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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

PERSONAL

"LINK" rejoices in the safe return from hospital of Deaconess Margaret Booker and, thanking her for all her work as Chairman of S.A.C.C., we welcome her now as new convenor of "LINK" committee. Best wishes for recovery to "full activity"!

We don't forget to thank Mrs. Janet Townsend too, as she hands over "LINK" convenorship after three dedicated years.

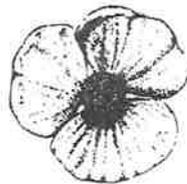
And to Rev. Eric McIlwain, our new S.A.C.C. Chairman. "Good wishes for all you undertake - like 'CHEVETOGNE 1986' - and THANKS!"

**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY NOV 9**

Service -

10.45 At War Memorial, St. John's Gardens
11.00 At United Reformed Church

**REMEMBRANCE
A TIME FOR POPPIES**



The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches.

Annual subscription is £1.75. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

Advertising enquiries to Mr Fred Boyd, 5 St John's Lane. Tel: 812148.

All other enquiries to the Editor, Mrs 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 November for December issue
MONDAY 8th December for January issue - please note!

Welcome by the President of the Congregation

It is a great joy for the parishioners of Conjoux to welcome the English Christians who are with us today, and I am speaking specially to them:

In the name of the whole parish, I would like to say how glad we are to share this service with you and with our Chevetogne neighbours.

There are several reasons why we are gathered in the Conjoux Church: first, because of the delapidated state of the church at Chevetogne, your "host" parish. I think you know services have been suspended there, pending restoration work - to start soon, we hope. As our proverb says: "It's an ill wind" Doesn't that apply here - our having you with us today?

The second reason is that we share the same curé with Chevetogne - Abbé Guy Lucas. I have known him from teenage days, when we wore our pants out on the same class benches, and I can tell you that he has always sought a closer understanding with churches of other confessions. And it was no stray chance that made our bishop entrust to him the special mission for ecumenical affairs and the pastorate for mixed marriages.

In fact, it is not the first time that Roman Catholics and other Christians have prayed together in this church. I think especially of a marriage, in my own family, where catholic and reformed church members gathered round the young couple at this altar.

Once again, the service we have participated in has offered up to God a united and fervent prayer, far beyond the differences that divide us.

The first of these differences is language - and I regret that I cannot welcome you here in yours! May I beg those of you who understand French to interpret to your friends.

The other difference is that between the differing Christian confessions to which we belong: you are showing us how to overcome them. You have come from England with such an experience of collaboration and mutual understanding between Christians that without underestimating the things which can separate you, you can push the obstacles into the background, leaving you free to enjoy together the love of God and of your neighbour.

We may be brothers apart, but you are proving to us how to be brothers first, and only, on a second level - in some degree - apart. You have "taken the plunge" in crossing the Channel for this twinning of your parish(es) with Chevetogne parish.

And today, at Conjoux, we are delighted and proud to have welcomed you and to have had the chance to share in this very special "happening" - a happening which, we hope, will lead to many more.

(Signed) Olivier Goffiard

CHEVETOGNE - OCTOBER 1986

On Friday morning at 7.15 am on 10th October 1986, 15 representatives from the five churches in Stansted set out to visit Chevetogne in Belgium for our first exchange visit. We were certainly not prepared for the wonderful hospitality and genuine friendship offered.

The programme throughout the weekend, with glorious weather, was extremely interesting, with visits to the local villages set in wonderful countryside. We saw the contrasting styles of the Church Foy Notre-Dame and the Roman Church at Celles. We also visited the Monastery in Chevetogne where the 26 monks, half Western Christians and half Eastern Orthodox, are of various nationalities.

On Saturday evening we were entertained at

the village of Haversin. The local children and the local choir sang beautifully to us. We contributed with 'Alouette' enthusiastically led by Monsieur Eric McIlwain.

On Sunday we were warmly welcomed to Mass at Conjoux where Mr. McIlwain read the lesson and we sang a Psalm and a hymn, but we could not quite match the fine choir.

The weekend seemed over so soon and after exchanging addresses and embraces we were accompanied by our host as far as the motorway - on our way home again. We felt privileged to have been among such warm hearted and generous people and look forward to meeting them again when we offer our hospitality some time next year.

Our grateful thanks to the Rev. Eric McIlwain for his hard work in organising the trip.

Mary Warnett and Friends

S.A.C.C.

