

Mar 86

The *LINK*



*Stansted
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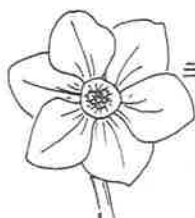
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HAPPY EASTER!
CHRIST IS RISEN!

THE LORD OF LIFE IS RISEN FOR AYE;
BRING FLOWERS OF SONG TO STREW HIS WAY;
LET ALL THE WORLD REJOICE AND SAY:
ALLELUIA!

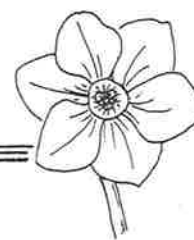
C. A. ALINGTON



AN INVITATION

Why not visit St Mary's and St John's Churches over the Easter weekend, to see the floral displays and the Easter Garden? Both Churches will be open from 2pm-5pm on Easter Day and Easter Monday.

Light refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.



S.A.C.C.

Our Lent programme ends with an Agape Supper on SUNDAY MARCH 23rd in the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.30 pm (Please note the timing!) - The Supper will be a finger buffet - BRING and SHARE - All are very welcome.

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 March for April issue
10th April for May issue

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - MAY 12-18

There will be the usual house-to-house collection during this week, and any more offers to distribute and collect envelopes will be very welcome.

The Saturday Market is on May 17th, 10.00-12.00 am at the Friends Meeting House. There will be the usual stalls - cakes, toys, books, garden produce, good-as-new clothes (no jumble), white elephant and bring and buy. Please give any contributions to your Church CA representatives or to me, or bring them along on the day.

The theme of Christian Aid Week this year is "Change Things for Good". What would happen if we changed tanks into tractors, grenades into chickens, uniforms into clothes and block houses into homes. This is the theme of the cartoon film "The Big If" which will be shown at a Christian Aid evening on Friday May 9th at the URC Hall at 7.30 pm. Please bring and share a supper.

Catherine Dean
813579

MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 9

THANKS FOR MUM!

Everybody has had one - some still have one - others have never been one - some can acquire one - and only women can be one. What? A Mother.

Whenever there is a lot of love, there is often the shadow of sadness. Perhaps that is why God leads us to put a special day aside this month, to reflect and conjure up some echo that fills us with pleasure concerning our mothers - past or present.

We are reminded by Paul, in 2 Timothy, of two mothers, Lois and Eunice. Lois had a great faith in Jesus which she passed to Eunice, her daughter, who in turn, taught that same deep faith to Timothy. Young Timothy was timid and needed strengthening and Paul recounts to him his heritage of sincere faith that these women possessed and passed on.

Are you such a grandmother, godmother, stepmother, foster mother or mother? Are you grateful for the faith your mother taught you, and perhaps still teaches?

Mothering Sunday may have had its origins as something altogether different from the Mothers Day of today but it's still a good time for saying "Thank you, Lord, for a mother like that!"

Marion Loach

THE BIBLE SOCIETY

It is some years now since the village of Stansted made a corporate effort for the Bible Society, when the late Miss Tunbridge, with her committee, organised a very successful annual Coffee Morning. This has been troubling some of us for some time, and while we cannot hope to emulate Miss Tunbridge's efforts, a Coffee Morning has been arranged by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Townsend at 58 Chapel Hill on Wednesday 16th April from 10 until 12. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall including cakes, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Admission including coffee 30p.



CHRISTIAN AID

In a recent "Any Questions" programme the panel were asked "To what extent is the life style of consumers in the Western World responsible for the poverty and hunger of people in the Third World?" The members of the panel were divided in their views, some saying that our affluence does deprive the Third World, but not knowing how this situation could be changed. Others thought that the EEC could do much to change its agricultural policy to the advantage of developing countries.

Personally I am quite sure that we could all make an individual adjustment in our life style to bring about change. There is enough food in the world to feed every single person, so why are millions starving? One reason is our eating habits. The four million tonnes of grain that Britain feed to livestock each year would feed half the people of Ethiopia. And some of that grain even comes from Ethiopia!

Facts like this have made concerned people want to do something to bring about a fairer world, and one Christian couple, Hilary and John Ranford, started to cut out meat from some of their meals each week. As a result they have written a small booklet, produced by Christian Aid and Traidcraft, called "Recipes for Change", which has some mouth-watering recipes and tips on how a change in our habits as consumers can help others (and incidentally ourselves). They do include some lamb dishes, as sheep feed mainly on grass on pastureland not suitable for growing crops.

If anyone would like a copy of the booklet it costs 50p and I shall be happy to supply.

Catherine Dean
813579

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.

VICAR'S NOTES

Those of you over fifty will remember the song "At last, at last, you're in my arms". Recently I found myself uttering similar words but in case there is any misunderstanding let me hasten to add I was referring to a book just published by Church House. For years we Anglicans have been wanting a book that we can use for special services during Lent and Holy Week - and now it is here. At last!

This new book, which is commended by our bishops, provides us with services to be used on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. So it will greatly enrich our worship during this season.

