for Loughborough.

It is planned to serve a light lunch after the meeting. Tickets, at minimal cost, will be available from Pat Trigg, Hon. Secretary,

53 Chapel Hill, or from your collector.

For further information please contact:-

Alan Corbishley B.S. 813040  
Martin Cowan B.S. 814596  
or Sonia Cheshire B.S. 813547.

#### MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2 - 4.30 P.M.

SPRING FAIR

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL, STANSTED  
JUMBLE SALE, TOMBOLA, SIDE SHOWS

#### £500 FOR HELP THE AGED

Last term the school was involved in fund raising for the Help the Aged appeal. In all £500 was raised by the school, and many pupils received certificates for raising £10 or more.

The certificate winners were:-

Peter Saville	Nicola Moss
Andrew Patmore	Patsy Holden
Fenton Trewick	Paul Hutchin

and Sarah Mercer, who collected the most money in the school.

Well done to everyone, especially the certificate winners!

Miss Coryn Davies, the Area Youth Campaign Organiser for Help the Aged, wrote to Mr. Davies to thank the pupils and staff who supported the event.

By Amanda Lucas 4n.

#### UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

On 31st January, Mr. Johnson introduced a very distinguished guest in Assembly. Mr. Hembry is the United Nations Vice-Chairman for Great Britain.

Mr. Hembry talked to us about the United Nations which was formed 40 years ago. He told us the main aim of the UN is to keep peace in the world and that the money saved on weapons could be used to bring the nations together and make the world a fairer place, stopping situations such as the Ethiopian famine from happening again.

He showed us some slides of the UN buildings in Geneva and New York. 159 countries belong to the UN and the UN buildings are surrounded by 159 different flags.

1985 is the year of youth and young people are being encouraged to participate if not by doing voluntary work then by telling other people about this World Organisation or by raising funds.

By Angela Clarke 3J

## SNOW

Snow floating in the air  
Gleaming white  
Clear and bright  
Like flaky pastry  
And a feather bed  
Sugary piles.  
Chilly blizzard on the way  
Drifting snow is here to stay  
Floating fluffy shapes  
Crunchy munchy goes the snow  
Whispering diamonds whirling round my head  
Like a big crystal blanket on a bed.

by Sharon Palmer 2N



## BENTFIELD SCHOOL

### PUSS IN BOOTS

On Saturday January 12th, the choir went to see 'Puss in Boots'. I arrived there at 2.50 pm and I went up on to the balcony. Some of my friends were already there. Because I had been to Dick Whittington a few weeks before I kept on getting muddled as to whether I had come to see Puss in Boots or Dick Whittington.

The curtain opened and the story began. You could tell that everyone was excited because they were sitting on the edge of their seats.

As the play went along we were able to join with the actors, helping Puss in Boots perform his magic.

It was all great fun, and we eventually went home having had a lovely time.

Joanne Statham Age 8

### Class 5's Long Walk Round Stansted

Last month I wrote about Class 5's walk round Stansted. Here is a report written by some of the children.

### CLASS 5'S LONG WALK ROUND STANSTED

"The busiest road was Cambridge Road. I saw lorries, vans, buses and a land-rover. We saw two buses. One was going to Saffron Walden and the other was going to Stansted Airport. That one went down Chapel Hill.

I saw a lady telephoning in the Hairdressers shop. The Hairdressers shop was empty. I saw the Fire Station. It was quiet. It had two big fire-engines. There was a bell outside. On the ground outside it said 'No Parking'.

We went up Brewery Lane. It was icy and there were lots of holes in the road. Then we came to St. John's Road. It was very stoney and it had lots of big houses. I saw a squashed hedgehog, which made me feel sick.

We saw a bird's nest in a tree down Chapel Hill. We could see the nest because the leaves had fallen off the trees. I enjoyed our walk."

Since then, Class 5 have been visiting local shops in groups of three, asking the shopkeepers questions about the things they sell, hours of opening and closing, busy days, etc.

