

Jan 1986

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



Lent 1986 should mark a significant step forward towards Christian unity in this country. It is expected that over one million Christians will try and discover how God wants them to work together in the years ahead.

A Lent course has been produced which includes local radio, cassettes and study guides, and these aids will be used to help answer the question 'WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR?'

We in Stansted intend joining in this nationwide programme by forming house study groups and meeting together on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm for worship, talks and discussion. Those who take part in the discussions will have the opportunity to confidentially complete a questionnaire which will be sent to those responsible for 'Not Strangers but Pilgrims', a three-year programme of prayer and discussion to bring Christians together. This programme, launched in May this year, will come to a climax in 1987.

So, will you help us plan the Church of tomorrow? If you want to know more or would like a copy of our explanatory leaflet, please ring Barry Rose on 812203.

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  
16th January for February issue  
13th February for March issue

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS?



"Our church is very liberal: four commandments and six do-the-best-you-cans."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO "SUNDAY"

8.15am AND IT'S SUNDAY BBC

ONE OF THE real 'success stories' of religious broadcasting is a programme that has become part of the weekend routine for many Radio 4 listeners - 'Sunday'. It is a *religious* (rather than exclusively *Christian*) news programme, and is also world-wide in its coverage rather than parochial. It began 14 years ago, as an experiment: a live, topical religious news magazine of the air.

Now, over 70 per cent of the audience for the 8 o'clock news stay tuned to 'Sunday', giving it an audience comparable in size to the influential 'World this Weekend'.

I think it's true to say that it's the only regular programme on Radio 4 to have a bigger audience nowadays than it had ten years ago.

REASON FOR HOPE

"GOD IS as he is in Jesus - so there is hope. Our faith and vision of God's love enable us to live with the intolerable, to endure the pain of helplessness and death, and still to celebrate and worship him in the midst of reality."

- DAVID JENKINS, Bishop of Durham

Ever since the beginning of November I know that my thoughts and those of many others have been with Pete and Ann Webb and their family in Bogota; wondering if they were safe, after the murders at the Palace of Justice in Bogota, followed so soon afterwards by the terrible earthquake. Knowing that they were living in a suburb of Bogota we were fairly confident that all was well with them, but I was so delighted to receive a letter from Ann towards the end of the month, that I felt certain that you would like to share parts of it.

I managed, just, to get her Christmas greetings into the December "Link". Before Ann went to Bogota I did ask her to see if there was any way that S.A.C.C. could be of help to the Church out there. Ann writes just after the terrorist attack on the Palace of Justice, and before the earthquake.

"You will know as many of the details (probably more accurately reported in the British papers than here, where everyone is still a bit hysterical about it) as we do, so I won't describe it further. Suffice it to say that we were never in any danger as the government and justice buildings are miles away, the other end of Bogota, and the army had the area sealed off very quickly. I ask you all in Stansted to join me in praying for the families of those who died and indeed for the future of this country. Although I condemn, as must any sane person, the dreadful violence that the terrorists use to try to achieve their aim of social justice, I cannot deny that they are justified in their demands for social reform.

Although nine months have passed since I arrived here I have not forgotten your suggestion of help from S.A.C.C. to the Church here. The difficulty has been in finding a single Church body! I attend my local (Spanish speaking) Catholic Church quite regularly but, apart from the language problem I do not get any feeling of "outreach" from the community there.

That brings me to the English speaking Christian Community. There are in fact many different denominations, some of which from the U.S.A. I have never even heard of! But I have made contact, both with the minister and many of the congregation of three Churches which together represent similar denominations to those in Stansted.

- 1) The P.C. Chaplaincy, a small community almost entirely American, which uses the chapel of one of the public schools here, because they are not large enough to sustain the cost of their own building. They are served by a group of mission priests from the U.S.A. who live in one of the slum areas called Kennedy, and run a school for poor children there. The fund raising activities of the church are aimed towards assisting these children's further education.
- 2) St. Albans Episcopal Church, another small community, about half Church of England members and the other half American or other nationalities who are Anglican or hold similar Protestant

beliefs. Their priest is American, but he has worked in many Third World countries. They share a building with the third Christian Community that I have met. These two are both involved in missionary and fund raising for a slum district called Barrio Juan XXIII behind the church.

- 3) The Union Church, the largest Christian community, covering a multitude of Non-Conformist denominations, again mostly American, although there is one delightful elderly English lady who has been here for 30 years, but came from a Salvation Army background in the East End of London. The pastor and his wife are Monnonite and two close friends of ours are Methodist and Presbyterian. I have been to a few of their services and they remind me of the United Reformed Church services in Stansted.