The origin of Lent lies in the preparation of candidates for baptism on Easter Day. They prepared by prayer, fasting and acts of self denial and later those already baptised asked if they could join in. So Lent began and Christians began to make it a time of concentrating on the mysteries of the Christian Faith as they prepared for Good Friday and Easter. Alongside this personal devotion the services in Church were made simpler and reflected the spirit of penitence. So the Gloria was not sung, flowers were not used, musicians were asked to play quietly and the word 'Alleluia' was never to be mentioned. We still do all these things and it makes a wonderful contrast with Easter when the churches come alive with flowers and music and the rising

song of Alleluia.

The services we have at this time have very ancient roots and they provide us with such a feast of words and symbolism. They help us go with Christ to share in the suffering of the Cross and to experience the deep joy of the resurrection. I never cease to look forward to them with great anticipation and yet sometimes I feel I do not always adequately convey my enthusiasm. So if you are still reading these notes can I appeal to you to look at the list of our Lent and Holy Week Services, printed elsewhere, and promise yourself a treat by putting the times down in your diary. Make an appointment with our Lord - He will renew us.

Please note that our churches will be open on Easter Sunday and Monday from 2 pm to 5 pm for you to catch some of the joy of Easter by looking at the buildings and the flowers - and you will be able to have afternoon tea in the church hall.

God bless and have a Blessed Holy Week and Easter.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- Palm Sunday** Holy Communion 8am
Blessing of Palms, Procession and Parish Communion 9.30am
Holy Communion 11.15am
Agape Supper 7.30pm
- Monday and Tuesday** Holy Communion 7.30pm
Stations of the Cross 8pm
- Wednesday** Holy Communion 10am
Stations of the Cross 8pm
- Maundy Thursday** Holy Communion 10am
Sung Eucharist 8pm
Chain of Prayer 9pm to midnight
- Good Friday** Holy Hour 12 noon, conducted by the Vicar
Children's service 2pm
Stations of the Cross at St Teresa's 7.15pm followed by procession to St John's. Unity service - 'The Cross of Christ' - hymns, readings and anthems in St Johns 8pm (approx).
- Holy Saturday** Easter Vigil Service of Light 8pm
- Easter Day** Holy Communion 7am St John's
Holy Communion 8am St Mary's
Parish Communion 9.30am St John's
Communion and Hymns 11.15am St Mary's
Baptisms 4pm St Mary's
Sung Evensong 6.30pm St Mary's



THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND

Our second evening together to learn more about the history of the Church in England will take place in St. Mary's School on Monday 21st April at 8 pm. We will then cover the period 1066 to 1549 with three small talks on the following themes:

1. The Norman Influence
2. The Growth of Monasticism
3. The Reformation.

Then on Sunday 27th April we will visit Waltham Abbey and have a guided tour. This Abbey was built by King Harold and is an ideal place for us to visit when thinking of this period of Church history. The monastery there was dissolved by Henry VIII and in a house owned by him, in the Romeland close to the Abbey walls, his advisers talked with Cranmer about the principles which first set in motion the train of events which culminated in the breach with Rome. After the tour of the Abbey there is the town and some may want to bring a picnic tea and stay on for Choral Evensong.



PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 14 April

8pm

Church Hall

ARE YOU ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL?

Forms available from:

Mrs P Clower, 2 Clarence Road



From early April we welcome Mr Colin Hamlyn to help us with our music. He will be our choirmaster and organist and Glynis Homes will be the deputy. For some time we have been trying to get two people to help with our music and now we have succeeded. Mr Hamlyn is from Chadwell Heath and as well as being an organist and choirmaster he also is a percussionist with various orchestras in the City. We would welcome more members in the choir.

GRAND
JUMBLE
SALE

Saturday 12 April

2pm

Church Hall

CHURCH DIARY

March

- 2nd Preacher at 9.30 am Rev'd Denis Duncan, Director of the Church's Council for Health and Healing Baptisms 4 pm St John's Unity Service in St John's 6.30 pm
- 9th Mothering Sunday. Distribution of flowers at 9.30 am Unity Service at URC Church 6.30 pm
- 16th Preacher at 9.30 am the Archdeacon of Southend Unity Service at Quaker Meeting Hall 6.30 pm
- 17th PCC Meeting 8 pm 43 Gilbey Crescent
- 19th St Joseph of Nazareth. Holy Communion 10 am and 7.30 pm
- 23rd-30th Holy Week. For details see elsewhere

April

- 7th The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Communion 7.30 pm
- 6th Fr Tony's last Sunday
- 8th Farewell party for the Bundocks - 8 pm - Church Hall
- 12th Jumble Sale
- 14th Parish Annual General Meeting 8 pm
- 16th Education/Ministry Group 8 pm

DATES FOR THE DIARY

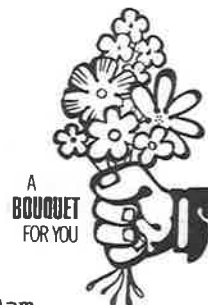
- April 21st History of the Church in England Mini lectures at St Mary's School
- April 22nd Fr Tony's Induction Service at Boreham Wood
- April 27th Visit to Waltham Abbey. Leave St John's at 2 pm
- May 3rd Parish Outing to Norwich

PARISH REGISTERS

Departed

- 21st Jan Pamela Hale, Brixham, Devon Aged 56 years
- 27th Jan Lilian Johnson, 42 Manor Road Aged 84 years
- 28th Jan Job Lewis, 25 West Road Aged 80 years
- 29th Jan Stanley Frost, 40 Bentfield Green Aged 60 years
- 30th Jan Arthur William Patmore, The Nook, Burton End Aged 80 years

MOTHERING
SUNDAY
9 March



PARISH COMMUNION 9.30am
(Distribution of Flowers)

Stall with suitable items for children to buy - 2 and 9 March.