Small groups of children have visited the markets at Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford, have chatted to the stallkeepers, and made graphs about the types of stalls. They have produced pictures and written accounts of their visits.

We have made a collage frieze of a row of shops and have done traffic surveys at different times of the week, to find the busiest day. Friday morning was very busy. 190 cars were counted in 12 minutes on the main road.

Rebecca, Nicholas F., Jamie, Caroline,  
Charmian, Ben and Mrs. Skingle.  
Class 5.

Rachel Irven

### FROSTY MISTY NIGHTS

One night I went out in the woods,  
Frosty misty nights  
The trees were blowing in the wind,  
Frosty misty nights  
The snow was thick upon the ground,  
Frosty misty nights  
The snow was thick up in the trees,  
Frosty misty nights  
What will I find? Frosty misty nights  
What about diamonds, sapphires, rubies?  
Frosty, misty nights  
Will I find any, I wonder? Frosty misty nights  
Silver, gold or bronze? Frosty misty nights  
I searched in vain, but no treasure came.  
Frosty misty nights.

Joanne Statham Age 8

### SNOW

Snow is falling lightly  
Over the drive and lawn  
I wonder whether there'll be icicles  
Oh, I can't wait till dawn.

At morning I get up  
And get myself dressed  
I rush outside and play around  
And then I have a rest.

Elise Walker Age 8

### IT'S WINTER AGAIN

The snow is falling  
Softly to the ground  
Snowflakes twinkling in the sky  
Down, down it comes  
Falling to the ground  
Snowflakes fluffy  
Snowflakes icy  
Snowflakes cover the ground.

Jenny Smith Age 8

## WINTER

Winter is cold and bare  
bleak and snow  
everything is frozen  
icy and hard  
the snow is  
all crunchy  
soft and cold  
Then comes the slush  
that horrible stuff  
Then comes the rain  
and washes it all away  
Goodbye snow  
I love you so.

Rachel Errington Age 8

## ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children and staff welcomed Mrs. Rust at the beginning of the term. Mrs. Rust is taking the third year juniors and is responsible for the music in the junior department.

The whole school are looking forward to their visit to the National Theatre in March to see 'The Ancient Mariner'.

The netball and football teams are in hard training for many tournaments due to start in the next couple of months.

## P.T.A. EVENTS

The P.T.A. are holding a disco on Saturday, 16th March at 8 p.m. in the school hall. The theme is the Sixties and Seventies. Tickets are £2.50 each. There will be a hot supper and, of course, a bar. Tickets available from the school.

## CAR BOOT SALE

There will be a car boot sale on Saturday, 30th March at 9.30 a.m. Pitches cost £4 (in advance) and £5 on the day. If you wish to book a pitch please telephone B.S. 812212.

# CHILDREN



March comes from Mars, the god of war,  
March arrives with rage and roar,  
Gaining little love from this  
March departs with hug and kiss.

If you have any work for the children's page please pop it in to my house.

Christine Hope  
57 Recreation Ground

## YOU'RE OUT

"Tell me daddy" said David "If you were shut up in a room with no windows, no doors, and no other openings, not even a fireplace, and there was nothing in the room except a table, how would you get out?"

"I have no idea" I said.

"It's simple daddy. You'd rub your finger on the table till it was sore, you'd saw the table in half, two halves make a whole, so you'd climb through the hole and get out."

Teacher: Michael, this homework looks like your mother's handwriting!

Michael: Yes teacher - I used her fountain pen.

Teacher: If you have eleven potatoes and have to divide them equally among five people, how would you do it?

Michael: I'd mash them.

Michael: Teacher, I don't deserve zero for this story.

Teacher: I know, but it is the lowest mark I can give you.

Teacher: I hope I didn't see you looking at Alexander's book Michael.

Michael: I hope so too teacher.

## LIMERICKS

These two limericks do make sense, whether they are funny or not. The first throws a fresh light on maths and the second a fresh light on spelling.

