

Feb 86

The *LINK*



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WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR?

We are being invited to help plan the life of the Church in Britain. Our various Churches of England, Scotland and Wales want us to take part in answering the question WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR? Lent 86 is the time that has been chosen to ask us to meet to consider the following:

Why believe in God and go to Church?
What did Jesus come for?
Why did the Church begin?
Why different Churches?
What now?

In Stansted we are doing this through house groups and by our worship on Sunday evenings.

At the house groups, which will be led by two leaders from different denominations, we will be using cassettes which will present us with a 20 minute talk. So if you want to join a house group please contact your priest or minister or contact Barry Rose at the Vicarage.

On Sunday evenings our services will be held at 6.30 pm as follows:

16 February	Methodist Service in St. John's
23 February	Roman Catholic Service in St. Theresa's
2 March	Anglican Service in St. John's
9 March	URC Service in URC Church
16 March	Service in Quaker Meeting House

If you attend either house groups or worship or both, you will be given a leaflet which provides some Bible Readings, the questions to be discussed and a questionnaire which you are invited to complete confidentially and which will be used to prepare a report to be published in the autumn.



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
13th February for March issue
13th March for April issue

SACC

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

SERVICE: FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2.00 p.m.
PLACE: QUAKER MEETING HOUSE,
CHAPEL HILL
SPEAKER: MRS. YVONNE JAMESON
CRECHE AVAILABLE.

The Executive Committee of S.A.C.C. met on January 7th. The main topic for discussion was the proposal which came originally through the United Reformed Church from Sister Agnes, who has been to speak at one of our meetings some years ago, and who knows Eric McIlwain through the Ecumenical centre in Cambridge; that a parish in Belgium would be interested in "Twinning" with us in Stansted. The parish in Belgium is centred round the Abbey of Chevetogne, an ecumenical centre; a rural area not too far from Namur.

It was decided that we would look at the possibilities and to find out more about it a small group was appointed with the task of perhaps asking Sister Agnes to come and speak to us.

Many dates and venues for services and social events were decided. Here are some for your diaries:

Christian Aid Week May 11th to 18th
One World Week October 19th to 25th
Social afternoon June 28th
The Bradwell Pilgrimage Saturday July 5th
Walk and Ploughmans Lunch Sunday July 13th
Harvest Supper October 5th (subject to confirmation).

Lent 86 was discussed and all the details are elsewhere in "Link".

Would those on the Executive Committee please note that the date of the next meeting has had to be changed from April 22nd to April 29th.

"FEBRUARY FILL-DYKE"

A DELUGE of copy came in this month's post box. Please forgive much cutting, many omissions and holding-over of material for next month No "CHILDREN" again. Sorry! Keep writing - but keep it short!

Editor



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:

llam each Sunday

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

REPORT FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

Our last meeting of the year was called "We entertain ourselves" and what an enjoyable evening it proved to be.

Mrs. Thomas gave a wonderful recitation and Mr. Thomas a most unusual poem, with illustrations about a journey through the city without going down a "street".

Mrs. Jordan gave us an insight into the making of the Christmas pudding in our young days which revived many memories.

Mr. & Mrs. Turner sang to us and Mrs. Calvert read an amusing poem about Mrs. Christmas.

Miss Tame prepared a quiz and kindly gave each one of us a prize, which some of us really did not deserve.

We meet again in February.

M. C. Johnson

It may be so that in Canada most families know what they will do for their summer holidays; they will go to the cottage; or they will go to Montreal, or Vancouver; or Halifax to see Aunt Agnes or Cousin John; or they will set off to one or more of the many Provincial or Federal Camp sites with tent and canoe.

At any rate, we Canadians are always surprised when Christmas comes and then the summer holiday adverts fill the Radio Times and every other paper. Perhaps I can use this example of planning ahead to point out that Easter is early this year (Ash Wednesday is February 12th) and we must plan now for all the Lent and Easter Programme.

For the first time a National Ecumenical

Lenten Programme is being offered. The details are fully published elsewhere in this issue of LINK and I urge you to take part in this exciting venture through the House Groups and/or the Sunday Evening Fellowships. Do plan to be there.

Eric McIlwain

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Lenten Services start Sunday February 16th. Please see details elsewhere in LINK.

U.R.C. Services

- Feb 2nd 11.00 am - The Rev. Lydia Rapkin - Holy Communion
- Feb 9th 11.00 am - The Rev. Lydia Rapkin - Family Service
- Feb 16th 11.00 am - The Rev. Eric McIlwain - Lenten Service
6.30 pm - Lenten Service
- Feb 23rd 11.00 am - The Rev. Lydia Rapkin - Lenten Service
6.30 pm - Lenten Service
- Mar 2nd 11.00 am - The Rev. Eric McIlwain - Holy Communion
6.30 pm - Lenten Service

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.

"Child abuse has been much in the news lately. The terribly detailed accounts of pain inflicted, the photographs of bruised and battered babies, so horrific you flinch from them. A father accused of harming his child who jumps to his death during the trial.

Isn't it surprising then that people still say "Being a parent comes naturally"? Or it's easier to think "It's them not us", even though many parents know they've come within a hair's breadth of bashing their children.

Being a parent does not come naturally. You wouldn't stick a plant in the ground and hope for the best. Good parenting needs the right conditions in which to grow and flourish. Squalor and neglect only grow squalor and neglect.