So you see that we are a very mixed bunch. There is a great deal of friendship and cooperation between the Churches. I belong to two study/prayer groups and feel equally at home in each; one with the R.C. Chaplaincy and the other in the Union Church. Throughout the year there are United Services for special festivals. The Good Friday service was especially memorable, not only these three Churches but eight different ministers with their congregations took part. So in a sense we are a very united Christian community but unfortunately there is no single body or organisation like S.A.C.C. Perhaps it's my mission to initiate one. I am afraid there is no group of Friends, much to Pete's sorrow.

Please pray for us, and of one thing you can be certain, if you felt like directing a money raising effort to a possible need in Bogota, the need is here, without a doubt. The difficulty would be deciding which of the hundreds of needs should be met first. I would weep, and do, at some of the sights in the streets, even here in the "best" residential districts. As for the slum districts - I would be ashamed to visit them unless I were prepared to really work and live among the people there. They need a Mother Teresa or someone of her faith and strength.

To end on a more cheerful note, I am still enjoying my life here and finding myself more involved in different activities, within and without the Church, everyday. I hope to be in Stansted for most of our home-leave next year (July - September) and would like the opportunity to speak to a S.A.C.C. meeting.

My love and prayers to you all.

Ann "

Ann certainly gives us a good picture of the Church and I have replied to her letter asking her for dates in September, in case there is a possibility that she might be able to speak at our meeting in September.

Margaret Booker

Executive S.A.C.C. meeting Tuesday  
January 7th at 8.15 p.m. in the United  
Reformed Church Hall.

## Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Services:** Morning Service - 9.30am.

"I like the human race. All my family belong to it. And some of my wife's family do also!" An old chestnut joke that most of us have heard and some of us used. As a genial, friendly leg-puller it's alright - a bit of family fun. But in wider terms it speaks of attitudes that are not genial leg-pulling and certainly not fun. For instance: All white people are civilised and some coloureds are also. Or, all educated people are fit for the Kingdom and some uneducated ones also. Or again, all Methodists are in the true Church and some Catholics too. And we can switch the types and labels round according to what we happen to be. We don't usually say it overtly in words, but rather in unconscious or half-conscious assumptions and attitudes.

January brings the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - a time to think of the hidden assumptions and attitudes that influence us far more than we know and play havoc with the human family. What is the Church and who belongs to it? The answer looks obvious. "It's such and such a consecrated building and the people who meet in it". Fair enough. That's a vital bit of the answer for those particular people. After all, our English word Church comes from a Greek word which means "House of the Lord". It's so comforting is that; a nice, safe, convenient and manageable idea. That will not disturb or challenge us too much. We can live with it.

But that particular Greek word which we have taken over into English does not appear in the Bible, though over eighty other words or phrases for Church do. One of the best and most powerful of those eighty odd words is "ecclesia". It began life not as a religious word but as a political one. It was an assembly of the people called together by their political master. They were all called together - rich and poor, learned and ignorant, strong and weak, good and bad - to consult, to celebrate, to make laws, to take

decisions, to declare war. Such an ecclesia included everybody in that tribe or kingdom. A noble example of an all-embracing, open, accepting spirit.

Sadly that noble spirit no longer attends the word ecclesia or Church. The concept has been devalued. Instead of being open and all-embracing communities our various ecclesias became, for hundreds of years, labels that identified our exclusiveness and cut us off from others. Our names became badges of bigotry, suspicion, censoriousness and invincible ignorance of one another. Thank God we are moving away from that in our time. But we still have a long way to go - all of us. A long way for the Unity of the Church. Much further for that total ecclesia which is the unity of all mankind. When I say "I am a Methodist" I may imply "And not an Anglican, thank God". And when I say "I am a Protestant"; I may mean, "Thank God I'm not a Catholic". And if I say "I am a Christian", my main aim may be to make it clear I'm not a Jew or Muslim or Hindu". I can so proudly proclaim my label in order to delineate my difference from others and keep them at a safe distance.

But this will not do today. In fact there never was a time when it did do! As Colin Morris has written, "I am more than a Methodist, more than a Protestant; yes, more even than a Christian. I am first and foremost a member of the human race, so to that must be my prime allegiance. I have only one ecclesia - mankind." Oneness for the Church is important for its own sake. It is even more important as one of the foundation stones for the oneness of mankind. God is the God of all the earth. We need to live what we sing, "The arms of love that compass me would all mankind embrace".

Love to you all.