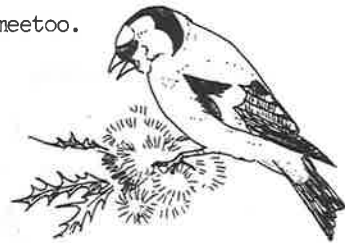
Said a puzzled young boy called Gunn  
"Arithmetic's foolishly done

$2 \times 2 = 4$

So "x" = More

Yet  $1 \times 1 = 1$ "

A hungry young man from Doteetoo  
Decided to bite a moskeetoo;  
He said, "It is fit,  
Since I taste good to it,  
That it ought to taste good to meetoo.



Why don't you give the birds a special treat.  
Here is a recipe for a cake for birds.

Fill a small basin with any mixture of millet, bird seed, chopped bacon rind, shelled peanuts and coconut and add enough suet to make the mixture pliable. Press it down hard into the basin, chill and when it is firm turn the 'cake' out.

Put it somewhere in the garden, out of the cat's reach!



## 2ND STANSTED GUIDES

Parents, friends and leaders were recently invited to a Baden Powell Trefoil Presentation by the 2nd Stansted Guides.

The Baden Powell Trefoil is the highest award in Guiding and was presented to Suzanne Ridgewell by Guider Mrs. Veronica Fox. For her award, Suzanne had completed a project on the History of Guiding and had worked for many interest badges, including work in the community.

The occasion was extra special as this is the first Baden Powell Trefoil presented to a member of the Stansted Guides.

Four new Guides were enrolled, Rachel Boxall, Helen Raynor, Verity Jenkins and Karen Gallie.

After the ceremonies the Guides served delicious cakes and cups of tea to their visitors. The evening concluded with Suzanne cutting a 'Congratulations' cake and then all present sang campfire songs.

Thankyou to all for a super evening.

Christine Hope

## REMINDER

The 75th Anniversary Guide and Brownie Fete is drawing near - May 6th, 2.30 p.m. St. Mary's School. We are holding a running auction. If you have any large or small items you wish to donate or to sell on a 50-50 basis please ring either of these numbers B.S. 815007 B.S. 815970 and collection will be arranged.

Christine Hope



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mr. R. Howe, from Dobies Seeds, was the speaker at the Club's February meeting. He told us a little about the organisation of the seed industry in this country and how it is governed by stringent British and E.E.C. regulations. These control the packaging, purity, germination ratios and varietal names of the seeds being sold.

Since British gardeners spent an estimated £29 million on packets of seeds last year the need for such regulations is obvious. Despite that cost, raising plants from seed is still the most economical method.

All seeds need moisture, oxygen and warmth to germinate and success in growing plants from seed lies in providing the correct amount of all three at the correct time. As a good rule we were told that the best time for sowing seeds outdoors is

when the weed seeds in the garden start to germinate. Obviously those sown in a propagator or greenhouse can be started off earlier. We had a brief discussion on pelleted seeds, which need to be treated rather differently in order to ensure good results. Mr. Howe explained some garden terms to us, the kind which are found in seed catalogues and which can be quite baffling. He finished off the evening by showing some slides of his firm's more recent introductions, and answering questions about them.

Next month's speaker will be Mrs. Chudley, who will talk on 'Garden Design and Labour Saving Ideas'. In April the speaker will be Mr. Rowley, whose subject will be 'Woodland Conservation'.

## TO DAFFODILS

Fair daffodils, we weep to see  
You haste away so soon:  
As yet the early-rising sun  
Has not attain'd his noon.  
Stay, stay,  
Until the hasting day  
Has run  
But to the evensong,  
And, having prayed together, we  
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay as you,  
We have as short a spring,  
As quick a growth to meet decay,  
As you, or anything.  
We die,  
As your hours do, and dry  
Away,  
Like to the summer's rain,  
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,  
Ne'er to be found again.

Robert Herrick.



## MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

It was a most enjoyable start to 1985 with Mr. Ansell's talk illustrated with lovely slides of holidays in France. We were rather cold in the hall, but a cup of tea soon warmed us.

On January 16th we could not meet owing to the bad weather, but on February 6th the Potato Marketing Board gave an excellent demonstration on cooking with potatoes and gave us plenty of new ideas, one of which was tried out on the writer's grandsons at the weekend with great success. At the end of the meeting the dishes cooked were raffled and several members took home tasty dishes.

## HARGRAVE HOUSE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Since our last report we have been quite active with two particularly notable occasions just before Christmas. The first was when the League of Friends joined the children and staff of Hargrave House on a coach trip to London to see the lights. The meal at Macdonalds in the Strand went like a dream, with the children beautifully behaved and enjoying every minute of it, and even though the driver completely missed the lights in Regent Street it did nothing to dampen the spirits of excitement of those aboard!

The highlight of the pre-Christmas period for us was our carol service in St. John's Church, for which I should like to express our thanks to Rev'd Barry Rose and Rev'd Tony Bundock for their help in arranging. As we had been advised that the children would definitely be leaving Hargrave in February we decided to make this a special farewell service - speeches were made, carols were sung and we finished with a sherry and wine party at the House, making it altogether an emotional but very enjoyable and memorable evening. However, I am writing this in the middle of February and our final goodbyes have been postponed again - probably until May. Perhaps we'll even manage another carol service, who knows!

In the meantime, with the help of generous donations and fund raising ventures, we are continuing to provide various items aimed at making the children's lives that much easier or more enjoyable, e.g. video recorder and camera (this is already proving enormously valuable in assessing their behaviour patterns and assisting in the training of staff), and individual items so that each child can recognise his/her own cup, plate, etc. and enjoy the sense of his/her own belongings.

As our next venture we are hoping to stage a fashion show at Stansted Hall - more details of this will be seen around the village when arrangements are finalised.

Francine Cope

## HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

I think many people know that members had a great disappointment when the trip to the pantomime did not take place. We were all upset as the members looked forward to it with great excitement. However, we wish to thank Mr. Camp of 'Care Travel' for his very generous offer to recompense us and we shall arrange an alternative outing later on.

### IMAGINARY THOUGHTS OF A HANDICAPPED MEMBER

"It's Thursday today, at last! I keep asking and asking but the answer always seems to be 'not today' but now it is today, it's Thursday and it's our club night.

I love club nights, we play games and have nice things to eat and drink and a tuck shop where we can spend our money.

The helpers don't often shout at us, only when we do something they think is wrong like pinching someone's pencil, or knocking a chair over on purpose or jumping on someone who is smaller than us.

Sometimes if we are clever we can wangle another glass of orange squash by pretending we haven't had one. It's good fun if someone spills squash on the floor. We all try to walk through it to spread it around and make a bigger mess. Then we watch the helpers running for the mop to clear up.

The helpers aren't bad really, they play with us and help with jigsaws and cut out pictures. They show us pictures and say 'Here is a nice one'. We nod and take it and throw it on the floor and find one we really like.

We have television and music and sometimes we have a barbecue - that's lovely only it does take ages for the sausages to cook.

I wish the helpers would listen properly and understand what we are talking about. Fancy when you are asking for another biscuit being offered a trip to the toilet - it's most annoying!

Some of the members play billiards but you have to be able to walk properly and hold things firmly to play - I wish I could.

I've got to put my coat on now as one of those nice drivers is coming to take me to club.

I do love club evenings and really the helpers are kind, they try and help us and we do need them. I suppose it's not their fault that they are a bit thick at times!"

Betty Lockwood

## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Being an inhabitant of the village you must be aware that by winning the Football Association Challenge Vase last season Stansted Football Club achieved an ambition/honour that is sought after by towns and villages throughout the whole of this country.

Parallel with this the club has also been gradually improving its facilities. One major improvement has been the replacement of the old clubroom with a splendid new one.

