

The *LINK*



*Stansted
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S.A.C.C.

UNITED SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10TH

10.55 a.m. in the Memorial Gardens.
Followed by a service in St. John's
Church - Preacher -
The Rev'd Ronald Rawlings.

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.

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

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

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
17th October for November issue
14th November for December issue

SACC

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 1985

Clergy and representatives of all the churches joined in a service of thanksgiving, as usual very well attended.

The vicar welcomed as preacher the Rev. Lydia Rapkin, newly ordained (and inducted at Stansted on September 21st) to the U.R.C. ministry. Her plea to abandon a lukewarm faith for a whole-hearted one was illustrated by reference to the enthusiasm of the younger West Indian churches.

After the service the vicar invited all to take home some of the harvest produce and to contribute to a collection for Mexican Earthquake relief. This amounted to over £160 combined with St. Mary's School Harvest collection.

and

WELL-MET BY MOONLIGHT

When the company had adjourned to St. Mary's School Hall for another Harvest Supper arranged so well by the S.A.C.C. committee, a fine selection of items for our entertainment:

Marion Dyer, at the piano, surprised us by her invitation to waltz to her 2 pieces! - but I think we all much preferred to sit still and enjoy her accomplished recital!

Well done, compere Alan Corbishley, for successfully subduing children of all ages in anticipation of the "most serious" anthology by Peter Gavin with its rapid round-up of Nature, Sport and Music - something for every "child" - a delightfully light touch.

The young Catholics relied not only on the most efficient services of British Telecom but on the inexhaustible capability of their actors to vary their speed and emotions. Pity our Gallant Cameraman chickened out for the final take!

Philippa and Laura provided some sweet music with Plaisirs d'Amour as a guitar duet before Mrs. "Jordan-Brown" gave us some remarkable reminiscences - slipping happily from one character to the other with never a slip of the memory - an astonishing feat!

Tim and Fran gave us a good warm-up with various vehicles vying for voice and warned us (too late!) of the perils of "the drink".

Of course, everything tonight was a "first", but not quite such an accomplishment as the compositions of the Two Jons (Butcher and Lewin) who delighted us with "Magic Carpet" - and the world premiere of "Jus a Concerto in D Flat". Look out World! there's more coming!

It's clear as daylight what Harold Fisher's "moonlighting" consists of: burning the

midnight oil as he conjures up visions of the secret life of Stansted's Fully Able Clergy.

Wives, you realise your man's London "business trip" is possibly to Madam Booker's establishment and "That Club" where Fisher-Bunnies service drinks from shameless pint-puller Eric's bar? - Yes, the lid's off croupiere Lydia's gump - to allow him a harmless day at Newmarket where the vicar's calling the odds (his white gloves show so well by moonlight!). And when the family fortune's safely on Barry Bookies' wallet its nice to know that strong-man Tony "Biceps" Bundock will bear his collapsed form home for the next Harvest.

Many thanks to all and especially compere Alan and food-and-drinks people!

Phyllis Harrison



"-nor should Miss Bagshot's work in decorating the church go unnoticed."

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HELPLINE CALLING

If you (or a friend) are in need of help or advice say "HELLO" on
816008

HELPLINE exists to serve the community. Our telephone is manned every weekday between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

HELPLINE

At the time of reading this, we will be celebrating our first anniversary of providing a "pilot scheme" local community care service. The results of this first year have convinced us that it is well worth continuing the scheme and, with the

magnificent support of our trusty band of volunteers, we will hopefully be able to provide assistance in many more situations.

As we had expected, our most sought-after service has been to provide transport for necessary journeys where no other means has been readily available and, as such, we are always very grateful to hear from any drivers whom we could occasionally call upon to augment our existing volunteers, especially those who would be available during the daytime when the need tends to be greatest.

Transport apart, we have also been requested to perform a very wide-ranging number of tasks; some, perhaps, have sadly been beyond our capabilities, but we hope that we have managed to fulfil most people's needs and, in so doing, it would be nice to think that we have managed now and again to make life a little easier and perhaps, a little more pleasant for a few people at least.

So, don't forget, "Helpline" is still very much in operation and if you have need of help, however small, however big (we can only say no!) and where no other assistance is available, give us a ring on

- 816008 -

Perhaps you live alone and are housebound? We have many responsible, friendly people who would be happy to come and have a chat with you now and again. Remember, it is your local community care scheme.

Similarly, if anyone would like to volunteer their services, however small or infrequent, I would be very happy to hear from them and give them any details they would like to know.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our grateful thanks to the many people who have helped in so many ways over the past year to make this scheme a worthwhile and viable project.

Francine Cope
Secretary
814562

A LETTER TO HELPLINE

THANK YOU

I am 84 and live alone and in the early spring was in real trouble. With the wet weather it has been difficult to light a bonfire and so the rubbish stretched in a heap across the garden. Help came in the form of six volunteers from Helpline. They came one Saturday morning and cleared the lot. I am so grateful to them. Nothing wrong with Helpline.

Dorothy Kershaw

"THE LINK" SAYS "THANK YOU"

Once again Janet Townsend and the LINK Committee arranged an informal party for all those who help to produce the magazine, not least of all the distributors who get the Link "out and around".

After a short progress report, guests and committee enjoyed a light supper followed by an (even lighter!) entertainment, when Fiona Jameson returned by popular demand (see Harvest 1984) to sing delightfully again, accompanied by Marion Dyer (who stays here by popular demand). Andrew Harrison dropped in from "Riding Lights" (York) to portray "another party" - a certain wedding at Cana - with a sketch "One Hundred per cent Proof", after which some guests were seen to tip up their coffee cups hopefully.

A very happy evening.

Phyllis Harrison

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 Letter

When in charge of a parish in Antigua I discovered that I had 200 children to prepare for Confirmation. It was a daunting task especially as I was supposed to check that every child came to Sunday Worship, Sunday School and Confirmation Class for a period of 2 years. Some classes

met at 7.30 a.m. in the morning after the Eucharist. But these children were rewarded, not only by being confirmed, but also because they were bought new clothes for the occasion. For some this meant their very first pair of shoes.

A year later we would look at the list and discover many were not coming to church. Pastoral visiting told us why: their parents could not afford to buy shoes.

"Doesn't matter about shoes", I would say - and to prove it would take the service in bare feet. But it made no difference. Poverty has its pride. Perhaps, unwittingly, the Church was to blame for making church-going respectable.

Not so many years ago those who came to church in England wore their best clothes too - but not any more. Not that the average congregation is scruffily dressed - but casual clothes are worn and hats are out. I think the change in dress indicates a change in mood and outlook. Nowadays the Christian congregation is much more of a human affair. People talk and relate and there is a refreshing humility about today's churchgoer. Refusing to be put on pedestals Christians see themselves as wounded human beings who see Jesus Christ as the focus for understanding God and their own lives. I do not think you will find many stiff, starchy, self-righteous people in today's Church - we are all too keenly aware of our failings and our need for acceptance.

I write this because so often I come across people who still say things like 'I am as good as those who go to Church'. Surely better in many cases. That is not the point. The vast majority of Christians worship together precisely because they do realise their need to know that God accepts them as they are. To know this helps them to accept and love themselves. I also come across people who say they are not good enough to come to Church. Well Christians say they know they are not good enough: that is why they come to receive power to help them lead the kind of life which will give them happiness and inner freedom. So, a challenge:

If you want to begin to explore the Christian faith within a community which reflects the humanity of Jesus then come along one Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m. You might find it more comfortable to wear shoes but no one will mind if you don't.

.....

At this time of the year those men who are to be ordained next year begin sorting out where they are to go. So I am pleased to tell you that in 1986 Mr. Tony King will be ordained deacon to serve in this parish. Mr. King, who is from Chingford, is aged 24 years, single, and having obtained a degree at Lanaster University in Economics and Sociology has been studying theology at The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. We look forward to having him working with us and I know that when the time comes you will give him a very warm welcome as you have done to all curates who have worked in Stansted. What of Fr. Tony, you ask? Well

the Diocese thinks that 3 years is the right time for a first curacy and over the next few months Tony will be sorting out his next job for some time next year. I am grateful to him for his marvellous commitment to the work of this parish.