Harold Fisher

Methodist Fellowship Dates:  
10 January, 14 February, 14 March

Shalom Group Dates:  
13 and 27 January, 10 and 24 of both February and March

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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:**

11am each Sunday

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

best wishes for a  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

to all our LINK readers from the Ministers, Elders and members of the Stansted Group of United Reformed Churches at Stansted, Clavering, Widdington and Newport.

May God bless you and yours in 1986 and may it be a year filled with His peace.

Rev. Eric McIlwain  
Rev. Lydia Rapkin  
Miss Dorothy Oswald, Group Secretary

JANUARY SERVICES

5th 11.00 Rev. Eric McIlwain  
Holy Communion  
12th 11.00 Rev. Eric McIlwain  
Family Service  
19th 11.00 Mr. Eric Swan (Saffron Walden)  
6.30 SACC Week of Prayer for  
pm Christian Unity  
Host Church Methodist  
26th 11.00 Rev. Lydia Rapkin

FEBRUARY

2nd 11.00 Rev. Lydia Rapkin  
Holy Communion

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

At our last meeting in November the hall was enhanced by the lovely arrangements displayed by Janet Townsend and Evelyn Sowter.

They had Christmas in mind and gave us many ideas which looked so simple when arranged by experts, but our own efforts may help to

brighten up these dull days.

At our meeting we welcomed our old friends - the Caledonians who have been coming to dance for us for many years. It is amazing how many Scottish dances there are with such attractive names. We were full of admiration for the way in which they remembered each one.

M. C. JOHNSON

## 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.

So into a new year we spring, January from December, which was busy and festive, maybe sad for some but for all Christians a time for rejoicing. Now the days will grow longer but as yet hardly noticeable and nature will soon begin to stir under it's wintry blanket of sleepiness.

1985 - remembered for violence; air, road and rail crashes, hurricanes, volcanos, hi-jacking, child abuse, starvation, the latent disease - asbestosis, racial riots and so on ... A year of disasters never to be forgotten. I cannot readily think of anything great that happened which was reported in the media but I know that all these dreadful things have led people to help one another, to pray for one another and maybe Man will gradually learn to make this world a better place in which to dwell. It certainly encouraged people to give of themselves, time and money and we must look at the generosity as more important than anything else if we are to keep sane, although we who are not involved directly cannot fully understand the loss of loved ones, homes and indeed whole families wiped out.

Of course, on a more personal level we must look at ourselves entering into a new year of our lives, hopefully wiser, having learnt from past mistakes which hopefully keep us humble. For my part, I must thank God for all the people I have met, the friendship I have encountered, the love I have been shown, the mistakes I have been forgiven. The real blessings of a smile or a kind deed, the real beauties of new birth and old age, the patience and tolerance of so many 'beautiful' people that I know and love dearly. For prayers answered and for little miracles granted.

Let us enter 1986 with a truly uplifted,

optimistic and positive approach and attitude knowing that life is so short and time very precious, trying to live each day as God would have us, following Christ and His way leading to His truth and peace of heart and mind.

A very Happy and Peaceful New Year to you all.

## 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.

## HEALING

### Vicar's Notes

A few months ago I discussed with a group of people what we should think about on Sunday mornings in Lent. Many topics were mentioned until we discovered that we all wanted to consider the Christian Healing Ministry. It seemed that so many questions were floating around in our minds. "Does God send sickness?"; "What does it mean to be healed?"; "Does prayer really make any difference to the sick person?"; "Did the healing miracles of Jesus happen exactly as described in the New Testament?"; "What should we do about it?"; were some of the questions raised.

After our discussions I contacted Dr Martin Israel, one of our leading authorities on Christian healing ministry. He is a man of vast experience and as well as being a parish priest and an author is in great demand as a lecturer. I was somewhat surprised and

pleased that he not only agreed to help us plan our course, he was also willing to come to Stansted to lecture.

So on Sunday, February 9th at 6.30 p.m. in St. John's, Dr. Israel will talk to us on the healing ministry and I suggest you put a star in the diary now.

Our other Lent preachers include, the Rev'd Denis Duncan, Director of the Church's Council for Health and Healing (a body which works with twenty three Churches in this country and the medical colleges), the Rev'd Bill Eggington, former Vice Chairman of the Guild of Health and the Archdeacon of Colchester, who as a parish priest developed the healing ministry in his parish. Our aim and purpose is to help us in developing the healing ministry here.