Parents themselves need to be parented at times. They must be properly housed and fed - and feel supported and know that they have some part to play with their children in the future.

Without the right conditions for growth parenting will not survive. It will break down and reduce mothers and

fathers to objects. Once parents cannot value themselves and their children they will treat themselves and their children as so much disposable rubbish.

We are all part of the complex chain of parenting whether we have children or not. Our joint responsibility must be for the children of the present and the parents of the future.

When the links in the chain are broken, we are all in danger."

The above article caught my eye the other day because it was so topical and becoming a very real problem in our society.

At a wedding recently the priest talked about the 'married relationship' and how marriage needs God within it somewhere to take it hopefully through all it's complexities and moods. So God links Christians together in a very mysterious way.

I feel too that community is very important. We cannot isolate ourselves as parents or otherwise hoping we can go it alone, we need human affirmation, guidance from wiser folks, and often practical help and a listening ear.

We are so fortunate to have a close community at St. Theresa's and also a thriving ecumenical community in the village.

Our church as with the others in Stansted is our meeting point where we pray, celebrate, air and share and it is a necessary part of our Christian life-style.


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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	-	7.45am
Friday	-	7.45am

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

CORRYMEELA LINK



Once again our deepest prayers and sympathy go out to the people of Northern Ireland. How we long for peace and justice for them! But it is not only our prayers we can give for the Corrymeela Link, an organisation which seeks to bring people together, they need money. In this month's Link we publish an article for Geoff McMillan, a member of our congregation, who can testify to the work of the Corrymeela organisation. Can we then open our pockets as well as our hearts?

Parish Retreat

For many years we have been trying to arrange for a parish retreat - a time when we go away together for worship, talks, prayer and relaxation. The problem has been that having once booked a retreat you need at least sixteen people to make it pay. So we have joined forces with the parish of Gt. Wakering for a retreat to be held at Pleshey from June 13th - 15th. The conductor will be the Bishop of Bradwell and the cost around £25. If you want to book please contact Marion Johnson on 812284 - but hurry because we have only been allocated ten places.

God Bless.

CORRYMEELA

Standing on top of a hill overlooking the Atlantic coast of Northern Ireland stands the original Corrymeela community.

The name 'Corrymeela' means literally "The hill of harmony". Its establishment in 1965, prior to the present troubles in Northern Ireland, stands out as a Christian landmark in that troubled land.

The aims of the Corrymeela community; to build understanding, reconciliation and peace between the divided communities in Northern Ireland, seem to become more difficult to achieve as each passing day brings yet another outrage which further separates the people of that country.

I first visited Corrymeela in the spring of 1971, aged fifteen. I had never previously had a conversation with a Roman Catholic.

I learned a lot there about my fellow (but Catholic) countrymen. We spoke, ate, played and prayed together, things impossible to do in 'normal life'.

The division between us, based on mistrust and misunderstanding, narrowed as I realised that they shared my teenage problems and a deep love of the beautiful country we shared. We were confronted with our bigotry and recognised it for what it was and the awful destruction it had caused.

Such encounters pave the long and uphill road to peace in Northern Ireland.

We in Stansted are blessed, living in an open, understanding and peaceful community. We must ensure that the example of Christ's teaching embodied in the ecumenical community of Corrymeela is continued.

Corrymeela is our good cause for February. Please support it financially if you can, remember its work in your prayers or, best of all, visit it. I can promise you the beauty of the place, the love of its people and the depth of their faith will not leave you unchanged.



MOTHERS' UNION

The meeting next month will be on Wednesday February 26th. There will be a Corporate Communion in St. John's at 2.30 pm followed by a talk in the Hall from Fr. Tony.

The party last month was enjoyed by everyone, it was good to see some of our Indoor Members. Thank you to all those who helped in any way.

Youth News

ROCK WEEKEND 28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH

Our weekend visit to the Rock Anglican - Methodist Youth Centre, near Bradwell-on-Sea, this year involves members of the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church as well as a party from St. John's Youth Club.

Our theme for the weekend will be "Back to the Future" in which our different historic Christian traditions meet up across the panorama of time and space.

The cost of the weekend is £13 per head and there is still a small number of places available.

YOUTH CLUB PROGRAMME

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 February | House Discussion Group |
| 9 February | Beetle Drive |
| 16 February | Quiz Evening |
| 23 February | "ALO ALO" French cafe evening |
| 28 FEB - 2 MAR | THE ROCK (NO YOUTH CLUB) |
| 9 March | Games Evening |
| 16 March | "Home Brew" Concert |
| 23 March | Panel Game |
| 30 March | EASTER SUNDAY (NO YOUTH CLUB) |
| 6 April | House Discussion Group |

VICAR'S NOTES

This month I just want to draw your attention to several matters.

Lent

This year there are two themes in our Lent programme which is now published. As I explained in last month's Link, on Sunday mornings we are thinking about HEALING AND WHOLENESS. Our visiting preachers will shorten the first part of the service to facilitate this. The course will be introduced by Dr. Martin Israel who will give a lecture in St. John's on February 9th at 6.30 pm.

The other theme is Christian Unity. The house groups and our Sunday evening worship will be with our friends from other Stansted Churches. With them, and a million other Christians throughout Britain, we will be helping to plan the life of the whole Church for the last part of this century. LENT 86, as the programme is called, is an important step on our road to Christian unity and I sincerely hope you will take part. For those who are housebound you might like to know that Radio Essex are presenting programmes on this theme every Sunday evening in Lent at 8 pm.