MOTHERS' UNION

The meeting this month is on Wednesday March 26th at 2.30 pm in St. John's Hall. Mrs. Marjorie Cowan will be showing us some slides of her holiday in Norway.

A reminder, that the Deanery Service this year is on Monday April 7th at 3 pm in Berden Church. Tea afterwards. Those wishing to go please let me know.

Dss Margaret

Youth News

- 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
(43 Gilbey Crescent)

Youth Club membership is open to those of fourth year junior age upwards. There is no upper limit!

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Junior Confirmation Class for 1986 is now under way and the Confirmation Service will be at St. John's on 1 June at 10 am.

The programme includes the following forthcoming outings:-

- 30 April Visit Greensted Church (leave St. John's at 6.30 pm)
- 3 May Parish coach outing to Norwich (There is no charge for confirmation candidates)
- JULY Confirmation re-union outing at Hatfield Broad Oak (more details later)

Note also: The Worship Day in St. John's Church Hall on 10 May from 10 am to 4 pm. Also the confirmation sermon spot during 9.30 am service on 11 May and the Confirmation Rehearsal on Tuesday 20 May at 8 pm



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

We take the "Link" for granted. It seems natural to us all that several different groups of Believers can worship in Stansted, can exercise their freedom and discuss their views in sympathy with each other even though only one group is entitled to be called the Established Church of our country. This is not a worldwide opportunity.

Our local group of Amnesty International is at present trying to secure the release of a prisoner in USSR who has been sentenced to two years in a corrective labour colony for exercising his right to freedom of religion in a non-violent manner as a dissenting Baptist. The right to freedom of religion is guaranteed in Article 18 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was ratified by USSR in 1973.

The dissenting Baptists have not registered their congregations with the "All-Union Council of Churches" and therefore are regarded as illegal. Their services may be disrupted, members dismissed from work, fined or imprisoned. The registration of a congregation makes it subject to detailed state intervention including the appointment of its ministers. Viktor Pavlovich Rogalsky is aged 32, he has a wife and five children and belongs to an unregistered congregation in Gagra, in the Abkhaz ASSR Georgia. He was tried last May and convicted of "engaging in anti-social religious activity".

Viktor Rogalsky is one of many people in the world today who are imprisoned because their ideas do not conform to those of the regime of their country. Persecution of religious people stems from the insecurity of those who persecute. At the time of the Restoration of the Monarchy in England in the seventeenth century similar problems occurred.

There was a general belief that conformity in religion would promote internal peace and that the country should be wary of too much toleration of new thought. At the time there were groups of people who felt that there was a lack in the established church, and a need for new interpretation. Presbyterians, Baptists and Quakers were all persecuted for their dissent. However, the steadfastness of dissent throughout 1660s and 1670s prevented the violent revolutions that afflicted other major European countries and won both religious

and political liberty in England.

Truth they said was Truth and did not vary with individual conception of it nor could it be manipulated as seemed most expedient to the people in power at any time.

So in 1985 similar problems beset the world. Fear which leads to insecurity and then to the persecution of others must be attacked at its roots. We do not often meet open persecution in our own country but we all meet fear, both of tangible and intangible subjects. We all know its destructive force in personal and national situations. We must remember those in the world whose courage for truth is still leading them into much trouble.

Mary Rice

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.

THE TREE OF DEATH

I don't suppose there is any Christian who has not experienced a struggle to live up to the ideals of the teaching of Jesus. If you take your Christian faith seriously, you soon realise that the way you want to go is not always the way Jesus points out for you. So we experience many conflicts within ourselves; conflicts of loyalty, conflicts of honesty, conflicts of selfishness and truthfulness.

The early Christian communities were sometimes known as followers of "The Way". People who accepted Jesus and his standard of values, accepted and lived a very different way of life from the normal standard of non-Christian belief and morality. What was this way? Christ's philosophy of existence is that God is the unique source of happiness, being essentially happy. He concludes, therefore that man can be happy only in the measure in which he captures God's happiness.

The life of Jesus on earth was a practical expression of his philosophy of life. The way to this happiness, he taught lies through conquest of self-indulgence, self-exaltation and self-worship. This is diametrically opposed to our natural inclinations. We tend to be ego-centric, not theo-centric. The Christian struggle consists in a constant endeavour to reverse this tendency.

THE TREE OF LIFE

The life of Jesus offers a flat contradiction to the view that happiness is incompatible with suffering. He suffered as no man has suffered. Yet he was happy as no man has been or can be happy. It is true that suffering, being a limitation of life, is in some measure a limitation of happiness. But however intense it may become it cannot necessarily corrupt the substance of human well being. Suffering need not take away from what is highest in vital human activity.