This is a subject, I know, which is important to everyone and I hope you will grasp this opportunity to hear some of the foremost authorities on healing. Over the past few years, we in Stansted, have been very fortunate in having with us during Lent preachers who are perhaps not so well known through the mass media, yet are very well known in the Church as people who could be considered as experts in their field. They are all busy people who preach and lecture all over the country - and yet they are willing to come to us for a weekend. I sincerely hope that this is realised and that you will support our Lent programme so that together we can expand our Christian Healing Ministry here in Stansted.

More details in next month's Link.

God Bless and a blessed 1986.

## DO WE EXPECT HEALING TO HAPPEN

THE BIG ISSUE is whether the Church, as well as *caring*, takes part in medical *healing*.

When churches have services which include prayer for healing, what is being prayed for? Is it simply that we are bringing our problems to God, which is very right and proper? Or do we expect anything to happen? A lot of the so-called ministry of healing has no theological depth, no expectation that the Lord is going to do something, and that we can have authority in prayer. On the other hand, imagining that healing is our right is a fallacy. The difficulty is balancing ourselves between these two positions.

*Hospital Consultant REX GARDNER in the Administry survey 'Get Well Soon'*

## SHROVE TUESDAY

11 February

.....

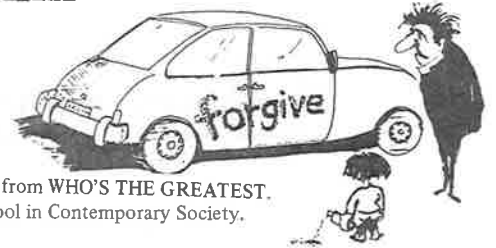
**FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE**

Church Hall

8pm

## GREENSTED AND SPENCE

Those of us who went to St Andrew's Church Greensted on November 20th thoroughly enjoyed the Eucharist and meeting the Vicar, Philip Spence and his wife Monica. It was obvious that Fr Spence has a tremendous sense of humour but perhaps it was not realised by some present that he is a cartoonist. Here is an example of his craft -----



A drawing by Philip Spence from WHO'S THE GREATEST. A study of the Sunday School in Contemporary Society.

# Youth News

The Youth Club programme for the first few months of 1986 is as follows:-

5 January	House Discussion Group
12 January	Darts, Snooker & Table Tennis Tournaments
19 January	Music Quiz
26 January	Team Hockey
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 WEEKEND (No Youth Club)
9 March	Games Evening
16 March	"Home Brew"
23 March	Panel Game
30 March	EASTER SUNDAY - NO YOUTH CLUB
6 April	House Discussion Group

## TO BE ARRANGED

Cinema visit  
Treasure hunt  
Swimming outing  
Orienteering in Hainault Forest

## CONFIRMATION 1986

On Sunday June 1st the Bishop of Colchester is coming to Stansted for a Confirmation Service. On Wednesday January 8th at 7.30 pm we are holding a Confirmation Enquiry Evening for anyone who is interested in discovering more about Confirmation. If you would like an invitation to this meeting please contact one of the clergy.

?????

CONFIRMATION

ENQUIRY

EVENING



## CHURCH DIARY

### January

- 1st The Naming of Jesus Holy Communion  
10 am and 7.30 pm  
2nd Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am  
6th Epiphany of our Lord. Sung Eucharist  
8 pm  
8th Confirmation Enquiry Evening - The  
Vicarage 7.30 pm  
14th Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm  
19th Unity Service 6.30 pm  
21st Communion to pray for Christian Unity  
7.30 pm  
25th Conversion of St Paul Holy Communion  
9 am  
26th Education Sunday  
27th PCC Meeting 8 pm The Rowans,  
Bentfield Causeway

### February

- 1st Diocesan Synod  
4th Education/Ministry Group 8.15 pm  
The Vicarage  
9th Dr Martin Israel 'The Church's  
Ministry of Healing' 6.30 pm St John's  
11th Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

- 24th Nov Daniel James Eltis 10 Brook Road  
Thomas William Eltis 10 Brook Road  
Oliver Lewis Fletcher  
32 Wetherfield  
4th Dec Cindy Persis Tozer  
6 Hostel Bungalows  
Matthew John Abbotson  
3 Cawkell Close

### Welcomed into the Church

- 8th Dec John William Ayres  
82 Lower Street

### Departed

- Ethel Alice Warren, 60 Manor Road  
Aged 79 years  
Lilian Anne Gillham, 62 Manor Road  
Aged 74 years  
Rita Kinnard, 7 Portland Place,  
Stortford Aged 69 years  
Edward Laird, 3 Water Lane Aged 92 years  
David Brett, 104 Cambridge Road,  
Aged 53 years  
Ernest George Morton, 4 High Lane  
Aged 68 years

## MOTHERS' UNION

Thank you for the help given by many of you at the Autumn Fair and also in serving tea at the Family and Christingle Services.