Fr Tony

By now you will all know that Fr. Tony has been appointed as Team Vicar on the Borehamwood Team Ministry. We congratulate him but, of course, we will all be very sorry to see him go. His last Sunday with us will be on April 6th and there is a farewell party on Tuesday 8th April at 8 pm. More details later.



SHROVE TUESDAY BEETLE DRIVE

11 February

8pm-10pm

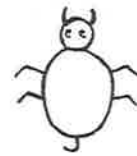
Church Hall

Refreshments

AN EVENING FOR EVERYONE

Adults 75p

Children 14 years
and under 50p



CHURCH DIARY

February

- 2nd Youth Eucharist 6.30 pm St John's
- 4th Education Ministry Group 8.15 pm
The Vicarage
- 9th Healing and Wholeness: Lecture by
Dr Martin Israel 6.30 pm St John's
- 11th Beetle Drive 8 pm Church Hall
- 12th Ash Wednesday: Holy Communion 10 am
Sung Eucharist 8 pm
- 16th Preacher at 9.30 am: Rev'd Dr Michael
Diamond Unity Service 6.30 pm
St John's
- 21st Lecture in Chelmsford Cathedral on
Faith in the City - report on the
Church in the inner city. 8 pm.
More details from Vicar
- 22nd Confirmation Group visit Chelmsford
Cathedral
- 23rd Preacher at 9.30 am:
Rev'd W Eggington. Unity Service
at St. Theresa's 6.30 pm
- 28th-2nd Youth Group at The Rock

March

- 2nd Preacher at 9.30 am:
Rev'd Denis Duncan
Unity Service at St John's 6.30 pm

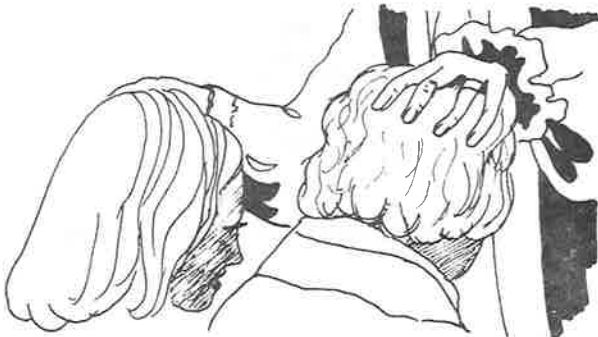
PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 29th Dec Hayley Jane Pinner, 4 Five Acres
- 5th Jan Simon James Camp, 5 West Road
Laura Powell, 37 Wetherfield

Departed

- Jessie Snow, Mead Court Aged 79 years



HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Sunday 9 February:

Lecture by Rev'd Dr Martin Israel

St John's Church 6.30pm

Preachers at 9.30am Parish Communion:

16 February **THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING**
Rev'd Dr Michael Diamond,
Doctor of Philosophy and
Vicar of St Andrew-the-
Less, Cambridge.

23 February **PRAYER AND HEALING**
Rev'd W Eggington, former
Vice-Chairman of the
Guild of Health.

2 March **HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS**
Rev'd Denis Duncan,
Director of the Church's
Council for Health and
Healing.

16 March **HEALING MINISTRY IN THE
PARISH**
The Venerable Ernest Stroud,
Archdeacon of Colchester.

PRIESTHOOD? LAY MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH? DEACONESS? NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTRY? CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY FROM ISRAEL? STIPENDIARY FROM ISRAEL? MEMBERS OF A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY? FULL-TIME VOLUNTARY SERVICE? PAID WORKERS?

University of Essex Anglican Chaplaincy

full-time Christian Ministry

speakers:
The Revd. David Lowman
 Vocations Adviser, Church of England
Elizabeth Harris
 Secretary for Information, Christians Abroad
 chaired by:
David Townsend
 Careers Advisory Service
 UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 1986
5p.m. in Chaplaincy Centre
 UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, WIVENHOE PARK, COLCHESTER CO4 3SU Tel. COL. 0206 862286

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

We are glad to bring some further news from Ann Webb from a letter to a member of our meeting, written after the Colombian volcano.

"The Armero tragedy was of course far more devastating for ordinary Colombians (than the terrorist killings).

A volcanic eruption which killed 25,000 and left another 25,000 injured or homeless was a stunning blow. The public response was most commendable - I have never seen such mountains of clothing, bedding, medicines, food, etc. as appeared at every collecting point in the city. Now the need is of course for money to start re-building a new life for the survivors.

Our boys' school has promised a new fully-equipped school for the new Armero, and we recently took part in a sponsored walk which raised 250,000 pesos (something over £1000). We also responded to a national appeal for adoptive parents for the orphans of the tragedy. In the chaotic rescue conditions many children were separated from their families who may have been rescued but sent to a different city for hospitalisation.

When a disaster of this magnitude happens on the other side of the world you can feel horror and respond by giving to fund-raising organisations, but when it happens only 150 miles away, to people you live among, then the sense of horror and hopelessness is magnified a thousand times.

In those first few days I am sure that all residents of Colombia, Colombian or "gringo" were equally stunned by the scenes of human terror and misery. I found myself saying "what can I do" when all I could do was contribute whatever material goods could be given, pray, and let the Red Cross and other rescue workers get on with their job.