God Bless you all.

IN AND AROUND THE PARISH

Family Service

On Sunday 24th November we are holding our annual Family Service in St. John's at 3 pm for families who have had children baptised over the last 5 years. After the short service tea is served in the hall. We will also be selling suitable children's books and Advent Calendars.

AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 23 November

St. John's Hall

10-30am to 12-30

& 2 to 4pm

Bottles, Toiletries,

Produce & Plants,

Cakes, Sweets, Raffles,

Childrens Amusement

Arcade.

Teas



House Groups

On Friday December 6th we have a social gathering in the hall for all those who have been attending our house groups. We will share some light refreshments and our experiences of this recent session of house groups.



Advent Carol Service

On Sunday 1st December there is the Advent Carol Service in St. John's at 6.30 pm. This is also a Unity Service and we would welcome members of other churches to join the choir for the occasion.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

13 November 8pm-9.30pm - URC Hall.
The Church in England
from 1st century to 1066.
Short illustrated talks by
Jane Freeman, Marion
Johnson, Isobel Mayo and
Jeremy Wagener.

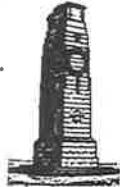


20 November Visit to St Andrew's
St Edmund's Church Greensted for
Day Eucharist and Sermon 8pm.
Preacher: Rev'd Philip
Spence. Leave St John's
Church 7.15pm.
Greensted Church is where
the body of St Edmund was
laid on its way from
London to Bury St Edmunds.

All welcome to these events.

Remembrance Sunday

There will be an Act of Remembrance in the
Memorial Gardens at 10.55 am and this will
be followed by a service in St. John's
Church. The preacher will be the
Methodist Minister, the Rev'd Ronald
Rawlings, who lives at Saffron Walden.
This is a Unity Service.



Children's Church

- Our Children's Church continues to grow and
we are grateful to the teachers under the
leadership of Anne Conroy. So if you want
your child to learn more about the Christian
Faith bring them to the church hall any
Sunday at 9.30 am. We also have a creche.

NEW USPG YEARBOOK



The USPG Yearbook will be distributed to
members of the congregation in November
when USPG will be the month's Good Cause.
By supporting this society we are keeping
a window open on to the world wide church
and sharing with our fellow Christians in
service and mission.

CHURCH DIARY

NOVEMBER

3rd Youth Eucharist 6.30 pm
5th Holy Communion at Mead Court
7th Holy Communion at Normans Court
8th Education/Ministry Group 8 pm
The Vicarage
9th Children's Church Party
12th Tuesday Club 2 pm The Vicarage
Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm
13th Meeting to prepare for visit to
Greensted 8 pm URC Hall
20th S. Edmund. Parish visit to
S. Andrew's Church Greensted
Leave St John's 7.15 pm
23rd AUTUMN FAYRE
24th Family Service 3 pm
Said Evensong 6.30 pm
25th Deanery Synod at Henham
26th Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm
30th S. Andrew Holy Communion 9 am

DECEMBER

1st Advent Carol Service 6.30 pm
St. John's
2nd PCC Meeting 8 pm
3rd Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
5th Holy Communion at Normans Court 10 am
6th Social Gathering for members of house
groups - 8 pm Church Hall
8th British Legion Carol Service 6 pm
St. John's. No Evensong

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

6th Oct Lucy Anne Stoneham,
52 Bentfield Road
Jonathan Grant Yarnold,
7 Mary McArthur Place

DEPARTED

10th Sept Dorothy Alice Hensby
52 Mead Court Age 84 years
1st Oct Maud Banks 36 Mead Court
Age 84 years

MOTHERS' UNION

No meeting on Wednesday November 27th -
because we hope you will be able to help on
our stall at the Autumn Fair SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 23rd.

Any gifts of Toiletries would be appreciated.

Also - Family Service - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24th
- 3 pm - help with serving tea required.

Youth News

YOUTH CLUB PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1985

3 November House Discussion Group
10 November Bonfire Party
17 November Games Evening
24 November Quiz Evening

1 December "Pub" Games Evening
8 December House Discussion Group
15 December Christmas Party

OTHER EVENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

3 November Youth Service in St. John's
6.30 pm
10 November Football Match v Hockerill
School
22-23 November Youth Club Stall at
Autumn Fair

COMMITTEE DATES

6 November Youth Committee (60 Bentfield
Road)
7 November Leaders Meeting (43 Gilbey
Crescent)

CROSSTALK CONCERT

The Crosstalk group performed superbly at the concert in St. John's Church on 12 October and fully deserved the enthusiastic applause they received from an audience which included members of several local churches. The group themselves clearly enjoyed the event and, afterwards, they sold a record number of copies of their cassette tape "Long Live the King". After paying all the expenses of the event there was a small profit which has been donated to Crosstalk funds to help further their work of ministry through music.

Many thanks to Crosstalk and everyone who helped with arranging and organising the event.

ADVENT CALENDAR OPENS WINDOWS ON CHRISTMAS

USPG and Christian Aid have together produced a colourful Advent Calendar. It shows how Christian children in Africa, India, Guatemala, the Philippines and Israel get ready for Christmas. Like traditional calendars there is a picture window to open each day starting on Advent Sunday and children can read stories of Christmas around the world. In addition, on the back of the Calendar, there are carols and creative ideas for children's activities during the season.

The Calendar costs £1

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

Two of us recently attended a day conference in London to hear more about the work of 'Quaker Peace and Service', the department which now combines Friends' work for peace and work of Friends overseas. **6.**

in various Third World countries.

I was most impressed by the talk given by a young couple recently returned from twenty months in Southern Africa: based in Botswana (with their four small children) they visited, between them, all the countries in the region several times, including South Africa, where they finally stayed for three months. They made contact with church, community and political groups of all kinds, assessing the situation and the help that Quakers can give in the area.

Their impressions of the situation in South Africa included the following points:-

1. It seems impossible that the present troubles in South Africa are likely to bring eventual peace and justice to all who live there. There are conflicts both between and within the various races, including several different black groupings.
2. The support of outsiders for change is of great value to those inside the country. Individual visitors can give a great deal of moral help.
3. Many are working for non-violent change, but there is a great need for skilled support and training in the techniques of non-violence. Consumer boycotts and fasts are having some effect.
4. 'There is something of God in everyone'. It is important not to hate any group in South Africa; the Afrikaners are in some way oppressed by their own warped interpretation of history - they, too, need liberating.

Margaret Whitelaw

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Minister: The Rev'd Harold Fisher
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford.
Tel: 54475.

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

November brings Remembrance Sunday - a very uncomfortable day for a Christian preacher. At least it is for me. I find myself caught (as I prepare to preach on the theme) in a deeply agonising tension, torn between the Christian Pacifist and the Christian non-Pacifist positions. It is a dilemma, I confess, that I have never been able to resolve. I suspect there are very many like me, both Christians and non-Christians, preachers and non-preachers.

Two very sensitive and compassionate spirits, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, were very much in the same tension in the First World War. Both were British Army Officers engaged in trench warfare; both were decorated with high awards for

outstanding bravery. Sassoon especially was an outstanding Company Commander. Owen was killed. Yet both also wrote poetry and prose condemning the sheer insanity of that war, Sassoon especially and in an uncompromising bluntness. Both were sent for a time to Craiglockhart War Hospital (where they met) and were regarded as being of unsound mind because of what they wrote. To be blindly patriotic was mostly the order of the day just then. Both returned to the trenches, one to survive and the other to die.

Their tension (and mine) is expressed in a poem of Sassoon's called "Banishment", written while at Craiglockhart.

I am banished from the patient men who fight.
They smote my heart to pity, built my pride.
Shoulder to aching shoulder, side by side,
They trudged away from life's broad wealds of light.
Their wrongs were mine; and ever in my sight
They went arrayed in honour. But they died -
Not one by one: and mutinous I cried
To those who sent them out into the night.