January is party time - and this will be held in St. John's Church Hall on Wednesday January 22nd at 2.30 p.m.



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## Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for worship:** 11am.

## AN EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA

Recently I was staying in Zimbabwe, with a son who is Headmaster of a large Secondary school. We heard much of the developments and happenings there but I have chosen the following as being "truly African".

Anyone who has lived in Africa knows that witchcraft and witches are a powerful influence in the lives of most people. Even the well-educated, highly qualified and Christian people are still very much under the influence of witchcraft and take heed of it "just in case". So it caused little surprise when there was an outbreak of unease, not to say panic, amongst a group of schoolgirls who had been led to believe that there was a witch amongst them and that they were being "bewitched". This went on for some time and was obviously having a bad effect on the girls concerned. Now, to believe you are bewitched can cause serious problems. I was at a school once where a girl, a clever girl, just about to sit her final teacher's exams, came to believe that she was bewitched. Medical people said there was nothing wrong but the girl became more and more ill and just died. This story could be duplicated time and time again. So, my son became concerned and wondered how best to deal with it. The deputy-headmaster is an African man so the matter was put to him. He called the girls together - just the African girls as the white girls were not implicated.

Now it took much longer for him to talk to them than it does for me to write what he said, because Africans are good orators. The gist of it was this:

"This is all rubbish and I do not believe in it. It has got to stop. If I find any girl who has been bewitched, I shall beat her." (It is not really this kind of school but drastic measures were called for). "And, (more dramatically) if I find the Witch, I shall beat her too!"

The whole bewitching episode was over. No more was heard of it.

A triumph for the man who knew what was wrong and evil and had the courage to say so.

Mary E. M. Robinson

## Village News



## & FUTURE EVENTS

### January

9	8.00	B.S. & District Recorded Music Society - Day Centre
13	7.30 for 8.00	W.E.A. first meeting Day Centre

### STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is anxious that an on-going pictorial record is kept of the village both as it was and as it is now. Mrs Gwen Harbridge of Sallings, 9 Millside (813448) is presently sorting out a large collection of old photographs for the Council and anyone with either old or recent photos or prints which might be incorporated is invited to get in touch with her. We should also be glad if anyone is prepared to spend some time taking photos of the village as it is now which may be kept as a permanent record.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all those who supported the December coffee morning in aid of Irving Sanders Memorial Appeal for the renovation of the Fountain. Over £117.00 was raised.

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, the Parish Council sends all its parishioners best wishes for a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

### CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU - VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Citizens' Advice Bureaux have been serving the local community for many years, since 1939 in fact, and in Harlow since 1956.

Over the years the problems we deal with have become more complex, the clients more numerous, but our aims remain the same; to ensure that individuals do not suffer through ignorance of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available; or through an inability to express their needs effectively.

In the Harlow Bureau recently there has been an increase in the numbers of clients coming to us with problems of Unemployment, Debt, Family Breakdown, Housing and Supplementary Benefits to name but some.

The need for more volunteers to train to be advisers in Harlow is acute, but they are not easy to find.

The qualities we look for are common sense, a sympathetic attitude, patience and the ability to listen.

If you have time to spare and would like to know more about the work, please phone Harlow 24400 for an appointment with the Organiser.



### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Our Social Evening on 21st November was enlivened by the performance of eleven lovely ladies from the evening W.I., resplendent with their red bows, who gave us non-stop entertainment with songs, stories, poems, a quiz, etc. culminating in a delightful dance by four inimitable "Christmas Owls".

Refreshments of jacket potatoes and fruit salad were then consumed and the raffle drawn. Truly a memorable evening.

Mrs. Little wishes to thank all those ladies who made cakes and who helped to prepare sandwiches, etc. for the British Legion Carol Service; and also members of the Youth Club for their help so cheerfully given.

No Branch meeting in January.

Pat Clower

### THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

We hope everyone had a most enjoyable Christmas. January always seems dull after the festive period so how about joining us in the Children's Room at The Cricketers, Clavering (yes, children included). Hoping to see you at lunch time on Monday 13th January. If anyone requires transport, contact a committee member and we will try to arrange a lift for you.