Now that the first shock is over it is almost easier to put some energy into the bigger fund-raising schemes while continuing to hope and pray that the authorities do not let this become just yesterday's disaster and forget the need to re-build a new life for the "damnificados" - the Spanish word for the survivors is particularly chilling isn't it?

Ann"

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.

CHRISTMAS 1985

On the Sunday before Christmas Rev. Ronald Rawlings led us in a celebration of Christmas after a tradition followed in a number of overseas countries. Our service included a short birthday party complete with cake and singing of "Happy Birthday, Jesus". Unconventional, you might say but, after all, Christmas is all about a special birthday.

Christmas Day on television with Noel Edmunds' Christmas Breakfast Show included a live link by satellite with famine relief workers in the desert of the Sudan. I had a personal interest because one of my staff was good enough to agree to spend Christmas in a mud hut to help the BBC bring about the satellite link. The point that struck me was that the main spot on a Christmas Day entertainment programme should be based around African famine and the raising of yet more funds through Comic Aid. Such is the progress which has been made in public awareness and concern during the year thanks in large measure to Bob Geldof.

Alan Dean

We believe God always loves his people to gather together in His name, and proved it by moving us all (with a little gentle persuasion from Phyllis Harrison) to meet for family worship on Christmas Eve and to contribute by way of readings (poetry and prose), carol singing, prayers and apposite apologue! Harold Fisher's offering to the latter gave us an uncomfortable insight into the various motives that lurk in our minds when we choose presents for our friends and relations. We may write 'with love' on the tag, but there may be less charitable sentiments written in our hearts.

Chris and Jane Stafford and Alison Phillips worked wonders with the children (Amy, Alice, Debbie, Chris and Ryan) and transformed them - Ryan repeatedly - into angels, shepherds, wise man and Mary and Joseph, for a moving nativity drama. We were also treated to carols by the instant Methodist ladies choir.

Our worship concluded with readings and the lighting of candles to remind us of the coming of the Light of the World. The evening was most enjoyably rounded off by festive fare and frivolity at the home of Yvonne, Alec, Fiona and Helen Jameson. Their many talents will be sorely missed when they leave Stansted later this year, although I could manage to resist a repeat of Helen's magic water trick!

The Shalom Group

On 16th December we held our Christmas Party at the home of Jan and Peter King, to whom we are all very grateful. It was a very enjoyable occasion in every way. All the food was good, but a dish of moussaka was so much enjoyed that some folk asked who made it. Back came the lilting answer, "Oh, Monica made the moussaka". The words sang in the mind of Edna Goreing and inspired her to write the following:

ODE TO MONICA

We had a party at Jan's house
- Well, really, it's Peter's too -
They sort of go together. You have to
give them their due.
They made us all very welcome
- We provided the pints and the people
And they provided a zoo.

Everyone gave to the table
And soon it was piled very high.
Why we were led to lay out such a spread
Is really beyond you and I.
But certainly we all enjoyed it
And some of us made quite a rush
To tuck in and munch, and make up for
missed lunch,
In an ecumenical crush.

There was Coleslaw with carrots, Crisps
with Cashews,
Mince pies both lighter and darker,
Trifle and Truffles and Cream Cheese to
choose,
And Monica made a moussaka.

Oh! Monica made the Moussaka!
It's almost too good to be true.
It trips from the tongue like a song to
be sung
Or a verse to be chanted in lieu.
We had music and magic and monologue
And singing that shattered the peace.
But Monica made the Moussaka
- And made it her own Party-Piece.

Monica, Monica, Magic Moussaka
May Monica's praise never cease.

Shalom Group dates and venues:

27th January at 7 Burnells Way
10th February at 23 Burnells Way
24th February at 5 St. John's Lane

Harold Fisher

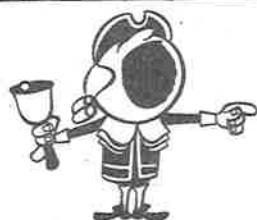
Covenant Service

The first Sunday in the New Year is special for Methodists because it is traditionally then that we re-affirm our commitment to God. The covenant service was instituted by John Wesley over 200 years ago, and is as precious to us now as it surely must have been to Christians then. We were privileged to be led by Ronald Rawlings as he reminded us of the implications of our vows. 'I am no longer my own, but yours' is not to be taken lightly, and is an acknowledgement that everything we have and are is under God's control. Ronald

illustrated the idea of a covenant by showing the children (and the young at heart) a replica of an indenture as may have been drawn up between an employer and his apprentice. We were all intrigued to see how the matching sets of 'dents' were made with a pair of scissors! An apprenticeship lasts only a few years, but our covenant with God is permanent, and if it breaks there is only one person to blame, and it's not Him!

Michael Dyer

Village News



& FUTURE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 8 2.30 Conservatives Jumble Sale - St. John's Hall
- 9 6.30 Service/Lecture. Dr. Martin Israel - St. John's Church
- 13 8.00 B.S. Recorded Music Club - Day Centre
- 14 10.30 SDP Coffee Morning - 34 West Road
- 20 British Legion Womens Branch Meeting
- 26 8.00 SDP AGM Quaker Meeting House

MARCH

- 7 8.00 Conservative Branch AGM - Day Centre
- 15 Bentfield School Auction

HELPLINE

A CANINE THANKYOU - TO HELPLINE

I am a black standard Poodle bitch called Paris. Last Saturday my mistress and I went to Wandsworth to visit her daughter and grandchildren. We had a grand day. I romped with the children and so did she! I was fine but my mistress discovered on Sunday that she had hurt her back. No walk for me on Sunday or Monday or Tuesday! By Wednesday I was feeling quite deprived and totally unable to hide my feelings - the fourth day without a walk. Well, really!!