The darkness tells how vainly I have striven
To free them from the pit where they must dwell
In outcast gloom convulsed and jagged and riven
By grappling guns. Love drove me to rebel.
Love drives me back to grope with them through hell;
And in their tortured eyes I stand forgiven.

Yet though I share this tension over war, I am also driven to recognise that war is created by more than mad dictators and inept or helpless politicians. It grows like a pernicious weed from the soil of neglect, unhappiness and injustice. Such conditions give evil madmen their opportunity and their leverage on public support. We all help to create or to remove those conditions by our attitudes, life-style, words and deeds (or lack of deeds). The prayer of St. Francis points the way of the real peacemakers: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, Where there is injury, pardon, Where there is discord, unity, Where there is doubt, faith, Where is despair, hope, Where there is darkness, light, Where there is sadness, joy, for thy mercy and thy truth's sake."

My love to you all.

Harold Fisher

Methodist Monthly Fellowship:
Friday, Nov. 8th at 7.45 at
49 Recreation Road

Shalom Group dates and venues:
4th Nov. at Blythwood House, Blythwood
Gardens
18th Nov. - venue to be announced
11th Nov. Shalom Core Group meeting at
23 Burnells Way

METHODIST NEWS

Welcome to Jane and Chris Stafford who have joined us to give help with the Sunday School - invaluable!

The service of baptism for Fran and Tim Richards' baby, Juliet Elizabeth, on September 29th was a great joy for all who came to the service and spent that beautiful afternoon in the Quaker House garden as the guests of the Richards Family.

SHALOM GROUP

On a beautiful Sunday, October 13th, some of us from the Shalom fellowship travelled to Birmingham to the African Church of Cherubim and Seraphim where the Revd. Tony Bundock had spent a year sharing in Sunday Worship before coming to Stansted. We met outside St. John's, the ladies in varying degrees of white, and all with well-scrubbed feet and carefully inspected socks or tights. We enjoyed our packed lunches en route, prudently saving portions to sustain us on the homeward journey.

We arrived at the Church just before two o'clock when the service was scheduled to begin, although we had been warned that starting times were flexible. We removed our shoes, the ladies covered their heads, and we joined the people already there - men on the left side of the Prayer House - women and children on the right. The choir in their purple robes were already in place and singing. The rhythm and beat of the music was very infectious, being supplied by an accordian, an electric guitar, drums and tambourines.

The service proper began at half past two when the Elders of the Church were assembled on the platform, together with 'Brother' Bundock, and our Methodist Minister, the Revd. Harold Fisher, in borrowed white. It finished at five minutes to six - three and a half hours later - but that time just flew by. Even three sermons was no punishment!

The people of the Church of Cherubim and Seraphim worship with a simplicity and a delight which is a joy. Some of them testified to the love of the Lord in their lives, and we were very much moved by one of their number who shared her sorrow with her brothers and sisters of her Church. Her daughter had been dangerously ill giving birth to a baby who had died, and she gave thanks to the Lord that her daughter had lived, and for the good friend who had stayed at her side throughout the hours of crisis.

We joined in some familiar prayers and some familiar hymns sung in a different way, with others new to us which we should love to learn. The three collections taken during the afternoon were almost a kind of 'Christian Conga' to the collection bowl, accompanied by encouraging clapping. We found ourselves swaying and clapping to the tempo of the hymns like regular members of the congregation, and we were made so welcome by the Church members that we did

not feel ourselves to be just guests. We shall all remember that moment when we knelt at the front of the Church, surrounded by the warmth and love of their welcome, while the congregation prayed for us. On the platform, Tony was clearly at ease and Harold was obviously enjoying himself - and so much 'at home' that one of the lady

Elders afterwards declared him to be 'pure Cherubim material'. We just hope that he won't be absconding to Birmingham on future Sundays.

Afterwards, surrounded by smiling faces and shaking hands, we were invited to stay for a 'small menu' which had been prepared for us. We feasted upon turkey and a delicious rice mixture, all freshly cooked and hot, with salad - followed by ice-cream and jelly - with more pressed upon us. Tony had suspected that this would happen, knowing of the generosity of the people from his time with them, but the rest of us were quite overwhelmed. A voice from the back of the coach on the way home offering surplus cheese butties met with no takers!

To go into any Church in Stansted, meet friends there and to feel at home is a joy, but now we know that there is a Prayer House in Birmingham where we shall feel equally at home and among friends. Our thanks go to Tony for arranging this experience for us - from all of us.

United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers: The Rev'd Eric McIlwain
18 Cambanks, Union Lane
Cambridge.
Tel: (0223) 313152

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
"Elberry",
St. John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel: (95) 23296

Group Secretary: Miss Dorothy Oswald
3 White Bear
Tel: 814758

Services: 11.00 a.m. each Sunday

For details of services at Clavering, Newport and Widdington please ring the Group Secretary.



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

3rd - 11.00 - The Rev. E.A. McIlwain -
Holy Communion
10th - Remembrance Sunday - The Rev. L.E.
Rapkin 10.45 at the Cenotaph -
Service in St. John's
17th - 11.00 - The Rev. E.A. McIlwain
24th - 11.00 - The Rev. Lydia Rapkin

DECEMBER

1st - 11.00 - Advent I - The Rev. Lydia
Rapkin - Holy Communion
6.30 - Advent Carol Service (SACC)
St. John's

NOVEMBER 2ND - 10 - 12.30 - STANSTED U.R.C.
GROUP BAZAAR - "AUTUMN FAYRE"
PLANTS - CAKES - JAMS, JELLIES - WHITE
ELEPHANT - FANCY GOODS - GAMES -
Proceeds toward re-decoration of Lecture
Hall which has become our "Edumenical
Centre" and provides a home for the Stansted
Womens Own and the Stansted Guild.

Come and support these local endeavours.

We have had the great privilege of holidaying for a time in and around the Rhine Valley. One begins to realise what lay behind Wagner's music; the mystery and legend, the beauty and the menace of deceptive waters flowing between castle-studded hills, hinting at romance and tragedy.

One sees the myriad vines covering the hills with rich promise for mile after mile and one can almost hear the siren call of the Lorelei which lured sailors to their death.

And we saw the Brigadoon-like village of Rothenberg where by day the medieval town is a scene of absolute wonder and surprise; flowers everywhere, cobbled streets, ancient churches, walls and towers, all set on a high promontory of land (like a great ship rising above the waters) above the valley and the river Tamber below. And at night the town conjures up the Night Watchman who leads you on his watchful way, full of stories, like some ghostly figure from the past.

One begins to have an appreciation of why only England could produce an Elgar - why Germany had to produce a Wagner - and to stretch it further why only the U.S.A. could produce George Gershwin. There must be something in environment.

But the question also arises - why, when all is so beautiful, does such a land produce war and devastation? Surely there is an eternal mystery here, as old as Adam and Cain.

Surely also, the claims of peace (by which I mean the Shalom, the wholeness of God's intention for his world: for he made the beauty which we mar) - surely the claims of peace ought to be as legitimate as the claims of war? "Seek peace, and pursue it - depart from evil and do good" (Psalm 34:14); "follow after the things which make for peace" (Romans 14:19). Is it just possible that the Psalmist and St. Paul were right and that we have an obligation to seek peace? That we cannot avoid this obligation by saying that we are only on the defensive - SEEK peace, FOLLOW AFTER - and if it is UNILATERAL is that not what God lays upon us?

And if, to get back to Germany, you say, "What about Hitler?" There is no way to rewrite history, what is done is done - BUT, did we really SEEK Shalom/peace after the first world war? in revenge? And did we really want to stop Hitler when he came to power or did we see him as an ally against Russia? And what did we do when Mussolini was bombing Ethiopia in the '30s. Did we seek peace and pursue it? I'm afraid that his tory will answer "no" - we sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind.

Shalom.

Eric McIlwain

ORDINATION OF MRS. L. RAPKIN

What a wonderful service we had on September 21st for the ordination of Mrs. Lydia Rapkin and her Induction as an Auxiliary Minister serving in the Stansted Group U.R.C.