Expectant Mums and Under 1's are always welcome at the Friday morning get-togethers, 10.30 - 12.00. Venues as follows:-

10th Jan at Sally's, 22 Alderbury Road  
17th Jan at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft  
24th Jan at Clare's, 47 Gilbey Crescent  
31st Jan at Debbie's, 13 Blythwood Gardens

Venues for these and the Thursday morning Toddler Group are always in detail on the diary sheets available from the clinic or library.

Happy New Year everyone.

Sally Brown

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



"May I, through the courtesy of your columns, extend my very grateful thanks, which I know will be coupled with the thanks of all members of the committee of the Stansted Branch of the Royal British Legion, to the many people who gave so generously of their time to participate in the recent Poppy Collection. Over £1,200 was raised which is a magnificent achievement, and it says much for the generosity of everyone.

As the local organiser of the Poppy Appeal, I am very conscious of one thing: this was my first year and I fear that I may have offended some people who in the past have sold poppies, but this year weren't asked to do so. I hasten to assure those people that there was no intention of leaving them out, but it was simply a question of my not having their details. I am anxious to have as many outlets as it is possible to establish, and I would plead with anyone - shops, offices, restaurants, public houses - who are prepared to offer sales outlets in the future to contact me."

F. A. S. Dod  
10 Highfields  
3affron Walden  
Essex CB10 2AD



## STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

We have started playing tennis on the floodlit courts at the Mountfitchet High School. We hope to make a permanent booking on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 10 pm. If anybody other than Club Members is interested in playing on these evenings we would be very pleased for them to join us. Just contact Janet Hollis - B/S 812073.

We continue to play on Sunday mornings from 9.30 am and Ladies on Wednesday mornings from 10 am - 11.30 am.

We have a special subscription rate for winter members.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis B/S 812073.

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD & DISTRICT RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

The next meeting is on January 9th at 8.00 pm in the Day Centre.

### Programme

Berlioz - Overture: Benvenuto Cellini  
Respighi - Fontana di Roma  
Tchaikovsky - Capriccio Italien  
Saint-Saens - Symphony in F "Urbs Roma"

Mary Scoles

## STANSTED WEA

The subject of the spring course of Stansted WEA is "The English Country House - An Architectural Appraisal", to be given by Mr. D.R. Hance, Dip. T.P. Beginning with the Medieval Hall Mr. Hance will examine the styles of building through the Tudor reigns and over the following four hundred years to the early 20th century. Among the architects to be discussed will be Inigo Jones, Wren, Adam, Nash as well as the life-style of the people who commissioned the houses to be built. Mr. Hance will illustrate his lectures by showing slides. It is hoped to arrange an outing to visit some of the houses discussed.

The ten-week course will be held, as usual, on Monday evenings at the Day Centre.

First meeting January 13th, doors open 7.30 pm for lecture at 8 pm. New members are always welcome. If you require further details please ring Jean McBride B/S 812214.



## NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

The Programme Planning Meeting was well attended as usual, members bringing along a local dish from their own particular part of the country. The evening resulted in the compilation of a varied programme and will hopefully provoke a great deal of discussion over the next few months.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a quiz "So you think you know your rights" where we will all most probably find that we don't. Also in the New Year we will all be getting together to have dinner at a local restaurant.

Stansted NHR is always pleased to welcome new members. We aim to provide stimulating and lively meetings for women on a variety of subjects. Our new programme will shortly be on display in the library and any further information can be obtained from the local organiser.

Lyn Inston  
Local Organiser  
B/S 814051



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mr. Ken Muir, the strawberry and soft-fruit grower was a recent visitor to the Club. He spoke on all aspects of soft-fruit growing, from the preparation of the soil prior to planting through cultivation and cropping to how to deal with pests.

He illustrated his talk with several slides which included pictures of both newly bred and rarer soft fruits, such as Boysenberries and Worcesterberries.

He brought along a wide range of plants for selling at the end of the evening, and answered many questions on growing soft-fruits.

Ros Allen

STANSTED CARNIVAL TRUST FUND  
FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

We have now helped over 8 families last year with fuel, clothing, holidays and Christmas gifts for the children which were in most need.

We would like to thank the Carnival and Stansted Art & Craft Market for their very kind donations enabling us to carry out these very rewarding tasks.

If any other organisations would like to contribute to this fund you can contact myself, Brenda Scarr, Marion Johnson or Dr. Hazzard.

Many thanks and a Happy New Year to all.

Sylvia Osborne  
Tel. 813599

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

Congratulations and thanks to the teachers at Sideways Nursery School who brought out from the children a very moving version of the Nativity. Their short but delightfully sweet performance was very well acted this year and the robust and enthusiastic singing of the carols by the children put the audience (who were supposed to be helping them out) to shame!