In desperation my mistress rang Helpline to see if they had a dog-walker. They had! We had a lovely time at Gall End.

Thankyou, Mr. Helpline - I'll even share my next bone with you.

With love
from
Paris

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

VILLAGE CIVIC AMENITY SCHEME

A skip will again be available during 1986 for use by parishioners. The dates are as follows:

Sat/Sun 8-9 March Sat/Sun 6-7 September
Mon/Fri 21-25 April Mon/Fri 27-31 October
Sat/Sun 14-15 June Sat/Sun 6-7 December

Please note new location:
Crafton Green Car Park area (top of Chapel Hill).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING -

Wednesday 23rd April, 8.00 p.m.
in the Peter Kirk School Canteen as last year. Please make a note of it now and try to join us - this is your meeting and we should like to see as many of you as possible.

Janet Buttery

DAY CENTRE

Such a lot happened at the latter part of December.

A big thank you to the pupils of "Bentfield Primary School" for giving us the proceeds of their carol singing - what a kind thought! Then our trip to London and the lights, given and organised by the Lions of Bishop's Stortford. A coach full of O.A.P.s left Stansted. The city places of interest were pointed out, on for the West End and the lights, passing many places of interest, also Harrods and Selfridges window displays. In Oxford Street three helpers dashed out of the coach, rushed into a coffee shop and, as we crawled along, caught us up with 40 tubs of hot coffee. On the way home we all sang carols and Mrs. Sell thanked the Lions for our lovely trip.

The Christmas Lunch for 80 served by the organisers and husbands was a great success. After a splendid lunch Father Tony and Geoff Booker entertained and led a sing song. We thank all who helped to give us such a splendid time.

Now the Day Centre is open once more and we will be able to meet and chat with our friends, and all the afternoon activities will be in full swing.

K. M. Jordan

FEBRUARY EVENTS AT THE DAY CENTRE

Thursdays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Afternoon Keep Fit
Fridays 7th, 21st Evening Bingo
Fridays 14th, 28th Whist Drive 2.00 pm
25p
Tuesdays 11th Beetle Drive, 18th Films
25th Social 2.30 25p

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



Open Evening This was extremely well attended with an estimated one thousand or so visitors admiring the displays of work and phase two of our remodelling programme. Many favourable and complimentary remarks were received and the tremendous interest shown augurs well for the future.

Floodlights These were officially switched on by soccer personality Trevor Brooking and already this dual purpose school/community project has been put to good use.

Band Aid Thanks to the tremendous efforts put in by pupils and staff alike, a colossal amount of food was collected for the Band Aid Ethiopian relief fund. This quite staggering achievement, unmatched by neighbouring schools up to three times the size of the Mountfitchet High, did not really receive the widespread publicity it deserved. The food was taken to Bishop's Stortford railway station where the school band played it on its way with a specially composed rendering of the Band Aid anthem "Feed the World".

Stansted Ant & Craft Market There was an exhibition of work by pupils from the Mountfitchet High on display and the school was recently presented with a cheque for £75 as a donation from the proceeds of the market. This money will be spent on improving our already excellently equipped library which is planned to be used as a multi-media resources centre.

Environmental Scheme Teams of volunteers from the first year have recently been engaged in tidying and smartening up certain rather neglected areas of the surrounding neighbourhood. This improvement to the environment has brought forth much favourable comment from the local community and illustrates the social awareness and responsibility of the pupils of this school. I feel we should all take pride in their achievements.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Officers of C Group The Royal British Legion Essex County would like through the Link to thank all who attended the Carol Service on December 8th at St. John's Church and made it such a success.

All who helped, plus the friends of The Legion who swelled the numbers are worthy of our thanks.

A Happy and peaceful 1986 to you all.

Mrs. Stevens, Hon. Sec.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

On 11th December Stansted played hostess to the quarterly Group Meeting. Members attended from six surrounding branches with three standards. President, Mrs. Gabb, welcomed branches. She said that group meetings came to each branch only about once in every two years and she was especially pleased that Stansted should be hosting this Christmas meeting.

The County Representative told us that the Area Conference will be on 4th February at the Friend's Meeting House and the visit to the theatre on 19th February to see "Hay Fever". Certificates in the County Needlework Competition were presented to Berden, Birchanger and Stansted.

Membersthen enjoyed solos by Tony Bundock and Geoff Booker who later played a number of nostalgic songs and carols in which everyone enthusiastically joined. Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn.

The next branch meeting will be on Thursday, 20th February, when our speaker will be Mr. Zellej.

Pat Clower

The January committee meeting was 'ditched' at the last moment because of adverse circumstances! - especially for the Secretary.

The officers elected at the AGM were -

President - Alec Power
Chairman - Peter Pavitt
Secretary - Austen Finn
Treasurer - John Summers
Standard Bearer - David Challis

An infusion of 'newblood' is always good - and we welcomed a new Secretary and Treasurer, while retaining the experience of the outgoing office holders on the committee.

Our standard bearer, Eddie Laird (we are indebted to him), stood down after many years of loyal and dedicated service.