"THE HARVEST SUPPER"

The village harvest supper has clearly established itself in the SACC calendar as a wonderful combination of worship, feasting and entertainment for the whole family. This year's was notable for the return of former Anglican curate, Rev. Andrew Proud, to give the sermon and the tribulations of the family of the Rev. Eric Muchinpain, but more of that later.

Members of all churches joined the Anglicans for evensong in St. John's, which was splendidly decorated with the fruits of the earth. Andrew Proud's sermon drew comparison between harvest and countryside on the one hand and people and town on the other. We heard how urban development is in full swing in Andrew's Borehamwood parish and how he and his parishioners are endeavouring to look to the future rather than dwelling on rural reminiscences. It was interesting to compare Borehamwood's situation with what Stansted may face.

Supper was good. I am always tempted to try a bit of everything at bring and share meals because there is so much variety. It tasted even better for those who had to queue for quite a long time.

Family entertainment concluded the evening. There were songs from the Trundle family, magic from Fred Boyd and Alice Dean, who is still not quite sure how she managed to conjure up an entry from the telephone directory, and much more than I have column space for. In keeping with tradition, the finale was one of Harold Fisher's masterpieces, a melodrama set around the marital tribulations of the Rev. Eric Muchinpain and his wayward spouse, Rose Barie. I said it was family entertainment yet it was a tale of seduction and debauchery instigated by the arch villain, Tony King.

For those who weren't there, I can only say, don't miss next year's harvest supper if you want to know the other side of our local clergy!

Alan Dean



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:

Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593

Services:

11am each Sunday

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

Dear Friends,

First may I look ahead to December 7th, the Second Sunday in Advent, which is universally observed as Bible Sunday. One of the oldest ecumenical bodies in the churches is the British and Foreign Bible Society. Today the Society provides Bibles for Russia and Poland as for other parts of the world more usually seen as "the mission field". Your church will have envelopes so please give generously.

Secondly, a word about the visit to Chevetogne, Oct 10-12. One word would be "Fantastic" - another would be "Terrific" - another would be "Sensational" and two more would be "Hugely Successful". So many stories will be told by individuals who were there but may I say "thank you" to those who went. I have never seen a happier group than our returning SACC-ers. And I know that we left a very happy and excited group behind in Chevetogne. It was a natural high all round. I do hope that others will record their impressions but I am sure that our abiding memory will be of people who were happy to receive us, sorry to see us go and who could not do enough to make us welcome. Indeed, a cavalcade of cars accompanied us the 6 miles or so to the motorway when we left. Just for all the world like a wedding, which in a way it was: and though it may have been an "arranged marriage" it could not have worked out more agreeably as they would say in French. We look forward to their visit with us next year. And if I may just add a word of thanks to those who rallied round the cause and who not only made the visit possible but also made it so successful. You were all wonderful. A votre sante!

Postscript: 14 were in the party - S.A.C.C. funds could use a slight injection so if you would like to feel that you took part in the only other way possible you might pass along a pound coin to your clergy leaders or church treasurers.

Post, postscript: Thank you Harold for that harvest supper madness which you forced upon us!!

Eric McIlwain

URGENT!

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you can help in the production of the **The LINK**

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov 2nd - 11.00 am - Rev. E. McIlwain
Holy Communion
- Nov 9th - 10.45 am - at the Cenotaph
11.00 am - at U.R.C.
(SACC service) Rev. E. McIlwain
Rev. L. Rapkin
- Nov 16th - 11.00 am - Mr. M. Dyer
Family Service
- Nov 23rd - 11.00 am - Rev. Lydia Rapkin
- Nov 30th - 11.00 am - Rev. Eric McIlwain
6.30 pm - Advent Carols at
St. John's
- Dec 7th - 11.00 am - the Rev. Lydia Rapkin
Holy Communion
Bible Sunday -
Special offering for
the B.F.B.S.

STANSTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

We started our session of our Guild when we welcomed one of our members, Mr. Ivan Thomas, who spoke of his 50 years in engineering.

He worked on many of the airports and motorways, including the M11. His most interesting talk and photos made us realise the enormous problems and responsibilities which face the planners and engineers and the unsettled life he and his family endured.

We held our District Meeting in Victoria Road Church, Cambridge, when members of the Cambridge District met. Mrs. McIlwain was in the chair. The service was conducted by members of the Stansted Group.

The morning session was led by Miss Sheila Rudofsky of the World Council who shewed slides and spoke of the work of the World Council of Churches. Her friendly manner and vast knowledge of her subject made it a delight to listen to her.