Adding a touch of scenery was a specially modelled crib and a Christmas tree filled with very eye catching decorations which had been made by the children to great effect.

A Happy New Year to one and all from Sideways!

HUM JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

The club continues to be busy and we seem to be getting more sophisticated as our members get older. Trips to a pub! Who would have thought it a few years ago with all the little ones getting up to their own particular brand of mischief.

Regular features of the club evenings are now established. Father Tony's services are always enjoyed very much and looked forward to. Heather's beauty classes are a favourite with the girls. Bingo evenings are held at not too frequent intervals (so that boredom doesn't creep in). There are no cash prizes so we aren't encouraging gambling or attracting those professional players who roam round when prizes are high.

This month a trip to St. Mary's School to see the pantomime was much enjoyed. Of course the highlight at this time of year is our Christmas Party and it is looked forward to with great anticipation. I fully expect there will be the usual clamour for Father Christmas. No matter how the members grow the excitement when he enters is terrific. He's a grand old

fellow (sorry Derek!).

We hope all our friends had a Merry Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

Betty Lockwood

OVER THE RAINBOW

A tired "member of the public" crept into St. Mary's School for their first performance of "The Wizard of Oz". And what a treat it was - it woz! A beautifully presented production; such well-rehearsed, originally-dressed children, fine music by pianist, chorus and excellent soloists.

I especially enjoyed sitting near the lighting controls and seeing the colours change on the lovely set with its varying trees.

Congratulations to the cheer-leader who got the Over 60's Club singing and special thanks to the Headmaster and to Mrs. Johnson for such a splendid production.

I was kindly offered a lift on the way home but I declined, having had my lift - "Over the Rainbow".

P.S. We ALL pat the Dog!

Phyllis Harrison



"OUR VILLAGE"

Just a while ago whilst turning over some photographs I was suddenly taken back to my Cub-Scouting days regarding the Gang Shows that were performed by the Scouting and Guiding Movements of the village, and held for a good many years in the Central Hall.

Although many helpers were involved in these productions, a few names that spring to mind, Mr. M. Treacher (Scout Master), Miss W. Funstone (Cub Mistress), Mrs. N. Adams (Piano), Mr. Rodgers (Producer), and of course many more without whom it would never have taken place.

I well remember the frustration caused (but did not understand why) to these "willing helpers" right up until the performance was done but in the end these shows were well received by I suspect a very understanding audience. The changing and make-up rooms being the rear hall and the dungeon (a dark window barred basement room).

The very first part I played consisted along with several others being transformed into natives in a Jungle Story. For this part it was necessary (so they

said) to be covered from head to toe (all except for the pieces covered by our grass skirts and wooly tea-cosy hats) in a mixture of cocoa and water. I think it must have been this for it, I seem to remember, tasted O.K., so this was duly done. We were at this time of course Cubs for the Scouts would not have lent themselves to this sort of treatment. I still believe I was blackmailed into taking part as my acting talents remained at zero. No other clothing for this part was allowed to be worn and I well remember the goose pimples being bigger than the muscles any of us boys had accumulated, remembering at this time the work, rest and play chocolate bar (no advertising) was still a once a week treat and then not eaten all at once. It was no good hiding for the call would go out "Boy where for art though, the show must go on" and go on it did.

Now let us turn on a few years to my final act. Let us set the scene on the stage at the Central Hall. The setting, Officers Mess, the place Pooner, Year Ol. One of the lines I had to say was "Oh he did, did he?", and for weeks I practised this line at home and it never seemed to come out right. It varied from "Oh he did he did did" or "He did he did he did" or "He did, did he did". So many combinations (I still cannot say it) I cannot remember if on the night it came out right or did it did, but after this the final curtain fell on my acting attempts.

Does anyone still have a programme for any of these shows?

Questions: What is the Central Hall now used for?  
When did the clock last tell the right time?  
Name at least 6 other purposed the Hall was used for.

P. J. BROWN

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As copy for this edition of the Link has to be submitted early in December before the new committee has met to consider points arising from the AGM, a report of these issues is being postponed until February.

Instead, with Christmas and the New Year still fresh in our minds (and indeed the Poppy Appeal) it seemed appropriate to provide a snap-shot of the work of our Service Committee, which is chaired by the indefatigable Mrs. Stevens. The purpose of the article which follows is to give an insight into practical ways in which the Committee supports ex-Servicemen and women and their widows and dependants in the village.