This letter is our invitation to the people of Stansted to not only share in the success of the playing side of the club, but also to come forward and enjoy the facilities that our clubroom at Hargrave Park has to offer. These include darts, pool, music and disco evenings and it is intended to organise a once weekly bingo session in the immediate future - watch out for further information regarding the latter.

Contact with anyone of the club officials will facilitate membership and will also provide any further information you may require. You have our assurance that you will be made most welcome - furthermore you will also find that our bar prices are most competitive.

We look forward to hearing from you!

John W. Robinson

Tel: Daytime 812003 Evening 812755

## THE PARISH COUNCIL OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Stansted Parish Council has been concerned for some time about the lack of local indoor and outdoor sports facilities for all age groups and has been searching actively for a suitable site for these.

As everyone realises, such vacant, available sites are scarce, both in Stansted and the surrounding district and so when it was learned that Hargrave House was to be sold in the spring of this year enquiries were made regarding the possible purchase of land.

A meeting was held between the Sports Association, whose land adjoins Hargrave House garden, and members of the Parish Council when a broad line of agreement was reached whereby the Sports Association would support the endeavours of the Parish Council in purchasing land from Essex County Council.

Bentfield School uses part of the grounds of the house as a play area for football, etc. and this is a statutory obligation on the part of Essex County Council Education Department. We are aware that rumours abound regarding our intentions in relation to this land and so talks have been held with Mrs. Jones, the Headmistress, Mr. Yates, the Deputy Head, and Mr. Martin, Chairman of the Board of Governors, setting out our ideas.

In a scheme which the Sports Association and Parish Council have discussed, the Association and the School will have very much better and more extensive facilities than at present. There would also be space for a Community Hall providing opportunities for indoor recreation of many kinds. The scheme has also been discussed with Essex County Council Estates and Valuation Department and Uttlesford Planning Department.

The Parish Council appreciates that the plans we have are for the future but feels that the purchase of land is the first step to be taken to set us on our way.

We await comments on our proposals from various departments of Essex County Council but hope to have more information before the Annual Parish Meeting in March.

We would like to stress that it is the earnest wish of both the Parish Council and the Sports Association that the land in question remains a permanent open space for the benefit of everyone.

## UTTLESFORD HOME-START'S FIRST BIRTHDAY

### What is Home-Start?

Home-Start is a scheme in which volunteers offer support, friendship and practical help to families with children under five, in their own home. Uttlesford Home-Start is available to any family living in Uttlesford with at least one pre-school child, who is experiencing difficulties for any reason. Perhaps they are lonely, depressed or just exhausted. If you would like to know more about Home-Start please ring Great Dunmow (94) 5705.

Home-Start began in Leicester ten years ago and due to its success in helping families, it has now spread to many different parts of the country and there are now 44 Home Starts established and new

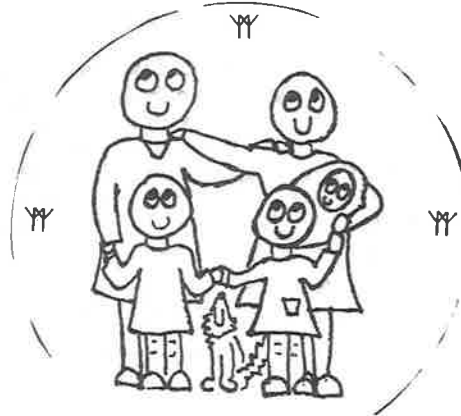
ones forming all the time.

UTTLESFORD HOME-START IS CELEBRATING ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH. This time last year two part-time organisers were appointed (Linda and myself) and soon afterwards we opened our office, one room in Great Dunmow.

Since then we have run two preparation courses for volunteers. Each course was run for 10 weeks one day a week during the school term. We now have 30 volunteers living all over Uttlesford, visiting families as a friend. Over 50 families have been referred to us usually by their Health Visitor with their consent or the family have rung us up themselves asking for some kind of help. Great emphasis is placed on confidentiality and on matching and supporting volunteers.

Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and require no special experience except the experience of having been a parent themselves. We are planning a third preparation course for the summer, so if you would like more information about becoming a volunteer and about the preparation course please give us a ring.

Jo Moody  
Organiser



**UTTLESFORD HOME-START**  
**Paddon House**  
**12 Stortford Road**  
**GREAT DUNMOW**  
**Essex CM6 1DA**

**Telephone: Gt. Dunmow 5705**

## COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to a Coffee Morning at the DAY CENTRE, Stansted, on WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1985 from 10.00 to 12 noon.

BRING AND BUY STALL

Proceeds to be sent to the Baptist Mission, Cuttack, Orissa, INDIA, to help towards the purchase of a much needed refrigerator.

Do come and support this worthy project.

Admission 25 pence  
including coffee

# Christian Aid

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK this year is May 13th to 18th and there will be the usual house-to-house envelope collection in Stansted. I should be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to become a new collector, whether they are a member of a church or not.

Aswell as the United Act of Worship on Sunday 12th May there will be two other events to mark Christian Aid Week. On Friday 10th May there will be a social evening in the United Reformed Church Hall. More details of this will be given in the April Link.

The Christian Aid market will be held again this year outside (weather permitting) the Friends Meeting House on the morning of Saturday 18th May. We shall be grateful for contributions of cakes, books, toys, white elephants, garden produce, plants, good-as-new clothes, handicrafts and groceries. These can be given to the C.A. church representatives in advance or brought on the day, and if you wish to have anything collected please contact me.

The theme of Christian Aid Week 1985 is "This week charity begins with the homeless". This year C.A. is focussing attention on all those who are compelled to leave their homes to seek safety and food elsewhere. This has been highlighted for us recently by films on television of refugees fleeing from Tigray in search of food in the Sudan. There are 4 to 5 million homeless in Africa alone, and many millions more throughout the world. Please help Christian Aid explode the myth that "charity begins at home" and remember the world's refugees in your prayers and giving, not only in Christian Aid Week.

Catherine Dean  
813579

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING W.I.



More than 60 members braved the icy paths on St. Valentines Day for our meeting, the theme of which was TEAPOTS.

Mrs. Elton Barrett from Little Hadham brought a fine selection of those she had collected over the years and gave fascinating memories of how she acquired them, aswell as much information on the history of tea making. The pots ranged from the enormous Village Hall type to some only one inch or so high, with many amusing and some beautiful ones in between. She was thanked on members behalf by Mrs. Liz Hedge.

Mrs. Liz Jordan and Mrs. Joan Freeman volunteered to be our representatives at the County A.G.M. to be held in Chelmsford. Members were given details of our Spring Group Meeting to be held at the Mountfitchet School on April 1st. On this occasion "Oriental Wear" of Sawbridgeworth will be presenting a show of their latest fashions and it is expected that some 200 members will be attending.

June Riley

## "OUR VILLAGE"

How many times in this ever increasing rush of life have you said: "I've passed that scores of times but I have never seen it" (We must all have said this).

Several years ago I was told by an old friend: "Boy (this was a favourite name given to us boys by older men) you look but do not see, and you listen but do not hear". How true. Look and see, listen and hear. How much more you will enjoy an afternoons walk. How more relaxed, refreshed and closer to the countryside you will feel on reaching home ready for tea. But did you see these dates displayed for all to see? Where in the village are they? 1215, 1559, 1687, 1759, 1787, 1854, 1878 and 1901.

Where can G.R. and E.R. be seen, dressed in red standing just a few yards apart?

Do you know of any Hand Water Pumps still standing (or site of) perhaps in your own garden? I would like to hear of any please. Keep thinking about a Village Book - lots of help still needed.

Answers to last month's questions:-

Fellmonger A Dealer in animal skins.  
James Pigram of Stansted  
Mountfitchet recorded in 1832 as  
Fellmonger, Glover and Breaches  
Maker.