Matters referred to the new committee to be dealt with were -

- provide the "VJ" tree with a suitably worded plaque.
- arrange 60th anniversary celebrations in October 1986.
- publicity displays for the Legion at the Carnival.
- regular newsletters to be circulated to members to keep them better informed.
- more 'open evenings'.

Phew! The Legion seems to be alive and well, but can still do with more 'new blood' for vitality.

THE TORTOISE GROUP HANDICAPPED SCOUTS

Minus three but plus two!

Matthew Baker has gone to College in Newhaven. He came to see us at half-term and wanted to see us during his Christmas vacation but he was only in Stansted for two Tuesdays (one was Christmas Eve and one was New Year's Eve) when there was a definite lack of leaders so no meetings. Hopefully we will meet Matthew again at Easter.

Peter Clawson decided to retire having reached the ripe old age of 18 years but he has dropped in to see us a couple of times.

Roy Simmonds went to Great Baddow with Hargrave House but only stayed there long enough to meet Princess Di after which he went to a Macintyre Home at Shinton under Wychwood. We all went to Great Baddow for his farewell and birthday party to wish him well.

Now for the plusses!

Andrew Embleton from Greenfields and John Dunbar from Meadowcroft. Both to be invested in the early spring.

We went foreign for a week at the end of July/beginning of August and visited Nailor '84 at Towcester in Northamptonshire. This was an International Jamboree. The theme was a mediaeval gathering hence the name Nailor which meant a gathering of great importance in mediaeval times. We are not quite so old that we can remember mediaeval times but we do remember the mud! How it rained!

However, not even the glutinous mud dampened our enthusiasm as we built sedan chairs, enjoyed the mediaeval fayre and tucked into the mediaeval banquet.

We were visited by the Chief Scout who remembered Tim Mace from his visit to Carver Barracks. How can anyone forget Tim?! We raced our sedan chair without disgracing ourselves and visited the Nailor Gang Show.

In the rain and the wind we watched 'It's a Knockout' - and slunk off to drink coffee. We listened to the Yetties - there were one or two of our number who had to confess to remembering them!

We terrorised Billing Aquadrome but I understand they survived and are still open.

Autumn came and the leaders abandoned the boys into the very capable hands of the Venture Crew for an evening. The leaders visited a certain male bird in the Ham of Hen for our annual birthday evening. It was good.

Early in December we opened the doors to parents and friends, fed them on soup, baked potatoes and beans and then

entertained them with a display of our expertise on our fairly-newly-acquired chimes under the beady eye of our musical director, Nigel Morris. Tony Bundock then sang us a tale of being in love with Hali - but Hali didn't love him! A fishy tale indeed.

With the New Year upon us, we have resuscitated Annie under the watchful eye of Dot Snow, and look forward to awarding some Collector badges in the very near future.

Judy Goddard

HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

The following 'verses' should really be sung by our members accompanied by bells, shakers and rattles to give you the feeling of excitement at our Christmas Party. However, I hope it will give you a taste of the atmosphere.

Father Christmas is coming he'll be here quite soon,
We think that quite likely he lives on the moon.
He's coming, he's coming; his cloak is bright red,
And he's got lots of white whiskers all over his head.

Father Christmas is coming, we wish he'd arrive.
Listen, oh listen, is that sleigh bells outside?
He's coming, he's coming, oh what can we hear,
A snuffling and rattling - the reindeer are near.

Father Christmas is coming with a sackful of toys
And luvverly presents for girls and for boys.
He's come, he's come; at last he's arrived.
He has brought in his sleigh, but the deer wait outside.

Father Christmas is going, he can't stay all night
But must go while the stars are still shining bright.
We love Father Christmas, we wish he could stay
But his reindeer are waiting to take him away.

Father Christmas has gone; it was great, but oh dear
We won't see him again for another whole year.

Goodbye Father Christmas
Thank you Father Christmas
Goodbye, Goodbye,
Goodbye.

Betty Lockwood



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CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

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EXTRACT FROM ORGANISER'S REPORT FOR 1985:

Uttlesford Home-Start has really taken off with 90 referrals and most have been introduced to a volunteer (see overleaf).

WHO IS REFERRED?

Families with at least one pre-school child, who are experiencing difficulties for a number of reasons such as:

Loneliness

- they have recently moved to the area
- they have no immediate family to help in a crisis
- they live in an isolated village without transport
- they have no friends in the area
- they are house bound due to illness

Depression

Families with budgeting problems

Single parents

Marital problems

Two or three young children, twins, boisterous toddlers

Families with handicapped children

Families who are afraid of their own too severe reactions to their children

Families where parents themselves did not experience a very good childhood and therefore do not have knowledge of basic parental skills.

Parents who need the reassurance of another experienced mother

WHO CAN REFER?

Parents themselves can ring us direct
 Any interested party who has the consent of the family (see overleaf)

VOLUNTEERS

It is the volunteers who make Home-Start and we now have a group of 35. May I take this opportunity to thank them all for all their time and energy. They are all parents and know what it is like to be at home with small children. Many have experienced the isolation, the times of loneliness, the times of worry or stress and also the joys that children can bring. We hope that some of the families who have experienced the help of a Volunteer will in time become Volunteers themselves.

For we do not ask for any qualifications, (except having been a parent) from our Volunteers, but feel more important is a warmth of personality, reliability, confidentiality and a sense of humour. Nor does age or background matter. All Volunteers must attend a one day a week course, 10 week preparation course. This helps the organisers to get to know the Volunteers and the Volunteers to get to know each other. It also provides an opportunity for Volunteers to gain information about other facilities within the area and to participate in group discussion.