The locations and the cases mentioned are purely illustrative for the purposes of authenticity (as in a T.V. documentary!) The work of the Service Committee is carried out in absolute confidence - and anyone who needs help should not be

deterred by fear of a breach of that trust.

Anyone needing help should contact Mrs. Stevens on 813562 or Mr. Cecil Traveller, the Secretary, on 815414. Assistance is open to anyone (men or women) who served in H.M. Forces - or their surviving dependants. Membership of the Royal British Legion is not a criterion: (but without the Legion there would be no Service Committee).

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBER

9.30 am early in December! I think I will make the 'Estate' part of the village my destination today. A cold morning; have I got my list of calls, papers old and new? Right - I'm on my way.

First stop Fullers House, to deliver chocolates to ex-Servicemen's widows and wish them a Happy Christmas. A similar call in Park Road. Maitland Road is next on my list; knock at the door - "I'm from the Stansted Service Committee of The Royal British Legion. Can I come in and talk to you?" A chat about the weather and similar topics, then - "How are you managing to keep warm during this cold weather?" As this is an old case, I update the information held on form, and mutually agree that a cheque to help with heating bills from November - March is the best help in this case. After exchanging seasonal greetings I leave and go on to the next call. Similar benefit needed here. The next person visited is unemployed and suffers from ill-health; it is very cold in the home - but as he is not yet 65, groceries are the answer. Have a cup of tea there and press on to see a newly widowed lady of an ex-Serviceman. A different approach is needed - "How are you feeling now, and how are you coping with bills, etc?" I learn that there are problems with meeting the funeral bill, so ask if I can have it. Will apply for a grant from H.Q. but leave small gift, name and phone number. Make a mental note to keep a watching brief for a time.

Next call: help not appropriate, but a general chat about weather, village, etc. brightens her day; another cup of tea; urgent use of "Littlest room" and off again.

Three or four more calls taking same line as first ones - then on to Stoney Common. First call, 'seasonal gift' and again use of "Smallest room". Three more to do today. The next person doesn't get out at all so is pleased to have someone call and chat about village gossip and goings on. Heating help needed again here and eventually manage to leave and make remainder of calls.

Homeward bound at last. I feel tired and will be glad to be back home again; around five o'clock now - a long day but well spent; everyone is so grateful for visit, chat and help.

Heating and grocery help is funded by Legion Headquarters from National Poppy

Appeal money. Seasonal gifts to show old friends that they are not forgotten are funded from money donated by local Branch to the Service Committee, and from occasional donations from well-wishers. Last year around 80 calls were made and help or gifts totalling about £800 were distributed in area that we cover.

Emergency cases are dealt with as they arise throughout the year. They can range from help with sudden crises to making living conditions more comfortable.

### STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A Coffee Morning was held on Wednesday, 20th November at the home of John and Janet Hollis.

Orders were taken for Christmas Crackers and Decorations which had been made by members of the Committee over the past few weeks. There was also a raffle and a bring and buy stall. The morning was very well attended and a profit of nearly £50 was made.

The Constituency Bazaar was held at the Foakes Hall, Dunmow, on Saturday, 23rd November. The Bazaar was very well attended and our Member of Parliament, Alan Haselhurst, his wife and children were present for the day. The Stansted Conservatives had a most attractive Christmas Cracker and Decoration Stall, which made a profit of £157. Members of our Committee also provided Ploughmans' Lunches and Baked Potatoes which were extremely popular.

Peter Macphail, the Chairman of Uttlesford District Council, was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting at the Football Club on 11th November. He gave a most interesting talk on the work of the Council and his job as Chairman.

The Annual New Year Dance will be held at Stansted Hall at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 4th January. Tickets are £8 each and £5 each for under 21 year olds.

The next meeting at the Football Club will be on Monday, 20th January at 8 p.m.

All enquiries regarding membership or events to:-

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

# HELPLINE

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### WHAT IS HELPLINE ABOUT?

Often people have some sort of domestic emergency when they need help and none is readily available. It could be through illness or disability, need of temporary child care or an accident in the home. Maybe you need urgent transport in a crisis, or just someone to ease a lonely hour or two.

Whatever the reason, you can obtain help by telephoning this number:

**8 1 6 0 0 8**

between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

### YOU CAN HELP TOO!

This is a community service sponsored by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches. If you would like to help us help people, please let us know that you are willing to contribute your own voluntary services towards this scheme.

Helpline aims to involve the whole community and your help, as little or as much as you are able to offer, would be most welcome. Just complete the questionnaire overleaf by putting a tick beside those numbers which best describe how you would like to help. Please also state the times and days you are definitely unavailable.

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