Jesus turned the tree of death into the tree of life. His death on the cross was followed by his resurrection from the tomb and this was followed by the gift of his spirit - The Holy Spirit - to all who accept him, so that followers of "The Way" would be able to follow his advice.

Wishing you every blessing this Easter.

Fr. David Chapman

Services this Easter Period:

Maundy Thursday evening Mass 8.00 p.m.
Followed by prayer at Altar of Repose
Good Friday: The Liturgy commences at 3.00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross at 7.15p.m. followed by a Good Friday Service in St. John's
Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil commences at 8.00p.m.
Easter Masses as on a Sunday:
8.00 Stansted
9.15 Henham
10.30 Stansted

BRENTWOOD - DUNDEE UNION

On Sunday 9th February a group of Stansted Parishioners braved the Arctic conditions to attend a special Mass in Brentwood Cathedral. However, Bishop Michael Rowland found the weather even more intimidating, having left South Africa the previous day - a midsummer day, and a blistering 85°! He came to concelebrate the occasion of twinning his diocese with Brentwood for the next five years. He told us the real name of his diocese, but as it is unpronounceable, we are using the translation, Dundee! He told us something about Dundee, which is about the size of Ireland, and commented that he has only twenty seven priests for the whole area; there were considerably more priests on the sanctuary for our service.

Members of the Justice and Peace Commission have visited Dundee and worked very hard to arrange this twinning, which the Bishop said he hoped would be a two way exchange, with his congregations having much to offer us spiritually, as we have to give them materially.

The Pontifical Mass was both impressive and moving. One of the special highlights was the offertory procession. As well as the usual gifts of bread and wine taken to the altar, there were about a hundred gifts taken up to Bishop Michael for his parishioners, many of them hand made. Representatives from groups and schools

from all over our diocese, people deeply committed to this twinning, formed the queue to the altar. Our Bishop Thomas, and Bishop Michael, spoke with each donor, giving a feeling of real communication between the two communities already.

After the solemn exchange of pledges of the two Bishops, Bishop McMahon impressed upon us the importance of this twinning when he asked his priests to include Bishop Michael and the Diocese of Dundee in the Eucharistic Prayer in all future Masses.

On leaving the Cathedral we all felt that this twinning is a really worthwhile project, and that the people who have initiated it deserve our support and encouragement.

.....

Whilst listening to the Bishop of Cambridge on 'Pause for thought' on Radio 2 recently, the tragedy of the seven American Astronauts was uppermost in my mind, feeling as I am sure most people do, the grief, shock and deep sadness for those bewildered families who watched from the ground in horror as their loved ones were blown to pieces before their eyes. I was struck by Bishop Bill's thoughts when he questioned whether the price wasn't just too high in the cause of space exploration.

I wonder whether at times the price isn't too high here on earth. Do we need to blow ourselves up, burn ourselves out, whilst striving for our goal, something we might well do without or is not really right for us. Sometimes the price tag includes our family and friends and then we become out of touch with reality.

God has given us the whole galaxy to play with, but we could get our fingers burned. Lord, help us to keep our feet on the ground while reaching for the stars.

Mary Warnett



On Mothering Sunday
We thank God for our Mother
and our Mother the Church.



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:

11am each Sunday

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

EASTER, MARK 1956? and MOON MUSIC.
The reason for the question mark is simply that we do not know the date of the first Easter. It could have been March 30, 30 A.D. but we do not know that "for sure" any more than we know the exact year of the birth of our Lord.

It was not until the Council of Nicaea 325 A.D. that a date for Easter was set for the whole church. Obviously it is a moveable feast, falling on the Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox (March 21st). It does not follow the Jewish Passover date (as you might think) which falls this year on April 24th, almost a full month (a moon) later.

I suppose we must remember that in 325 it was a considerable achievement for the Council to come to a decision of any kind (and don't forget, it also produced the Nicene Creed which must have taken many weeks of tedious committee work and careful drafting).

We must also remember that they had to use some kind of reckoning common to all. Not having "beautiful Britain" calendars readily to hand or digital watches on every wrist, the moon was an ideal, universal reckoning point, used by everyone.

The moon was also in a celestial orbit; cold, clear, impartial, governed only by God and therefore beyond man's puny interference. Passover is a full moon festival so there is that historical link aswell.

The same moon which lighted the Exodus Way - the same moon which men thought caused madness - the same moon which governs the tides and is therefore in its monthly cycles "flowing" through our veins - that same moon once again brings us to Easter 1986.

The same moon which fifteen hundred years

before Christ marked the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt, still lights our Passover and Easter observances - 1900 years after Christ.

Surely this continuity, this stability, this extra-terrestrial point of reference, must in itself provide a rhythm, a pulse, a beat, a perennial refrain, a counterpoint to the jangling, discordant music of the everyday.

It may be inconvenient to have Easter shifting back and forth in the calendar as it does - but it does remind us that we are not in charge of our own destiny - a Greater Power sets the boundaries of Life and Death.

A Happy Easter to you all.