Over 150 people were present at the service presided over by Rev. Leslie Stringer of March who is Chairman of the Cambridge District Council of which the Group is a member. Among others taking part were Rev. B. Sturtridge, Rev. K. Summers, Provincial Training Officer for the Auxiliary Ministry, Saffron Walden, Mrs. Rapkin's home church. Clergy and friends from the other churches in the village were also present and, at the tea that followed the service, added their welcome to Lydia.

Among her first duties have been taking the Harvest Service at Bentfield County School which she enjoyed very much as she used to be a teacher in a junior school in Saffron Walden and giving the address at the S.A.C.C. Harvest Service on October 6th.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

We were very pleased to welcome our minister to the first meeting of the autumn session of our Guild.

He gave us the second part of his talk on his last visit to Canada, illustrating it with the marvellous slides he had taken. The scenes gave us some idea of the vast size of the country, and Mr. McIlwain's knowledge of the towns made it so much more interesting and made us feel we had been there.

The views of Niagara Falls were breathtaking with views of both falls on one slide.

We will long remember the wonderful scenery and the lovely lakes.

M. C. JOHNSON

"MEETING POINT", WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER

A very good representation of 10 members from the Stansted Group, including Rev. and Mrs. McIlwain, attended "Meeting Point" at Victoria Road on Wednesday 16th October. Mrs. Logan Armour ably acted as Chairman. Mrs. Ward Murray from Saffron Walden gave an excellent report on Women's

church life in U.S.A.: - its organisation and its aims in training women to be more effective in the local church and more aware of the needs of the mission fields.

Mrs. Lydia Rapkin and a group from Saffron Walden led the opening worship. The leader for the day's subject "Peacemakers - the Believers' Calling" was Rev. Pete Peery, a Peace Associate from U.S.A., working in Europe (in Britain with British Council of Churches).

During the morning and afternoon sessions, he helped us, as Christians, to rethink the meaning of "Love thy neighbour". He showed us because of the increase of communication and economic interdependence throughout the whole world, we have an opportunity now (KAIROS) to become PEACEMAKERS, and that as Christians we can influence governments towards thinking that "PEACE IS THE INTENDED ORDER OF THE WORLD". A lively discussion followed on who were the Ploughmen - sowing seeds for Peace for today, and how local churches were actively involved in promoting Peace.

Communion led by Rev. Pete Peery closed the sessions - of which approximately 60 people attended.

D. McIlwain

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.

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| 2 | 10.00-12.30 | U.R.C. Group Bazaar |
| 10 | 10.55 | Memorial Gardens Remembrance Sunday Service followed by Unity Service. St. John's |
| 13 | 8.00 | U.R.C. Hall Illustrated talk of C of E from 1st Century - 1066 |
| | 8.00 | Carol Singing Planning 23 Burnells Way |
| 15 | 7.00 | Parish Council at Mountfitchet School "Grand Switch-On" |
| 16 | 2.00 | Bentfield School "Christmas Fayre" |

VILLAGE NEWS

FUTURE EVENTS

- 20 10.30 Conservative Coffee Morning
21 British Legion Womens Section
Social Evening
23 10.30 St. John's "Autumn Fayre"

DECEMBER

- 1 6.30 Advent Carols Unity Service
St. John's
4 11.00 Dr. Barnardo's Christmas Fayre
Bentfield House (see notice)
7 Conservatives Cheese & Wine
Bentfield House

NEWS FROM THE DAY CENTRE

We set out on October 1st for a visit to Kings Lynn and how fortunate we were to choose one of the warmest days we have had. After visiting the market and shops and having a meal, we went to the Wedgewood Glassworks.

It was amazing to see the speed in which they worked, passing the molten glass from one to another. The heat must have been almost unbearable. After our tour of the factory we went to the shop and few could resist buying some of the most attractive glassware.

We are most grateful to Mrs. Stevens for the most efficient way in which she organises these outings and we do thank her for the trips we have had this year.

M. C. JOHNSON

On television the other day they were saying how important it was for the older people to have regular exercise. Now at our Day Centre they are running classes on Thursdays so come in and enquire about them. I am sure you will enjoy yourselves. And would you like some craft lessons? If so, when you come in for a cup of coffee tell the organisers what you would like and Mrs. Scarr will try and get someone to come and teach us.

K. M. JORDAN

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

Have you a couple of hours a week to spare? We badly need more helpers at the Day Centre and would love to see you if you would call in and see what we do. If you are unable to come on a regular basis we would be most grateful if you would go on the reserve list to be called on when someone has to be away. We are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. so do pop in and we will show you around.
Tel: 815091.

Brenda Scarr

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

There will be a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 20th November at 10.30 a.m. at the home of John and Janet Hollis, Little Fosters, 105 Cambridge Road.

The Constituency Bazaar will be held at the Foakes Hall, Dunmow, on Saturday, 23rd November from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Stansted Conservatives will have a stall selling Christmas Decorations. Lunches will be served.

A Cheese and Wine Party has been arranged on Saturday, 7th December at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Terence Browne, Bentfield House, Bentfield Bower, Stansted.

All enquiries regarding membership or events to:-

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

N.B. There will be a meeting at the Football Club on Monday, 11th November at 8 p.m.

BENTFIELD SCHOOL

First a date for your diary. Bentfield School's 'CHRISTMAS FAYRE' this year is being held on Saturday 16th November at 2 pm in the school hall. We are having our usual visit from Father and Mother Christmas, and this will be an early chance for you all to get a few Christmas presents from the "Bentfield Beavers" stall. Other attractions will include home-made cakes and biscuits. Hope to see a lot of you there!

Class 6, this term are thinking about The Commonwealth and they have visited the Aklowa Centre in Takeley.

AKLOWA

Aklowa is an African village. We went there. First we went to the drums. We played lots of rhythms.

Then we went past the cooking through the village to the lake. We went to the canoeing. The man got into the canoe and we went two at a time. While some went in the canoe the others did African chanting. When it was my turn I went with Peter. I was scared. The canoe kept tipping about.

On the way back we went about 100 miles per hour it seemed.

Stephen Irven

Samantha has relations in one of the Commonwealth countries.

New Zealand is a country in the Commonwealth. I have some relations in the North and South Islands. I am going to talk about the South Island because my relations from there have recently, in April, been to visit us. My uncle is my dad's brother. He has been out there 18 years now, and he married his wife out there. They have two children, Graham is

eleven years old and Tony is eight years old. They go to school in Oamara. There are about 12 children in the whole school. They live on a farm outside Oamara and from their farm they can walk to the Pacific Ocean. Their land is all flat and they live in a bungalow. Although it is Autumn here they are just coming into late Spring, and they have just been through the busiest patch of the year. They have just had thousands of chicks which can now look after themselves. They have a herd of goats which have just had kids. The sheep are going to market, they have a few pigs that have had piglets. They have got a lot of fruit trees including lemon trees in their garden. We hope we can go over there and see them sometime.

Samantha Poole

Caroline has written a poem about travel.

I would like to visit many places
and see different coloured faces,
Black, brown and white.
Many miles of South Sea Islands
beautiful and majestic pylons
Lovely clean and bright.

Caroline Archer

Bentfield School held its Harvest Festival on Friday 4th October, and were joined by two special guests, Lydia Rapkin and Tony Bundock, aswell as many parents.

Children from Class 6 talked about other countries and different foods, and read their own poems about Autumn and Harvest.

Here is Jamie's poem.

Harvest

I love to see the Combine Harvester
cutting the corn and wheat.
The lorry takes it to the mill
to make the flour for bread.

I love to see the different fruits
hanging on the bushes.
We pick a lot to make our jam
the rest is for the birds.

Jamie Lidster

Mrs. Rapkin told a story about a young African boy, Joseph, who was able to help his father obtain a tractor from Christian Aid, and Tony Bundock sang two songs, the whole school joining in with the choruses.

Children from every class had brought in vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams, cakes, etc. and these made a lovely display in the hall. After school, all produce was sold in aid of 'The Mexico Earthquake Relief Fund', and a total of nearly £70 was raised.