End Refers to a Hamlet beyond the confines of  
the Village.

P. J. BROWN  
B.S. 812816

## "NEEDLECRAFT FOR YOUR CHURCH"

Tuesday April 30 - 10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Chelmsford Cathedral

Entrance fee payable at the door

Talks, exhibition, demonstrations and ideas



## **The National Childbirth Trust** Education for Parenthood

About 55 children brought their mums to the Tiny Tots Valentine's Disco. I don't know who enjoyed the video and music the most, we'll be on Top of the Pops next!

Our main event this month is:-

CLOTHKITS SUMMER FASHION DISPLAY  
on Wednesday 13th March  
2.30 - 4.30  
in St. John's Hall

Many of you will have probably seen the "Clothkits" catalogue. Clothes may be ordered in kit form or many come readymade. Sizes range from young children right through to adult outfits. The display is open to non-members aswell as NCT members. Entrance 50p including refreshments and a catalogue.

April will soon be here so get your thinking caps on with ideas for the Easter Bonnet Competition. This

will be held at 22 Alderbury Road on Tuesday 2nd April, 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. 10p per entrant.

A reminder - we're having a stall on Bishop's Stortford market on Thursday 18th April to aid our Ante-natal teacher training fund. If anyone has any bric-a-brac, babies and children's clothes, toys, etc. please could you let Chris Pickett, 56 St. John's Road, have them by 4th April. We would also be glad of any homemade cakes, preserves, etc.

HELP! We have plenty of willing typists but are in need of a replacement typewriter. It needs to be one that can be used for typing stencils. If anyone has any info please could they contact Maxine Levy on B.S. 812900.

Are any members interested in joining a baby sitting circle? If so let Chris Pickett know. Chris is also willing to collect membership fees from anyone, due now. Unfortunately local membership has had to be raised to £3.50 as the Headquarters levy has been increased to £2. The remaining £1.50 gives you 4 local newsletters and regular diary sheets as well as keeping the group and its services running. As a local member you are covered by NCT insurance for NCT events held in your home. If you are a national member you automatically become a local member. Any new members will be welcome, just contact Chris, 56 St. John's Road. Sally Brown

### STANSTED S.D.P.

Two events to note for March:

- 9 March: Jumble Sale, 2 p.m. at St. John's Hall.
- 27 March: Group A.G.M. More details of the meeting will be in the Newsletter.

Jane Freeman 814084

Santa Aria  
Bogota  
Colombia

Dear friends in Stansted,

28th January

It is Monday morning, the children are all in school, I have been for a brisk walk in the crisp clear air now I am sitting down, with a cup of coffee, in my quiet house, to write to my friends and family in England.

I have been here for nine days and already I have so much to tell you. First of all, let me say how happy I am here. The people I have met, Colombians, Americans and fellow English, have all been so welcoming and helpful, I feel I have made many friends already. On the first day at the school bus stop I met a near neighbour, an English woman married to a Colombian; we are now enjoying a five-minute gossip each morning and afternoon.

Bogota is an enormous city and I have only seen a very small part of it so far, but that part is very beautiful. The best residential districts are naturally around the edge of Bogota; we are in the extreme east, just where the city starts to climb out of the plain and into the foothills of one Andean range. As I look out of my window I am surrounded by mountain peaks.

Much to the surprise of his associates in the office, who thought a wife would not be happy unless involved in the choice, Pete chose our house before I joined him. By a complete coincidence he found a house in the district of Santa Area (Saint Ann). There is something very reassuring, for a Catholic anyway, about living under the protection of my own patron saint! Not that I needed much reassurance as the district is very attractive; the roads tree-lined and

grass-versed, not a trace of l tter anywhere, the houses, all in different styles set in gardens full of flowering shrubs. The air is scented with eucalyptus and honeysuckle and many other plants as yet unknown to me.