Eric McIlwain

SERVICES IN MARCH

- March 2nd 11.00 am - Holy Communion -
the Rev E.A. McIlwain
6.30 pm - Lenten Service,
St. John's
- March 9th 11.00 am - Family Service -
the Rev E.A. McIlwain
6.30 pm - Lenten Service, URC
- March 16th 11.00 am - Mr Michael Dyer
6.30 pm - Lenten Service,
Society of Friends
- March 23rd 11.00 am - Palm Sunday -
the Rev Lydia Rapkin
7.30 pm - the AGAPE -
URC Lecture Hall
- Thurs
March 27th 8.00 pm - Maundy Thursday
Communion
- Fri
March 28th 11.00 am - Good Friday Service
at Clavering
7.15 pm - St. Theresa's -
Stations of the Cross
8.00 pm - St. John's -
Village Good Friday Service
- March 30th 10.30 am - Easter Group Service
Holy Communion

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.

"GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN!"

Our word, 'evangelism', comes from two Greek words, EU ANGELION, which mean 'Good News' or 'A Message about God' or 'God's (Spell) Story'.

Do you think as I often do that newspapers and their journalists must go around looking for bad news? There is so much good news about, but no-one seems to want to print it. So, looking at T.V. or reading our newspapers we wallow in gloom. There are a few exceptions, of course,

which prove the rule; some noble act of heroism or kindness, but this very, very rarely reaches the front page.

In October my wife and I toured Northern Ireland when I had been invited to preach at Centenary Services in Larne. Also we had a short time in the Republic, driving down the coast of Donegal. Everywhere people talked to us about the good will which existed between them and their neighbours, both Protestant and Catholic. Admittedly it was before the Agreement which seems to have stirred up so much emotion in the Province, but I cannot help feeling that the basic attitude which we encountered has not changed greatly. We spent a happy time at the Corrymeela Community which is situated near the Giant's Causeway. The coastal scenery is magnificent, but not so wonderful as the fellowship between Catholics and Protestants who meet, confer, worship and go out with reconciling purpose. This is not regarded as news! BUT IT IS GOSPEL.

Twenty years ago I married a couple from Ireland, Protestant husband and Catholic wife, when they were living in Hanwell; and it was good to meet them again near Ballymena, with their four children. Sydney had the vision to use an empty Methodist Manse, after they built a new one for their minister, for a Club catering for Catholic and Protestant children. It was already being used to good effect to express the feeling that the great majority of ordinary people had - let there be togetherness. This is not regarded as news: BUT IT IS GOSPEL.

We were told in many places that the one hope for the future lies in the attitude of young students, especially theological students. One young Roman Catholic priest, not long from training, let it be known that he was going to visit Free Church services of worship with members of his own congregation. His Bishop promptly suspended him - for other reconciling actions together with this. His courage and the support he received in the town where it occurred is an indication of the trend on the part of the young. This young priest's determination to change attitudes is not regarded as news: BUT IT IS GOSPEL.

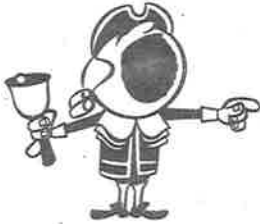
Certainly there were signs which made one see that areas of Belfast and (London)Derry and other pockets were centres of outrageous behaviour which we have come to regard as our daily ration of news (quite valid) from Ireland. And a sense of humour helped a little when one saw a sign such as "FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY - NO POKERY HERE". It made us remember that, nearly fifty years ago, when I was setting out on my ministry, these attitudes were commonplace in England. What a long way we have come now that I, a Methodist, can preach in Barnet Roman Catholic Church and a Roman Catholic Bishop says 'Ronald Rawlings has broken the Bread for us'. There is still some long way to go before we break the Sacramental Bread together, but the progress is enormous. This is a fact which our Irish sisters and brothers

could well take account of with
hopefulness. It is not news: BUT IT IS
GOSPEL.

So, the message surely is 'Be an angel;
go tell it on the mountain'

R. S. Rawlings

Village News



& FUTURE EVENTS

March

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 5 | 10.30 | Ladies Conservatives AGM
Day Centre |
| 6 | 8.00 | National Childbirth Trust AGM
Day Centre - Film |
| 7 | 8.00 | Conservatives Branch AGM -
Day Centre |
| 13 | 8.00 | B.S. Recorded Music Society -
Day Centre |
| 15 | | Bentfield County Primary School
Auction |
| 20 | Evg | British Legion Women's Section
Day Centre - Cookery Demonstration |
| 20 | 8.00 | Stansted Millers AGM Day Centre
- Film |

April

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 16 | 10.00 | Bible Society Coffee Morning
58 Chapel Hill |
| 21 | 8.00 | History of the Church in England
(2) St. Mary's School |
| 23 | 8.00 | Annual Parish Meeting - Peter
Kirk School |

STANSTED AFTERNOON



On a cold, wintry afternoon members met for an enjoyable Meeting. Two newcomers were warmly welcomed and a posy was presented to Mrs. M. Thomason for her birthday. Miss Pimblett, the guest speaker, entertained and informed the assembled company on the subject of 'Churches in Essex'. With the help of film slides, she showed how these churches had withstood the ravages of man and time and the wealth of history and beauty contained in each one - all within easy reach for visiting.

To conclude the meeting, Mrs. J. Grose told the background to some of the best known superstitions with members interspersing their own contributions on the subject.