Rachel Irven

DO IT UNDER LIGHTS!

WHO WITH?

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

WHERE?

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

WHEN?

NOVEMBER 15TH 7 - 10 P.M.

WHO WILL BE WATCHING?

TREVOR BROOKING

AND LOTS OF OTHERS,
WE HOPE

Come and see the "TURN-ON" of the floodlights for the Sports Area and Demonstration by local Sports Clubs and School Pupils.

Our dual use scheme with the school has started!!

Enquiries to Parish Clerk 813214.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

November is the month of remembrance. We remember the supreme sacrifice of the fallen as we gather around the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and pray that never again will mankind degenerate into such folly. In the preceding week we respond to the Poppy Appeal to support the work of caring for needy ex-service personnel and their widows and families.

Poppy Appeal

Please give generously, both in gratitude and because the money needed by the Earl Haig Fund constantly increases. More volunteers are still needed to conduct house-to-house collections. (Ring Saffron Walden 21391 or B/S 813562 - please).

Remembrance Sunday (10th November)

The act of remembrance will begin at 10.55 a.m. in the Memorial Garden. The Branch Standard will be present, and wreaths will be laid by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Branch President. A service will follow in St. John's Church, conducted by a Methodist Minister.

Please try to attend both these events which are intended to be complementary - to commemorate the dead of two world wars, to give thanks to God for their sacrifice on our behalf, and to pray for peace.

CAROL SINGING

In the tradition of recent years it is hoped to sing carols around the village during the few days before Christmas. Anyone interested is invited to a short meeting at 23 Burnells Way at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th November, at which we can arrange dates, venues and the charity or cause to be supported.

Details of meeting places, dates, etc. will appear in the December Link. Please bear

these enjoyable and worthwhile evenings in mind and so help to swell our numbers and the chosen charity's funds.

Derek Honour (813160)
Judy Goddard (812498)

CAROLS FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN

Sponsored by

MOTHERCARE

with

THE GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION

attended by

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE

at

The Royal Albert Hall

on

Wednesday, 18th December, 1985

at 7.00 pm

Come and join in the carols.

A coach will leave Stansted at 5 pm.

The cost of £6 per head includes your fare and a seat in the arena.

Bookings: Miss Oswald
3 White Bear
Tel: 814758

DR. BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The annual Christmas Fayre, in aid of Dr. Barnardo's will be held at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 4th December, at the home of Mrs. Browne, Bentfield House, Bentfield Bower, Stansted. (On the Stansted - Manuden Road). Aswell as the well-known, generous raffle, there will be stalls of cakes, delicatessen, Christmas gifts and decorations, 'bring and buy', 'guessing the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc.

Come and enjoy yourself in a good cause. Entrance 50p, including refreshments.



Mullucks and company

Surveyors, Estate Agents, Valuers
8 Cambridge Road, Stansted, Essex CM24 8BZ
Tel: (0279) 813000

Also at Bishop's Stortford, Saffron Walden, Harlow & Gt. Dunmow



OUR VILLAGE

"Could you tell me where the nearest Post Box is?" I was recently asked in the village, "At the Post Office on Chapel Hill" I answered and gave directions. Later after a little thought about this I was probably wrong (could you place each box without too much thought). The postman and postlady who deliver your letters today are a descendant by trade of a service that dates back nearly 2,000 years, certainly the Romans used relays of couriers who transmitted official letters throughout their empire and may well have passed our way in doing so. Private posts in England existed from the time of Edward III (1312-77) and a Royal messenger service even earlier. The first master of the posts was said to be in office by the year 1512. A central Post Office was set up under control of a Postmaster General in 1710, while the mail coach system began in 1784 by John Palmer. 1830 saw the first dispatch of mail by the railways. At about this time if asked the opening question a far different answer would have been given for there was a receiving house and a letter box at the Bell Inn, Cambridge Road (this must have been a good excuse to post a letter, no need then to take the dog for a walk). I believe Susanah Miller at this time kept the inn. Letters would arrive at half past seven every morning and be dispatched at half past seven each evening. What a sight it must have been seeing the horse drawn Mail Coach clattering along the gravel clad roadway (no Macadamised surface yet) through the village with Post boy a blowing of his horn. In 1840 on 6th May the first adhesive postage stamp was issued being the Penny Black introducing the penny post, before this time there was no stamp postage but money was paid either by the sender or receiver and the rate varied with distance and weight. The advantage of this new system was a uniform rate and a reduction of minimum postage to one penny. By 1845 the receiving house was at Thomas Hassells, known as Stationer and Post Office now with a delivery made at 8 a.m. 1860 saw money orders granted and paid. John Chappel being Postman at about this time. The 1866 service included Post and money order office, Savings Bank and Government Annuity and Insurance.

To be continued

A line at this point must be drawn or the post will be missed.

Questions

How many post boxes can you place including Burton and Bentfield End?

What does Poste Restante mean?

P. J. BROWN

The Post Office
Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex.

Stationery
Haberdashery
Greeting Cards

Phone 813610

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

The Book Fair held last month was a great success. £125 worth of books were sold so we gained £12.50 for our funds plus a book to raffle. Money raised by our events helps fund our services, such as "the Milk Run" in which breast milk is donated by nursing mothers and taken to the Special Care Baby Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. Cathy Leek (B/S 813068) is always pleased to hear from anyone who could supply a little milk.

Another of our services is to help prepare people for parenthood and childcare. At the moment we're helping with the Childcare classes at the Mountfitchet School by taking along babies of various ages; and expectant mums to answer any questions. Ante-natal classes for couples are also part of this service. Jenny Adamson (B/S 813958) may be contacted for more information and bookings. Once their baby is born members are given post-natal support on a one-to-one basis or in the form of the Friday morning get togethers for Under 1's and Thursday morning Toddler groups.

Cathy Leek is our Breastfeeding Counsellor. If anyone would like to have a chat with her she is available on B/S 813068. Cathy is also our MAVA agent. There's an exciting new range of items for the expectant and nursing mother. Contact her if you would like to see the new catalogue or any items she has in stock.

Events for November:-

Wednesday 6th - "Sleep and eating problems" Talk by Behaviour Therapist Pat Russell, 8.00 pm at 26 Longcroft. 75p inc. refreshments.

Thursday 14th - Photographer 2.30-4.30 at the Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill (Ideal Christmas presents!)

Thursday 28th - "Feet and Footwear" Talk by Mr. De Barr of Saffron Walden 10.30 at 28 Sunnyside. 75p inc. refreshments. Creche available at same address.

*For venues of the Thursday and Friday morning groups see diary sheets available in the library and clinic.

Looking forward to December, the Christmas Bring and Share Party for members is on 6th December at 8.30 pm. Couples should contact me on B/S 814129 to put their names on the list. As it's on a "First come first served basis" hurry up, my list is growing and my house can't accommodate hundreds!

Sally Brown

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

Some 75 members of the Stansted Mountfitchet Evening W.I. celebrated the 25th Anniversary of their formation with a dinner at St. John's Hall recently. All past presidents and founder members were invited and all but two attended. They included Mrs. Irene Sanders, Mrs. Rita Humphreys, Mrs. Barbara Tarran and Mrs. Pam Alcock. Apologies were received from Mrs. Margery Cowan who was unwell and Mrs. Elsie Hitchcock.

After dinner the President, Mrs. Sylvia Osborne opened cards and gifts to the branch. They included a lovely silver plate and crystal bell for future meetings from Stansted Afternoon W.I.

Mrs. Irene Sanders gave a vote of thanks on behalf of guests and Mrs. Marion Pretty thanked the committee for the members. Mr. & Mrs. Walker were also congratulated on the meal served.

After a toast to the continuance of the Evening W.I. members were entertained by a magician, Mr. Greenwood, who called upon several members to help with his amusing tricks.

At the end of the evening the celebration cake, made and decorated by member Betty Little, was served to all.

June Riley

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



We are now well into the new school year with work proceeding apace on Phase 2 of our remodelling programme. Various sections of the project are nearing completion and I am sure you will all be very surprised and pleased at the transformation you will see on the occasion of your next visit to the school.