The climate is superb. As you read this, England will still be in the grip of winter, maybe even snowbound as it was when I left. Here, I wake every morning to brilliant sunshine, clear blue skies and yet the temperature is just comfortably warm, not too hot. Rather like a clear September day in England. Around mid-day it can become quite hot and the air is so clear and pure that I have to be careful not to get sunburnt. Most afternoons it becomes a little cloudy and then around 4 o'clock there is a violent rainstorm, the streets running inches deep in water. (Thank goodness I brought my wellington boots!) By 5 o'clock it is completely dry again, the trees and grass fresh and green after their daily shower. And it will be like this throughout the year I am told - a most invigorating climate!

Yesterday I walked around the corner to my local church, a low white-washed building, cool and dark inside, much the same size as St. Theresa's in Stansted. It is dedicated to Santa Bibiana (Saint Vivian) a saint unknown to me. Perhaps someone can enlighten me?

Later in the day we drove into the mountains for a picnic. Once we left the city behind and whenever we were out of sight of people and farmhouses, it was just like driving through highland areas in Britain - wales or Scotland or even the Lake District. Everywhere was very green, grassy meadows giving way to moorland with stands of conifers and sometimes whole hillsides covered with trees. The odd thing was that although it looked quite open and empty, in fact it was criss-crossed with barbed-wire fences, around fields with only the occasional small herd of cattle or flock of sheep. It was impossible to stop by the side of the road and just wander up the hillside as you could in Britain. The other difference was the presence of wayside shrines at regular intervals along the road. Most were decorated with bunches of flowers but one was completely surrounded by car headlamps. Perhaps that was the patron saint of drivers, they certainly need one here, I've never seen such overtaking on hairpin bends!

The only disturbing feature I have so far found in living out here is the presence (and I am assured, the necessity) of armed guards in the better residential areas and shopping centres. They are fairly unobtrusive and very friendly to their residents but their presence is nevertheless strangely unfamiliar to us. We even have a driver who also acts as a personal security guard. He drives Pete to and from work and when I go into the big shopping centres in the city he walks beside me, carries my shopping and looks very ordinary and innocent in his smart pin-stripe suit, inside which is a loaded pistol. At first I was horrified and thought such precautions ridiculous, however the company feel it is essential so I have to accept it. I can assure you that I do not feel in the least bit threatened and I can walk quite freely around Santa A 'a and into the local small shops. I just feel very sad that this beautiful country should have such internal problems that security of this kind is needed. And very guilty that I should have to be protected by a gun. Please join us in prayer for these people.

I hope to be able to share more of my experiences with you, especially when I have seen other parts of Bogota and the country of Colombia.

Adios, Ann Webb



# DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
MONUMENTAL MASONS

Head Office: 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford

Telephone Night or Day : Bishop's Stortford 55477

and at LOWER STREET STANSTED Tel.: Bishop's Stortford 812312

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Mill is open between 2.30 and 7.00 pm on the first Sunday each month from April to October and every Sunday in August. Also open at the same times on the Sunday and Monday of the three Bank Holidays. Admission is 40p for adults and 20p for accompanied children. Parties can be catered for at other times—Ring B.S. 813214

## HERTS HEATING

TOWN GROVE  
BROAD OAK ROAD  
HATFIELD HEATH  
Telephone: B S 730060  
LUXURY KITCHENS FITTED  
HEATING ENGINEERS & PLUMBERS

## DEAMERS NEWSAGENCY

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PARTY? DO? DANCE?  
**WHERE?**

**UGLEY VILLAGE HALL  
OF COURSE!**

(it's rather pretty really)

GOOD CAR PARK FAIR RATES  
PHONE :- 813102

## JUDY GODDARD

GOING AWAY?  
(for a week or a year)

But who will cut the lawn water the plants - house and garden  
keep the weeds down feed and exercise the dog  
feed the cat, budgie or fish forward the mail

JUDY GODDARD will willingly do all these tasks,  
and others of which she may not have thought.

Please telephone Bishop's Stortford 812498 to discuss your needs.

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