We have a course continuing on 4th October at Salamon-House, Saffron Walden, and have a few places left. Anyone interested should ring Dunmow 5705.

A FAMILY'S VIEW OF A VOLUNTEER

"There was lots of reasons why I needed a volunteer, but the main one was that I was on me own with two children, and expecting me third. Me husband had gone off and left me and I didn't have many friends in this area that I could talk to.

Linda called to see me several times before I was introduced to Joan and we did a lot of nattering, which helped a lot. I did feel a bit worried when I was going to meet my volunteer in case I didn't like her and she didn't like me.

Joan has been visiting me for over a year now and I look forward to her visits. Although we do have our differences of opinion sometimes. She always comes back to me, where many people have given up. I know I can rely on her especially when things are all going wrong.

We go to lovely places when Joan visits, even to a posh pub! Also when I go go court she's there for me to talk to and help me out.

I do worry that one day she won't be able to visit me anymore, I would really miss her."

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A very enjoyable and successful Cheese & Wine Party was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Terence Browne, Bentfield House, Stansted, on Saturday, 7th December 1985.

Principal guests at the Annual New Year Supper Dance at Stansted Hall on Saturday 4th January were Saffron Walden M.P. Alan Haselhurst and Euro-M.P. David Curry and his wife Anne and Mr. Ken Baker, the Saffron Walden Conservative agent. About 135 members and guests enjoyed an evening of dancing to the Mike Allen Band, from Harlow and a delicious 4-course supper, which was arranged by Members of the Women's Committee. Twelve prospective Young Conservatives attended, as it is planned to start a Young Conservatives Branch.

A Jumble Sale will be held at St. John's Church Hall on Saturday 8th February at 2.30 p.m.

There will be a meeting at the Football Club on Monday, 10th February at 8 p.m.

FUTURE DATES IN MARCH 1986

Wednesday 5th March - Ladies A.G.M. at the Day Centre at 10.30, followed by a snack lunch.

Friday 7th March, Branch A.G.M. at the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

All enquiries regarding membership or events to:-

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



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The Annual Dinner at The Cock Public House in Henham was held in a lovely Christmas atmosphere and the food was delicious.

Tennis continues at the Mountfitchet High School on Wednesday evenings, from about 6.30 pm until 10 pm, until 16th March. Anybody interested is welcome to join us. Just contact Janet Hollis - B/S 812073.

Play continues on Sunday mornings from 9.30am. Ladies on Wednesday mornings from 10 am - 11.30 am. Reduced subscription rate for winter members.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.



NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Our first meeting of the year took place at The Crown, Elsenham, where we celebrated the New Year over dinner.

On a more serious note, our next meeting is to discuss whether or not money should still be raised for charities not concerned with life and death issues when there are thousands dying in Africa. Perhaps you have a point you would like to make, if so we would be pleased to welcome you.

Further details from the Local Organiser; or see our programme on the library notice board.

Lyn Inston
Local Organiser 814051

STANSTED ART & CRAFT MARKET

At the end of November the proceeds of the Art and Craft Market were distributed to a number of recipients at the Day Centre when cheques were presented at a delightful ceremony by Committee Member, Sylvia Osborne.

The full list of beneficiaries is:

Stansted Trust	£300
Carnival Trust Fund	£300
Helpline	£100
Tortoise Scouts	£100
Red Cross Toy Library	£100
Youth Centre	£75
Mountfitchet High School	£75
Talking Newspaper for Blind	£50
St. John's Church Appeal	£50
Windmill Fund	£50

We were pleased to welcome to the occasion representatives of all of the above who responded by telling us how the donations were to be spent and we were particularly delighted to see some of the Tortoise Scouts themselves.

Greg Snow

BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Two events are being planned by the P.T.A. First, a 'Race Night' on 1st February. Then, on March 15th we are planning to hold an Auction at the school, which we hope will be supported by parents and the 'General Public' of Stansted. The times of viewing and selling will be advertised around the village nearer the date. Come along for a bargain!

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC CLUB

The next meeting is on February 13th at 8.0 p.m. in the Day Centre.

Programme

Mendelssohn String Symphony No. 12
Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition
(Org. piano version)
Mussorgsky-Ravel Pictures at an
Exhibition
Walton Improvisations on a theme by
Britten

Mary Scholes
813155

CAROL SINGING 1985 in aid of the Imperial
Cancer Research Fund.

Thank you to the singers, the givers and the hosts and hostesses. In just three evenings the magnificent sum of £154.48 was collected and has been passed to the Fund.

We found it heart-warming that so many singers came out and we look forward to seeing you all again next year when you will not be able to get any wetter than you did on Christmas Eve 1985!

Derek Honour
Judy Goddard

STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUP

1986 looks like being another active year; among the social highlights will be the Constituency Fayre at Topperfield and a barn dance, organised by the Stansted Group in the summer, and the bonfire party and dinner dance in the autumn.

Two dates for February -

14th Feb. 10.30 a.m. Coffee morning at
34 West Road, Stansted
26th Feb. 8 p.m. Friends Meeting House,
Stansted. A.G.M. followed by a
public meeting, to be addressed
by Mark Hayes, Alliance
Prospective Parliamentary
Candidate for Saffron Walden

For more information about Stansted Social Democrats, contact Alan Dean, B.S. 813579. Jane Freeman, B.S. 814084.