New Staff

We welcome four new members of the teaching staff this year, Mr. Glen Goodman comes to us from Dunmow to teach mainly P.E. together with some Mathematics.

Mrs. Christine Jenkins, Mrs. Freda Nancarrow and Mrs. Lesley Clarey, have all joined us part-time to teach in the Home Economics department. I hope that all four will find that their time at the Mountfitchet High will prove to be both happy and rewarding.

Open Evening

This will be on Thursday, October 31st and all parents are cordially invited to attend. Although it should not be regarded in any way as a parents consultative meeting you will be able to see displays of work around the school and of course inspect the results of our remodelling programme.

The school will be open from 7-9 p.m. At 7 p.m. Mr. Hall, Headmaster of Newport Free Grammar School, will be talking to parents of mainly 5th year boys and girls in the Main Hall about the range of courses available at 6th form level in his school.

At 8 p.m. it will be the turn of speakers from the Tertiary College. Rooms will be allocated to both these establishments so that interested parents will be able to talk to representatives at their leisure. At 8.40 p.m. I shall be addressing parents of children in the Primary School. Do please come along and help to make the evening a success. We appreciate your

support and interest.

Joint School/Community Project

The hard playing area which has been earmarked for dual purpose use by the school and Stansted Parish Council has been re-fenced by the L.E.A. The pylons for the floodlights are now on the premises and hopefully should be in position by the time you read this newsletter. I am hoping they will be ready to "show off" in time for Open Evening, but the official "Grand Switch-On" has been provisionally scheduled for Friday, November 15th. It is hoped that a famous sporting personality will "do the honours" and it promises to be an occasion well worth looking forward to. Further information will be sent to you later when we are more certain of the details.

Ron Davies
Headmaster

STANSTED RED CROSS TOY LIBRARY

The Toy Library was presented with a cheque for £250 by the Stansted Carnival Committee at the Day Centre on Wednesday October 16th 1985.

We would like to express our thanks to this hard working group of people, who not only brighten our summers with a spectacular event, but help so many needy causes with the proceeds. What a lot of fun our volunteers will have shopping for toys with this generous donation. Almost as much as the children will have playing with them!

THANK YOU CARNIVAL COMMITTEE.

G. M. Palmer

HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

Several friends from Saffron Walden Club joined us for our Barbecue and it turned into a splendid occasion.

Cooking was difficult as it gets dark so early, but the Chefs Judy and Richard did sterling work twisting and turning the food to ensure that we didn't have burnt offerings to eat. They must have been quite singed at times but there was no real damage and it was all great fun.

Members came out from the hall at regular intervals to inspect the proceedings and it wasn't long before everyone was tucking into beefburgers or hot dogs (or both). Then it was second's and third's and who knows, maybe fourth's ----- no-one was counting. These were all washed down with cans of coke, orange or lemonade which were given by a very generous friend of the Club ----- Uncle Geoff.

Just as everyone was sinking back with great sights of contentment that seems to come with full tummies out came the cakes; we thought perhaps they were going to be surplus but Whoops - wrong again. The lovely selection given by the helpers was tackled with enormous gusto and were soon demolished.

Peter's Disco provided plenty of music throughout the evening and with our new Disco lights there was a real party atmosphere.

Weird and wonderful dancing took place and the Conga even snaked it's way through the kitchen causing the back-room girls to long to the defence of the food.

I'm sure everyone went home feeling that it had been a lovely, noisy, enjoyable evening. What's the betting that we shall be asked for a repeat performance quite soon?

Betty Lockwood

STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.



The speaker this month was Mr. Pyman of the Essex Naturalists Trust, who gave a very interesting talk on wild life and wild flowers, with slides.

The competition for your favourite Brooch was won by Mrs. D. Johnson. The raffle was won by Mrs. Thomason.

Mrs. M. Thomason

N.H.R.

In early October we had a very enjoyable Book Quiz and, at the time of writing, are looking forward to Mr. Watson's talk on Antiques. At the end of October Isabel Mayo will lead a discussion into the human and ecological disasters of our time and questions their preventability.

On Wednesday, 6th November we make what is becoming an annual visit to Stansted Hall. Last year our visit was very interesting and highly successful, so please let Angela Khalil know by 4th November if you would like to join us.

Stansted NHR always welcomes new members and if you are interested in joining us for lively discussions, talks or visits to local places of interest, please contact

Angela Khalil 813582
Isabel Mayo 814872



WOMEN'S SECTION THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Our annual Harvest Sale was only a moderate success this year and fewer members were present or able to bring produce. However, some members who could not be there gave donations and we do thank you.

Thursday, 21st November, is our Social Evening and we have lined up some entertainment. So come along and let us enjoy ourselves.

Pat Clower

BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Only a few of the faithful joined in our Silent Auction in August, probably because of holidays, but we did manage to make a small profit for Legion funds.

Fifty nine members from eight village branches attended the Group Meeting at Saffron Walden on 4th September. The speaker was Mrs. Matthews, Eastern Area Secretary, who gave us a very informative talk on the economies which have already been made in administrative costs and plans for the future of the Women's Section. Officers elected to serve the Group for the coming year are:-

Chairman: Mrs. V. Levey Stansted
Vice Chairman: Mrs. P. Sanford Birchanger
Secretary: Mrs. P. Clower Stansted
County Representative: Mrs. D. Weller Thaxted

On October 17th we shall be holding our branch A.G.M. when our speaker will be Mrs. Tinker, Eastern Area Publicity Officer. This promises to be quite an interesting evening.

Pat Clower

THE DAYS WILL BE DIFFERENT

It was a single-storey prefabricated building which had served as a Naval Hospital during the last war. We heard later that it had been due for demolition but a public outcry had averted this fate, as it was the only hospital of its kind in the locality.

We sat on sticky plastic chairs and waited in the entrance hall curiously eyeing the rail of clothes in the opposite corner. It was a long moveable rail, such as one finds in shops, tightly packed with anonymous-looking faded crimplene dresses and brushed nylon nighties. Dead flies had collected on the window ledges and a pot plant wilted on a stained formica-topped table. Signs of neglect or lack of resources?

It was not long before a cheery little nurse came out and offered us a cup of tea, and when Sister appeared to assure us that the ambulance would not be long, we made bold to ask a few burning questions. Could Mother wear her own clothes? Most certainly - we encourage that wherever possible. What about the washing? Oh, we see to all that unless you are particularly anxious to do it. And what about Visiting Hours? My dear, there aren't any Visiting Hours. Come whenever you wish - in the middle of the night if it suits you. So that was comforting; the Consultant had said it was "a home from home", and the caring bit was what mattered most.