First prize for the best made Valentine Card was won by Mrs. A. Calver and the lucky winner of the raffle was Mrs. S. Cooper.

Mrs. A. Calver

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.

"OUR VILLAGE"

Throughout our history mankind has seen the need to defend himself, his home, land and village from whatever foe, be it from invaders from overseas, or more local feuding raiders. Our own village would have been under the same commitment as indeed it still is. Until the mid 1960's there was still an active Military Camp at Hargrave Park which had seen many service personnel pass through its gates. (Does anyone have any information about the Home Guard? I would be most interested to hear, no matter how small).

But now let us bring once again to light an event that was witnessed by our villagers in 1904 and chronicled accordingly for parish history. On Monday 5th September we saw the arrival of a Guard's Division whose camp was to be along the Stansted Mountfitchet to Elsenham Road, whilst on their way to take part in the Essex manoeuvres. What excitement they caused it seems they certainly received a great welcome from the village, so much so in fact the school had to be closed as such an invasion proved too much for the children and teachers also. The children it was thought learned valuable lessons in embarking and disembarking, men, horses and guns. We are told the police had great difficulty in keeping back the crowds of visitors in order that the officers might see what was going on. The pity was they did not wear scarlet for recruiting purposes that uniform and cap would kill off any military aspirations.

Now can I ask for your urgent help please. As one of the projects in putting together our Village history, I am compiling a record of shops, businesses and trades that are now with us no longer, and also those of which are still serving our community today. In doing so I am collecting Bill of Letter headings to put together an official record. So if amongst your old papers you may come upon any such articles of Stansted firms (very few contain Mountfitchet) perhaps you may let me know of them. I will keep you informed as to progress through "Our Village".

P. J. Brown
812816



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Time flies! It's once again time for our A.G.M. This is to take place at the Day Centre on 6th March at 8.0 pm. After the official business the film "Through the Eyes of a Child" will be shown and cheese and wine will be served.

"Playing for Real" a talk by Brenda Crowe on 20th March will be held at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft, 10.00 - 11.30. A creche is available at the same address.

Get togethers for expectant mums and under 1's on Fridays 10.30 - 12 noon are as follows:-

- 7th March at Liz's, Moorlands, High Lane, Stansted
- 14th March at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft
- 21st March at Claire's, 47 Gilbey Crescent
- 28th March - Good Friday
- 4th April at Liz's, Moorlands, High Lane

On April 17th we'll be holding a Nearly New Sale of Maternity and children's clothes, toys and equipment. Items must be priced and named. 90% will go to the contributor and 10% to N.C.T. funds.

The other date to note in your diary is 24th April, our Market Stall in Bishop's Stortford. Please start collecting any bric-a-brac, etc. now.

Don't forget nominations for committee are welcome prior to the A.G.M. and subscriptions are now due, £3.50 to Gail Gould, 11 Alsa Leys, Elsenham.

Sally Brown

Huw Johnson Club for Handicapped Children

Our latest venture was a trip to Harlow to see the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, booing enthusiastically the appearances of the villains and cheering loudly when Jack escaped the clutches of the Giant. When the giant proclaimed that he could smell the blood of an Englishman young Andrew shouted "It's not me, it's not me" in order to avoid the giant making a mistake.

We say a big thankyou to all the drivers who were responsible for transporting our members to Harlow and another thankyou to our friends of the United Reformed Church for supplying all the children with packets of sweets which added to the evening's enjoyment.

We are always looking for more helpers on our club evenings. Do you think you could spare a couple of hours on a Thursday evening? I can assure you our members will give you a very warm welcome.

M. G. Johnson

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A lively and interesting discussion was held on a wide range of topics, at the meeting held at the Football Club on 20th January. The meeting was conducted and led by Peter Jones.

Dates in March 1986

Wednesday 5th March - Ladies A.G.M. at the Day Centre at 10.30 a.m. followed by a light lunch. The speaker will be Mr. R. Squires, M.P. for Hornchurch. Tickets £1 including a glass of sherry from: Pat Trigg B/S 812471 or Pam Sutton B/S 815070.

Friday 7th March, Branch A.G.M. at the Day Centre at 8 p.m. The speaker will be our Member of Parliament, Alan Haselhurst.

All enquiries regarding membership or events to:-

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



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

"Cooking for one or two" will be demonstrated by Mrs. Hill, School of Catering, at our branch meeting at the Day Centre on Thursday, 20th March. It promises to be a most interesting evening so do come along. Tickets 30p each including refreshments.

Pat Clower

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB



Our tennis playing has been rather curtailed at the moment because of the snow and ice, but as soon as a thaw sets in we will start playing again.

The last floodlit evening tennis at the Mountfitchet High School will probably be on Wednesday, 12th March, as British Summer Time begins on 16th March, but we may continue for a little longer. Anybody who is interested may either turn up on a Wednesday evening between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. or contact Janet Hollis, B/S 812073 or Dudley Blow, B/S 815970.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club is on Wednesday, 19th March, at 8 p.m. at Little Fosters, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

CHILDREN



Hello Children,

Here we are back again. Thankyou for all your stories. Please send me more soon for next month.