STANSTED AFTERNOON



A cheerful Christmas spirit prevailed at the December meeting. Members joined in traditional carol singing accompanied by guest pianist Mr. A.L. Williams. Individual members took part with solos and monologues. Refreshments provided by the committee were shared with real pleasure. From a selection of beautiful Christmas table decorations entered in the competition Mrs. Williams judged the one made by Mrs. Cianciole to be the best.

The meeting closed on an obvious note of enjoyment with thanks to Mr. Williams by Mrs. Jordan on behalf of the meeting and a gift presented to Mrs. Williams by Mrs. Stiles, the President.

Mrs. A. W. Calver

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING W.I.

As the December meeting had a festive theme, business was kept to a minimum. Mrs. Osborne serving her second term as President welcomed two new members and the new committee.

£26.31 had been raised at the November's mini market; heathers had been planted in St. Mary's churchyard gardens, and a tree is to be planted in the gardens of the Railway Station. A scrap book of the WI's activities started by Mrs. Chastney will be continued by Mrs. Colliver. Refreshments and wine were served by the retiring committee, followed by the "Pavillion Players" entertaining with Old Tyme Music Hall songs and sketches.

January meeting With £400 being needed to keep the WI solvent for 1986 a "Chinese Auction", a Jumble Sale, a "May Market" and possibly a stall on Bishop's Stortford market were suggested. We must also contribute to our WI college, Denman, for its refurbishing and extension.

For "outside" charities

A sponsored knit for Arthritis Council to benefit eventually the geriatric ward in Herts & Essex Hospital.

A coffee morning in aid of the Blind.

Mr. D. Johnson of Harlow Aqua Club gave a very entertaining talk, with interesting exhibits, on Sub-aqua Diving.

New members? Come along for a visit on the second Thursday in the month! 7.45 pm in St. John's Hall.

February speaker from the "Samaritans".

Brenda Ryan



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

20 mums and 30 children descended upon The Cricketers, Clavering, for a pub lunch in January. Little did the staff know when we reserved the family room.

Coming Events TINY TOTS VALENTINE'S DISCO,
Quaker Hall, Monday 17th Feb. 2.30 - 4.00.

Toddler Group on a Thursday 10.00 - 11.30
6th Feb at Carolines, 34 Wetherfield
13th Feb HALF TERM
20th Feb at Fiona's, 28 Sunnyside
27th Feb at Chris's, 56 St. John's Road

Get-togethers for expectant mums and under 1's, Friday 10.30 - noon.
7th Feb at Sally's, 22 Alderbury Road
14th Feb at Debbie's, 13 Blythwood Gardens
21st Feb at Claires, 47 Gilbey Crescent
27th Feb at 26 Longcroft

Local N.C.T. membership is still £3.50 (£2.00 of which goes to National NCT Headquarters). The remaining £1.50 gives you 4 local newsletters (now joint with the Bishop's Stortford group) and the services of our local group. Local members are covered by NCT insurance for events held in their homes, and the right to vote at the group's A.G.M. on the choice of committee members. Subscriptions - and new ones! - to Gail Gould, 11 Alsa Leys, Elsenham along with your name, address and phone as soon as possible, please.

A.G.M. in March

Anyone interested in joining the committee please speak to any committee member.

Sally Brown

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



The speaker at the Club's January meeting was Mr. Gingell from Ramparts Nurseries, Colchester, who specialise in growing and selling plants with grey or silver foliage. Most of these plants are naturally occurring 'wild' plants and are therefore not normally available commercially, but provided they can be given the right growing conditions they are relatively easy and undemanding. Most grey or silver leaved plants originate from areas with a Mediterranean-type climate, with strong sun and drying winds. The reason for their greyish colouring is usually the presence of tiny hairs which have evolved as a natural defence mechanism preventing the plants from losing too much water by transpiration. As the light intensity around the plants gets higher the hairs stand up further from the plant and give an overall greyish effect, much sought after in floral arrangements. This effect can also be used to advantage in the garden, where the softly coloured foliage can be used to contrast with or compliment other plants.

Mr. Gingell illustrated his talk with a superb collection of slides showing the more unusual and less well-known grey and silver foliage plants. He ended his talk with a few words on Hybrid Garden Pinks, which require very similar growing conditions to the grey plants. Members asked a variety of questions and a visit to the nursery will probably be arranged.


Next month the speaker will be Mrs. Shipp, on Flower Arranging. The speaker in March will be Mr. Garston, on the Mixed Border.

R. J. Allen

Gabrielle Moylan
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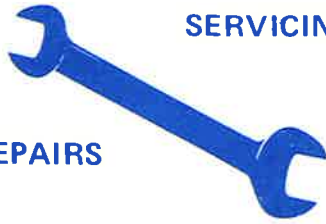


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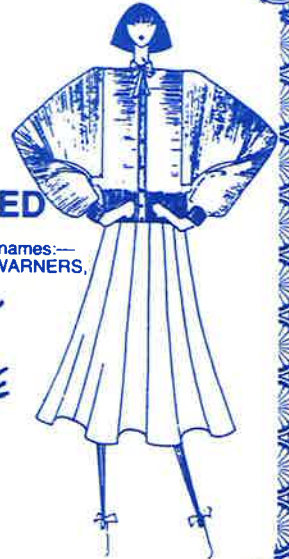
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keep the weeds down feed and exercise the dog
feed the cat, budgie or fish forward the mail

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