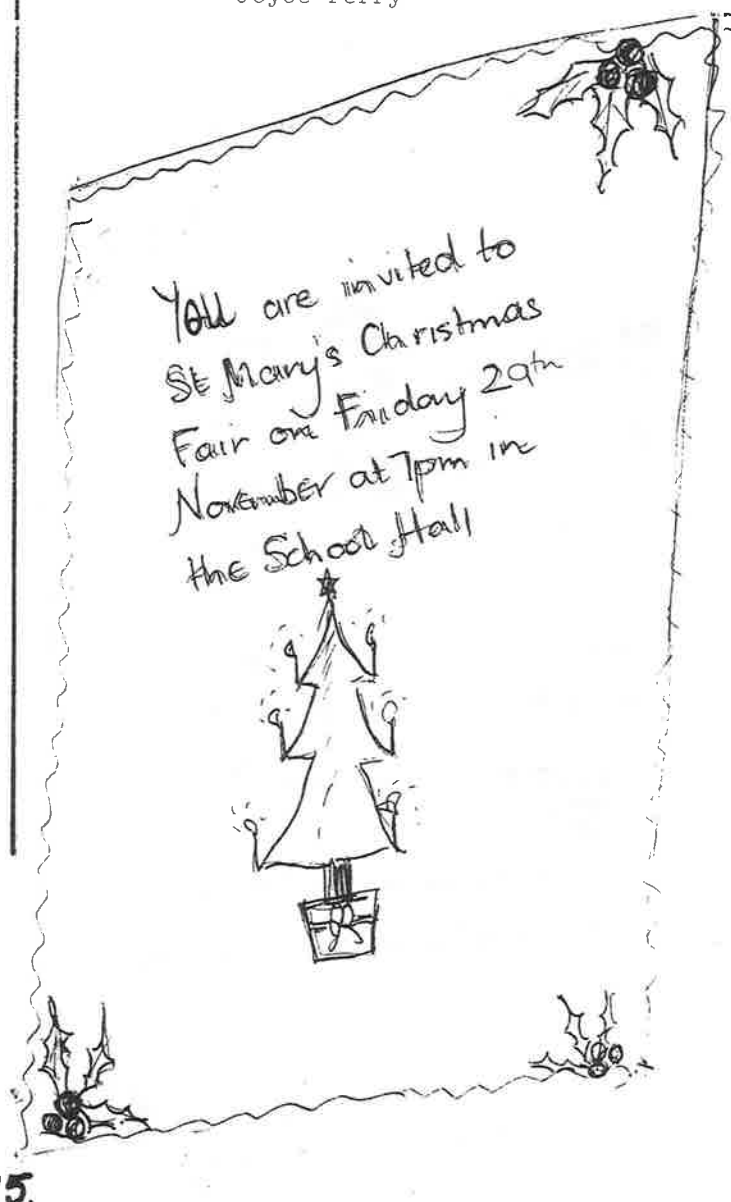
The ambulance finally arrived, and as Mother was wheeled out of the back, her face lit up to see Dad and me among the reception party. They had thoughtfully kept back some supper for her (having enquired of us what she liked), and we were invited to sit with her

in the Common Room. It was a large L shaped room, whose opened French windows gave on to a piece of waste ground - in the distance the docks and the North Sea Oil Terminal.

Around the room in close proximity were ranged forty elderly women, some in wheel chairs, some slumped sideways, some unseeing, unhearing, and just a very few responding to the T.V. News showing the Handsworth Riots. The Nurses went about their tasks of administering medicines and pills, now coaxing and teasing, now encouraging and bolstering, but always gentle and sympathetic. On the wall was a rota for the week - Monday - Film, Tuesday - Minibus and Physio, and so on. An attempt to brighten the days and make them seem different.

We had to leave Mum to the tender loving care of these few people, but it was hard to feel happy about it all. How good that we can rely on such caring people to look after Mother and all the other Mothers, and how sad that the rest of us cannot spare the money and resources to bring comfort and dignity to those in their declining years.

Joyce Perry



ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The AGM of the Parent Teachers Association was held recently at the school. Over forty parents, members of the staff and clergy attended the meeting. Mr. Compton outlined the wonderful work and fund raising events the P.T.A. had held over the past year. Approximately £2050 was raised. Some of this money was used to purchase football kit, infant toys, carpeting to classrooms, computer hardware and contributions to drama club expenses.

The new P.T.A. committee were elected.

Mrs. L. Collingwood, Secretary
Mrs. P. Harris, Treasurer,
Mrs. K. Spencer, Mrs. E. Jordan,
Mrs. P. Jewitt, Mrs. G. Barrett,
Mrs. S. Reid and Mrs. J. Harris.

The first fund raising event to be held by the new committee will be THE CHRISTMAS FAIR on FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER at 7 p.m. in THE SCHOOL HALL.

Congratulations to the head of the infant department, Miss Elizabeth McGowan, who is to be married during half term.

Harvest Festival

The theme chosen by the school this year was 'Harvest Underground'. The junior class wrote stories and made super paintings and collages about the natural resources of gas, oil, coal and minerals.

Rev. B. Rose led the harvest service by asking the children if they thought there was a coal mine under the church. The Rev. Tony Bundock was asked to find out. He quickly disrobed and to the amazement and horror of some children he disappeared under the grid by the Nave altar. A few tense moments passed. Rev. B. Rose kept calling underground 'have you found the mine yet?'. The children eagerly waited for a reply. Then magically Rev. Bundock reappeared by the High Altar - much to the relief of all the children and Mrs. Bundock.

The children presented their harvest gifts and the service concluded with a hymn from the infants "It's Harvest Time".

The produce was sold and a total of £166 was sent for the Mexican appeal.

CHILDREN

Richard Burns, poet, visited St. Mary's School the week before half term to talk to the children about his work and to give them ideas and approaches to creative work.

I wonder if your fireworks and bonfire will look as good as these poems.

Fireworks

1. Fireworks flickering through the air.
Bursting in the sky without a care.
Watch the roman candle bouncing up
with a flair
The cathrine wheel wizzing round,
You can hardly talk, for all the sound.
2. Watch the rocket light the sky,
Watch the wizzer wizzing by.
Tie some banger round a tree,
Bang! bang! bang! it amazes me.
3. In the morning all is quiet
Bonfire is ashes, old sparklers by it.
Men come with rake and shovle,
And they clear up all the rumble.

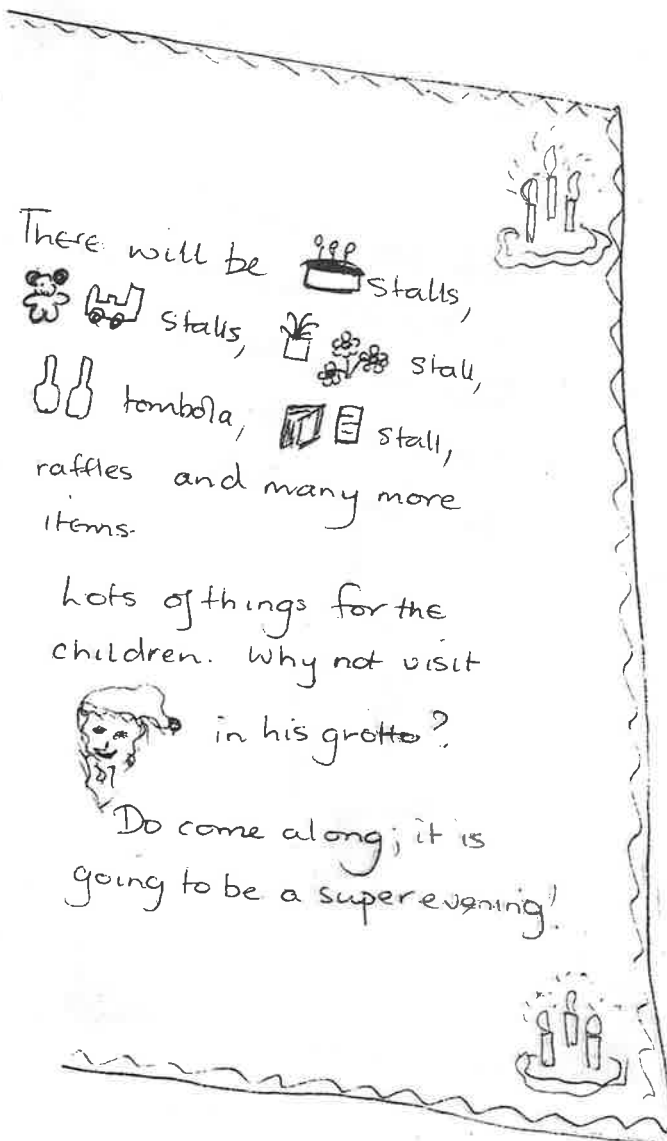
B. J. Farnell, aged 10

Fire

Fire!
Leaping crackling creeping
Lots of colours whirling round
Orange, yellow burning red
Popping with a sound

Crashing crunching go the twigs
Exploting, bursting sounds
Fierce fire getting powerful
Turns and turns around.

Louise Fleming, aged 10



Fire

Brightly burning
Fierce and hot
Destroying everything in sight
Crackling and creeping over the rubble
Ashes where a house once stood
Bursting in to blazing colours, Red
yellow, orange.
Warmth to some but death to others.
Leaping into the sky at night
Smoking smouldering FIRE!