Charlotte and Paul, Alex and Nicola have been looking at words very closely. See how cleverly they have used each letter of the word to try and explain the whole word.

ON MY OWN

Afraid and lonely
Being baked alive
Solitary person
Envious of fishes
Not a drop of water
Consoled and lost
Especially sorrowful

by Charlotte Boucher
4B Age 11

ON MY OWN

Living in a nightmare
Owning unhappiness
Nothingness in your stomach
Empty feelings
Life long misery
Yielding to sorrow

by Paul Kingston
HB Age 11

IN PRISON

Locked up
Outnumbered
No one to be with
Everlasting darkness
Lonely all the time
Isolated inside
Never let out
Endless time
Sinking feeling
Silence everywhere.

by Alex Boucher
4B Age 11

ON MY OWN

Mindless of serious thoughts
Injured thoughts
Scared of death
Empty feelings
Rejected from friends
Afraid of the waves
Broken hearted
Lonely feelings
Endless fear.

by Nicola Scott
4B Age 11

David and James have been thinking about the year as a whole.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January is full of snow.
February brings slush and sleet,
Valentine cards very sweet.
March brings hares and rabbits awake.
April brings St. George's day and April fools.
May its F.A. cup time, who will be?
June brings lots of birthdays.
July brings flowers galore and bumble bees fly round.
August the football season starts.
September brings children flooding back to school.
October brings ghosts all over the world on Halloween.
November bonfires crackling and fireworks soaring.
December brings the birth of Jesus at Christmas time.

by David Bundock
Age 10

MONTH BY MONTH

January with the snow,
Why it falls I do not know.
February with lots of sleet,
People falling at your feet.
March hares have woken up,
And Mother dog has a pup.
April has the Easter eggs,
Mother has breakfast in bed.
May is Mayday one day off,
Watching sport with Frank Bough.
June is when the flowers grow,
Lilly, spring flower and rose.
July is when we go away,
On our Summer Holiday.
August we are in the pool,
Lying down and being cool.
September we come back to school,
No more swimming in the pool.
October is when the leaves turn brown,
Once again they start falling down.
November is Guy Fawkes night,
Fireworks going up giving people a great big fright.
December it is Christmas time,
Lots of presents now they're mine.

by James Hobday
Age 9





Hayley and Insiyab sent me these stories about their Christmas. Even though it seems such a long time ago, I thought you would like to read them.

MY CHRISTMAS

My Christmas began when I brought my dog from the animal shelter. We broke up on the Thursday and he came on the Sunday. I was so pleased that we had a dog. He was so strong he nearly pulled Martyn my stepdad over. My mum called, Heidi, my cousin, she knew Sam before he came to us because she works at the animal shelter. Sam is a black labrador crossed with a red setter. I loved him so much but the only thing was he hated being alone.

My mum and Martyn decided that it was not fair to the dog so they said to me Sam was going back.

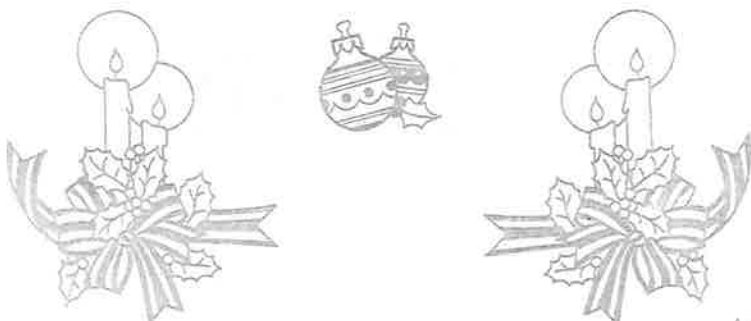
I cried a little and then Sam stuck his nose on my lap and licked me.

Before he went I gave him a treasure hunt. The only thing wrong was he could not find things so you had to guide him.

by Hayley Parker
Age 10

Christmas began for me when
My mum asked me and my brother to put up decorations in our biggest shop. We had a great time knocking things off shelves and jumping off ladders. In the end we finished putting them up. There were lots of decorations left over so my mum said that we could take them home. When my dad was clearing out the garage at home he found a can of snow spray so we sprayed our Xmas tree. We also had decorated my bedroom. When Christmas Eve came my brother and I went to the shop and my brother was on the till, I helped with the bread. Christmas Eve is probably the longest night for lots of children, well it certainly is for me!

by Insiyab Alibhai
3R Age 10



SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

On Wednesday 19th March the children are giving a small concert as part of their Easter celebrations. A Bring and Buy Cake Stall will be held and the draw for a raffle will take place. The proceedings will start around 11 o'clock and hopefully there will be lots of support from both groups on this day which will be rather special.

There are places available after Easter for any children wishing to join Sideways. In certain special circumstances it would be possible to take on children at the age of 2½. If interested please call at St. John's Church Hall any weekday morning between 9 o'clock and 11.45 a.m. and speak to one of the teachers or contact Olivia Wilson on 813405.

BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last term Class 8 were looking at 'Glass' in different forms. On display in the classroom were some bottles which had been melted down (I don't know how) to form shapes which any modern sculptor would be proud of.