The afternoon session was entitled "A missionary today" when we were shown slides of many personalities whom Mrs. Rudofsky knew so well.

We ended the day with a communion service conducted by our minister Rev. Lydia Rapkin with elders from Stansted and Victoria Road as servers.

M. C. Johnson

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.

More thoughts on Chevetogne

There was a time when my Methodist roots would have made me apprehensive about spending a weekend as a guest of a Roman

Catholic community in the wilds of central Belgium. But that seems a long time ago now, and so does the never-to-be-forgotten weekend. My hosts, Berta and Alfred Colmant, went out of their way to make us feel at home, with attention worthy of a five-star hotel. Words cannot express the feelings that came to me as we worshipped in the Byzantine chapel on the Saturday night, and in the beautiful church at Conjoux for high mass on the following morning. Tears do not often come to my eyes, but they were there as we drove off back to the fog, and unending rows of cones which seem to adorn every English motorway! There is more about what went on at Chevetogne elsewhere in this issue of Link, but the best way to experience it is to 'taste and see', so make sure your name is on the list for the next visit.

Michael Dyer

"Listen for a change". That, as you will know, has been the slogan for this year's One World Week. Four thought-provoking words. First they suggest we may not really listen and that we ought to change and begin to do so. I suspect the exhortation is very necessary, not least for people like me who are required professionally to do a lot of talking, but for many others too. When we are people to whom talking comes easily we readily talk very much and listen very little. We can be so dominated by what we want to say that we deluge other people with our verbiage. And in the few, brief intervals when others speak we may not really be listening to them. Rather we may be so pre-occupied with what we want to say next and simply itching to burst in and say it that what the other person is saying just rolls over us.

That is a blatant and obvious way of not listening. There are other ways more subtle and hidden. The words spoken hit our ears. We hear them. But in our minds they undergo an instantaneous translation. What we hear with our ears is not what we hear with our minds. Big changes often take place as the things actually spoken go through the filtering or colouring processes set up by our fears, prejudices, resentments, apathies, fantasies, ambitions, etc. What then comes through to our minds is what has been said, conditioned and subtly changed by the impact of fears, prejudices, or whatever. "Having ears, they hear not", as the Bible says. When this happens we may simply hear what we want to hear, what suits us, fits in with our ideas, and boosts our personal wishes. But if we are a very different type psychologically, then, perversely we may hear what we don't want to hear. What has been said becomes twisted in our minds, so that we hear offensive or damaging things never intended by the speaker.

Oddly we may also fail to listen properly because we listen only with our ears. Listening involves hearing more than words. The inflexions of the voice, the notes of fear, anger, hope, determination, etc. are there and they too are saying something.

Real listening also requires seeing, observing. Eye-contact is vital, so that the person speaking sees the genuine interest and compassion we have for them shining in our eyes. This encourages trust and openness in them. We may see something of their inner state as we notice they are tense, or relaxed, or fidgety and so on. We need to be careful about this, however, lest we see what really isn't there. But careful and discreet observation may help us to "hear" the unspoken messages.

Good listeners are not too plentiful, but they are invaluable and very necessary. So, if we need to, let us change and begin really to listen to other folk. That should bring about other changes. More on that next month.

My love to you all.

Harold Fisher



SHALOM GROUP

Nov. 3rd. A Debate. Venue 23 Burnells Way.
 Nov. 17th Video and Discussion Groups.
 At 9 Mary McArthur Place
 Dec. 1st Prayer & Praise Evening.
 At 1 Blythwood House

All meetings at 7.45 p.m.

More Volunteers Wanted

The LINK is compiled and distributed by local volunteers.
 For various reasons we sometimes need additional help.
 If you can help in any of the ways listed for about two hours a month please 'phone 812593.

- Typing
- Compiling
- Designing (illustrations and advertisements)
- Collation
- Distribution

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Clergy: The Rev'd Barry Rose
 The Vicarage, St John's Road.
 Tel: 812203

The Rev'd Tony King
 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.

THE DEACONESS' NOTES

"Your fan mail"!
 "What beautiful flowers"!

These two sentences I heard every day - while I was in the nursing home at Clifton! each morning when the "post lady" appeared and whenever nurses or visitors came into my room.

I find it difficult to tell you how much I appreciated my "fan mail" and flowers (which now fill the house!) not only from our own congregation but from many other

people in the village - they all meant a very great deal to me - and your love and concern touched me deeply. I didn't dare put out all the cards, for I had over 50! as I thought I might never get my room dusted with them on all the available surfaces. One card had cryptic messages in biblical quotations, one of which was very apt (1 Tim:5.23), for sherry appeared on several occasions before lunch, which boosted my morale considerably!