Richard Ludlow-Elston,
aged 10

The Bonfire

Last night we had a bonfire
We invited all our friends,
I stood by the lovely warm fire,
I saw it burning and blazing,
It crackled and crept along the ground.

But soon it started to smoulder,
And soon just turned into smoke,
There lay the ashes on the ground, Dead,
Ohh but what is this a flicker of light,
And the fire slowly started again.

Karen Pells, aged 10

These children describe their feelings and
perhaps feelings of others.

A Blind Boy

I'm blind and
I lead a very
unhappy time not
seeing what the
world looks like
I'm lucky Because
I can hear
and I have a dog
which helps me move
around
I get very scared
when I bump
into people
Sometimes I think
I'm in space.

Paul Thain

Excitement

Excitement is like wild fire
Raging Red and orange
Suddenly flaring out But
know not, which way to go.

It's growing, burning getting hotter
But at last it gets caught
under control it dies down
Now all that's left is dense black smoke.

Kirstie Ayres, aged 10



Happiness is like a baby rabbit,
Bouncing up and down,
Running in its burrow,
Deep inside the ground,
To find its mother,
In the big deep hole.

Friendship is like two rings,
Linked together with magic,
So they wont come apart,
However much you try,
Unless the magician does it.

My anger is like a roll of thunder:
Cracking through the night,
Making horrible noises,
Frightening people and animals,
Bringing rain along.

Ben Hunt

The Blind Girl

I'm as Blind as a Bat
I feel like I will never see light again
I hear talking, shouting.
I feel like I will never see my
Mum or Dad's face.

I hear young birds cheeping.
My sister offered to help me.

I said no
She thought I was cruel.
But I wanted to do it on my own.

Kelly Saville

How many of you argue over TV programmes?
Callie tells us what happens in her home.

Television

The fantasy of watching T.V.
The moving pictures on the screen excite me.
Theres Politics, Jokes and loads of fun.
There's a programme for everyone.
Dad wants to watch football and I don't
Who's going to give in. I won't.

What's mum going to put on now
Let me see
Oh no not Dynasty
There's something better on the other side
I can't stand and watch this I'll go and
hide
Let's be glad that we
Have a T.V.

Callie Perry, aged 10

S.A.C.C.

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17. This event is arranged by SCRIPTURE UNION.

AN ESSEX HOUSE AND SENSE OF HISTORY II

Apparently some of you would like to hear about another Essex House after my reminiscences on Harold Park Farm in a recent issue of the Link. I am sure that many of you must have noticed (and wondered about) Copped Hall as you have driven past it on the Motorway. As you leave the M11, going south, to turn on to the M25, going west, you see it on your right standing on its commanding elevation and in a state of ruin. Frequently I have found myself wondering how it came to be in its present state and what was its history. A little research produced a fascinating story with the usual connecting links that make this kind of study so rewarding.

It was burned down in 1917 when its owner was Ernest James Wythes. Someone had put a hairgrip into a fusebox as a temporary repair and this caused the fire. The family did not think the fire very serious and continued with their preparations to go to church. But the house was destroyed and left standing only as the shell which you see today. It was the third house to stand on this site to be called 'Copped Hall', probably because it stood upon an outstandingly eminent site. (Many houses standing on a hill are called 'Copped' and it is interesting to compare the German word 'Kopf' meaning 'head'). Those earlier houses capture something of the well known episodes of our national history.

Certainly a house had stood there from about 1150 and belonged to a family called Fitzacher, obviously one of 'ruffian' William's henchmen! But by 1350 it had passed into the possession of the Abbot of Waltham who used it to entertain guests. In a desperate attempt to save his Abbey from the Dissolution Robert Fuller, the last Abbot, gave the house as a gift to Henry VIII in 1537. It was an unsuccessful ploy, however, for the Abbey was dissolved in 1540. The old House was magnificent and Henry may well have walked its ground although there is no evidence that he ever lived there. But Henry's young son, Edward VI, granted it as a residence to his half sister, Mary Tudor, daughter of Katherine of Aragon. She lived there as a virtual prisoner despite the fact that she was next in line to the throne so long as Edward was childless. She was the Catholic sister of a very Protestant king and Copped Hall became the centre of a religious storm as to whether she should be allowed to celebrate Mass 'according to the old religion'. In the end she won because Archbishop Cranmer advised Edward VI "to wink at the use of the Mass for a while". Mary became queen in 1553 and for five years the Vicar of Bray became Catholic until, in 1558, he had to change into a Protestant again as Elizabeth I, daughter of Anne Boleyn, became queen! This was the beginning of another royal episode for the old House at Copped Hall.

Many years ago, at the beginning of my ministry, in Yeovil in Somerset, I made the acquaintance of Mrs. Dorothy Walker-Heneage, of Coker Court in East Coker. T.S. Elliot has made the village well known by his poem, "East Coker".

Mrs. Heneage used to tell me, with relish, that one of her ancestors 'was a favourite of the first Elizabeth - not in the first rank like Essex or Leicester, but definitely next after them!!!' So it was very interesting to me to discover, when researching the history of Copped Hall, that Elizabeth I had given it as a gift 'to her sanguine (and dear) Thomas Heneage'. She knighted him and Sir Thomas Heneage became very influential in the financial affairs of State. He rebuilt the house and his new Copped Hall was regarded as one of the finest Tudor buildings in the land. His second wife was Mary, Countess of Southampton, and Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was probably written as an entertainment for the wedding festivities, Theseus representing Heneage and Hippolyta his new bride. Certainly the first performance of the play took place in the Long Gallery at Copped Hall. In his will Thomas Heneage left a fine jewel to the queen, to her "who above all other earthly creatures I have thought most worthy of all my heart's love and reverence".

Thomas Heneage's new Tudor Copped Hall became the scene of at least two more royal episodes. Lionel Cranfield, 3rd Earl of Middlesex, was its owner, and he had managed to remain neutral during the Civil War and the Commonwealth. Yet, at the Restoration he was one of the six peers sent to the Hague to invite Charles II to return to his kingdom. The King dined often at Copped Hall, once on a day of "terrible rain and thunder, so as the fine feathers and gay clothes are to come back utterly spoiled". When Charles II's brother, Catholic James II, was rejected, his Protestant daughter, Anne, was whisked away from London by the Bishop of London, and she stayed the night of her flight at Copped Hall. She was to succeed her sister, Mary, and brother-in-law, William of Orange, as queen. All of these were entertained at his house by Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex in his turn.

In 1763 John Conyers, to whom it had now passed, demolished the Tudor House and built the one whose ruins you now see. He, and his successors, were Verderers of Epping Forest.

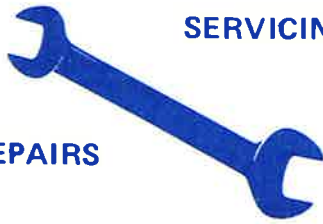
All this is only a little part of the history of the Great House which, in various forms, has stood upon the site, and it makes fascinating imaginings as one drives past. How sad, too, that so much of its tenure has had to do with religious strife between faithful Christians whose ministry should be one of reconciliation. And how good that the theme of reconciliation is being pursued so readily today! But, above all, to know these things about that stark house, which you see beside the M25, stirs an awareness of the historic figures who once lived, grieved and were wonderfully happy there. What an inheritance is ours in our buildings and our countryside, and how our predecessors can stand so vividly beside us as we remember them.

R. S. Rawlings

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BRING THE WEST END TO STANSTED

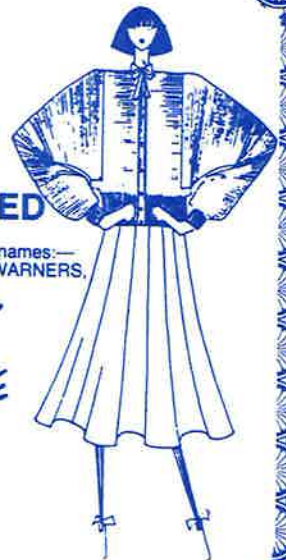
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