Sarah Rogers writes of a visit to St. John's Church

"On Thursday 10th October some of Class 8 went to St. John's Church. We went there to draw stained glass windows. Stained glass windows used to be used for telling stories about history and things. At first people in churches could not afford stained glass so they just put coloured glass in which was cheaper, until they could afford stained glass windows. Some people called Burteson made a window in St. John's Church.

There was a stained glass window in memory of a lady called Evelin Edith Boil who was the first person to get married in St. John's Church. When she was married her last name became Poultney. She was married on June 7th 1890. There was a piece of writing which said "In pious memory Evelin Edith Boil". This window was made by a man called Harold Wilkinson."

Class 8 had also been out and about taking some rather professional looking photographs. Here are descriptions of two of these photos.

The Lonely Lake

It's late afternoon and the wind is blowing softly through the green grass. The lake is moving quietly past the banks. There is no noise at all. The bubbles are moving along popping. The reflections are still unlike the green rushes above. There are meadows behind. Sometimes everything goes still.

Michelle Hobson

The Silent Wood

If I had never seen this photo before I would think it was of the sun shining through the trees in the early autumn morning. Silent except for the sound of a birds wings flapping as it flies. Everything is still. It seems as if someone is going to pop up and creep through the trees any moment.

Sarah Rogers

And lastly a poem by Jane Rawson.

Ivy

Still,
But closing out morning sunlight,
Branching trees,
Overgrown ivy,
Creeping,
Slowly draping,
Overtaking,
Leaves never falling,
Gentle sunlight sloping over bumps
Twigs cracking silently,
Eerie sounds
Imaginative echos,
Cool in shadows,
Hot, Blinding in sun,
Ivy, Creeping.

THE DAY CENTRE

We are most grateful to the Ladies Licenced Victuallers of Hertford for their generous donation to the Day Centre.

After a week of snow how nice it was to go to the Centre and lunch with our friends. Every table was occupied. How pleased we all are with - the Day Centre!

K. M. Jordan

EVENTS DAY CENTRE MARCH

Thursday 6	Keep Fit
Friday 7	Evening Bingo CANCELLED
Tuesday 11	Beetle Drive 2.00 pm 25p
Thursday 13	Keep Fit
Friday 14	Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p
Tuesday 18	Films 2.30 pm
Thursday 20	Keep Fit
Friday 21	Evening Bingo
Tuesday 25	Social 2.30 pm

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

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

Programme:

Romeo and Juliet.

Shakespeare's play portrayed in music by Berlioz, Gounod, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Bernstein.

Mary Scholes
813155

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



SCHOOL REDECORATION

In an attempt to brighten up the school, the County are generously paying for the school to be redecorated.

During the coming half term the landings will be redecorated and the rooms carpeted. The hall is already completed as well as several rooms in the main block.

Anne Wellacott

PANTOMIME '86

In Hatfield Heath there is a drama group called the "Heath Players". Every year they put on a pantomime. I was in it last year.

This year the pantomime was "Robinson Crusoe" written by Christopher Timothy. I got a chorus part and played a villager, a sailor and a south sea island girl.

Mr. Jupe, our Head of Science, played "The Baddie".

There were lots of tiring rehearsals which led up to eight successful performances.

On one performance Christopher Timothy came to see us and came backstage afterwards. After the last show we had a party in which the backstage crew made up their own version of "Robinson Crusoe".

The whole thing was very enjoyable. I shall audition for the pantomime next year.

Clare Deamer 2S

GOOD NEWSPAPER IS USED!

What do you normally do with your papers? Probably most of you throw away. Well, here's something more useful for you to do with them.

Mr. D. Johnson is a teacher at Mountfitchet High School in Stansted. He collects newspaper for Christian Aid, and Maths Department. So far he has raised £107.29 for these two causes. Before it is sent to the Pulping Mill to be treated, the paper is stored in a room at the school. After the Pulping Mill half the money is sent to Christian Aid. They

send the food to wherever it is needed most for the Famine Relief. The Maths Department has also been able to buy eight Casio Calculators with the money.

So now don't just read about Ethiopia and forget about it. Put your old newspaper to good use and help us raise cash. Please send your newspapers to Mr. Johnson at the school.



**WORLD DEVELOPMENT
MOVEMENT**

STANSTED MILLERS

A.G.M. on Thursday 20th March 8 p.m. in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill. Films and photographs of recent and past work at the mill.

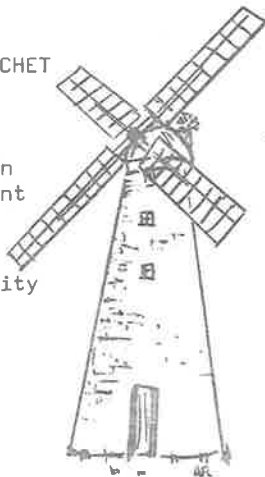
All interested in Stansted Windmill are welcome.

For further details phone Peggy Honour, B/S 813160.

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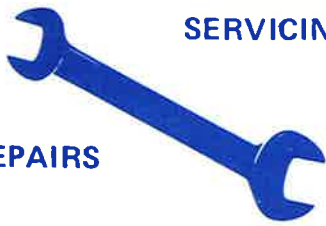
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B S 54225

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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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