The fortnight went very quickly because everyone in Blackpool and at Clifton were so friendly and kind and I even found that when I talked with two local Vicars that we had mutual friends! all of which made for a great sense of fellowship with home.

I can assure you - that when you have experienced it, as I did - the knowledge of people's prayers surrounding one and being wrapped in it, was very powerful and comforting - everything went so smoothly and successfully - all the difficulties were "ironed out" - and there was one major problem in matching my blood group - but someone found what was wanted somewhere in Lancashire! and all was well. So may I commend to you the Prayer Support Group which is meeting once a month, to pray for the sick and also the Tuesday evening celebration of the Eucharist for the sick - for your prayers and your presence there will be a real help to the sick and their friends and relatives at this time of crisis in their lives.

It is good to be back home and each day sees an improvement, but until I can cast away my sticks and drive my car I cannot return in "working order" but I hope by early November I shall be a renewed and restored person ready for the exciting new era in our parish life, with the inclusion of Farnham - Thank you all, from me and from Geoff, for many people enquired from him, how I was getting on.

God bless - yours Margaret.



MOTHERS' UNION

Meeting in the Church Hall on Wednesday November 26th at 2.30 p.m. - when Fr. Tony will give us a talk.

CHURCH DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 3rd All Souls. Requiem Communion 8 pm
- 4th Communion to pray for the sick 7.30pm
Communion at Mead Court 10am
- 6th Communion at Normans Court 10am
- 8th Concert in St. John's 7.30pm
- 9th Remembrance Sunday. Unity Service in URC Church 11 am
Youth Eucharist 6.30pm
- 11th Education/Ministry Group 8 pm
The Vicarage
- 17th PCC Meeting 8 pm
- 18th Prayer/Support Group, 22 Bentfield Causeway 8 pm
- 22nd Christmas Market
- 23rd Family Service 3 pm
- 26th Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
- 30th Purses given for Christingle Service
Advent Carol Service 6.30 pm

DECEMBER

- 1st PCC Meeting 8 pm
- 2nd Communion to pray for the sick 7.30 pm

FAMILY SERVICE

Every year we invite those families who have children baptised over the past 5 years to come to a Family Service. This act of worship is brief and suitable for small children and during it we renew our baptismal promises. After the service we adjourn to the hall for tea. There we have a bookstall and distributed Advent Calendars which have been ordered. The service begins at 3 pm. Hope to see you there.

CONFIRMATION

Some adult members of our congregation are being confirmed on Sunday 7th December at Waltham Abbey at 6.30 pm. We are now beginning to collect names of those young people who wish to prepare for a Confirmation to take place on 31st May 1987 at 6.30 pm. This service will be conducted by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF JESUS FOR TODAY?

Three lectures by Professor Jurgen Moltmann - Chelmsford Cathedral - 18th, 19th and 20th November at 8 pm. Those requiring transport should contact the Vicar on 812203.



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S ON SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER.

READINGS - HYMNS - CAROLS - ANTHEMS

6.30 P.M.

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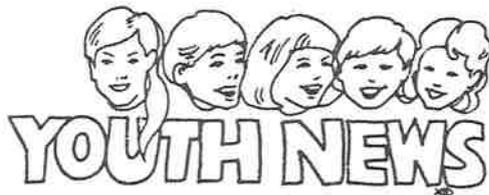


Christmas Party in St. John's Hall on Saturday 13th.

VICAR'S NOTES

From October 26th I was given pastoral responsibility for Farnham. Our task therefore over the next few months will be to get to know the people there and I hope in due time the partnership between Stansted and Farnham will be fruitful. Obviously there will be more work for Fr. Tony, Deaconess Margaret and myself and a few adjustments to our services. From December the 11.15 am Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays will be at 11.30 am and on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

As I write this short note I have heard of the death of Dr. Richard Gabb. He was, I know, loved by all who knew him and so many speak of his kindness and care when he was a GP in Stansted. He was a gentle man and will be greatly missed by us all. Our prayers are with his wife Margaret at this time.



Well! we've all returned safely from our sailing weekend - a very good time was had by all. Now we are preparing for our Youth Eucharist on November 9th (St. John's 6.30). Everybody is very welcome! We will be using Drama, Poetry and Taize Music as part of our worship, and afterwards there will be refreshments and activities in the Hall.

Our other activities in November are

- Nov 2nd Bonfire Party - 7.30 pm -
Contact Fr. Tony for Tickets
- Nov 9th Youth Eucharist - 6.30 pm
St. John's
- Nov 16th Housegroup: 43 Gilbey Crescent
7.45
- Nov 23rd 'A Colditz Evening'
St. John's 7.45
- Nov 30th Enough Food? Games & Discussion
concerning starvation
St. John's 7.45

You are welcome to join our Yough.
Why not come along next week?

Fr. Tony

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- Sept 14th Alexander Oliver William Parrish
Moat House, Grove Hill
Carlie Victoria Hutson,
64 Cambridge Road
Benjamin Christopher Hutson,
64 Cambridge Road
- Oct 5th David James Martin,
39 Rainsford Road
Simon Paul Taylor
16 Clarence Road

MARRIAGES

- 13th Sept Roy Faulkner, 40 Hazel End,
St Mary's Farnham, and
Heidi Chapman, 4 Manor Road

Grand Christmas Bazaar Saturday 22nd Nov St John's Hall

10am - 12.30 2pm - 4

Produce & Plants

Tombola, Bottles

Cakes, Sweets

Raffles

Gift Ideas

Father Christmas, Teas



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk: Margaret Whitelaw
37 Heath Row
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 52769

Meeting for worship: 11am.

ECUMENICAL VISIT TO CHEVETOGNE

Inspite of initial recruiting difficulties all five Stansted churches were represented in the group which responded to the invitation to spend some 36 hours with hosts living in the Roman Catholic parish of Chevetogne, Belgium. It is difficult to describe the contrasts experienced by this frenetic commuter transported to an area which appears to enjoy a way of life I recall last experiencing in the wilds of

Quakers

Northumberland 40 years ago. The warmth of the welcome, the excellent traditional cuisine, two perfect channel crossings and continual autumn sunshine obviously influence my impressions.

Mary Warnett, her mother in law, Florence, and I were fortunate to be 'shared' by Cecile, a very young at heart 70 year old who had lived in Chevetogne all her life surrounded by her farming family, and Myriam, a young maths teacher brought up in Brussels who had deliberately chosen to live in this beautiful corner of the Ardennes. In the 36 hours we managed to pack in two nights sleep, two very traditional Roman Catholic services, a lecture and tour of a monastery devoted to building bridges between the western and eastern orthodox traditions including attendance at Vespers sung and spoken in Russian, and an old fashioned family Saturday evening social organised in our honour. Nevertheless, inspite of what seems like an impossibly tight agenda there was always time for conversation and laughter and to linger over food and wine. Not only had the clock been turned back it seemed to go slower! Moreover, although I thought we had found a reservoir of old fashioned virtues there was a very modern spirit abroad. A deliberate attempt to get to know fellow Christians from very different traditions in the things that are eternal. A spirit that we in Stansted have cause to feel proud of having in abundance and will be able to share when Chevetogne comes to us next year.

Angela Gough

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.

In this month of November when days shorten and nature sheds its autumn clothing and when mornings are shrouded in mist, we celebrate the 'mysterious' feasts of All Saints and All Souls. You may be interested in the origin of these days:

All Saints is a feast celebrated on November 1st as a holy day of obligation. It originated in the west in 609 when Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At first celebrated in Rome on May 13th Pope Gregory III (713-41) changed the dates to Nov. 1st when he dedicated a chapel in honour of All Saints in the Vatican Basilica - Gregory IV later extended the feast to the whole church.

All Souls is a feast commemorating on November 2nd the faithful departed. Begun by Abbot Odo of Cluny in his monasteries in 998 it was gradually adopted by the whole church. Pope Benedict XV granted all priests the privilege of offering three masses this day: one for all the poor souls, one for the Pope's intention and a third for the intentions of the priest. When the feast falls on Sunday it is observed on Nov 3rd.

The explanation given of SAINTS is as follows - a name given in the New Testament to Christians generally (Collossians 1:2) but really restricted to persons who were eminent for holiness. In the strict sense saints are those who distinguish themselves by heroic virtue during life and whom the church honours as saints either by her ordinary universal teaching authority or by a solemn definition called canonisation. The church's official recognition of sanctity implies that the persons are now in heavenly glory, that they are publicly invoked everywhere and that their virtues during life or martyrs death are a witness and example to the Christian faithful.

'May eternal light shine on them O Lord,
with all your Saints for ever,
for you are rich in mercy.
Give them eternal rest O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine on them
for ever
For you are rich in mercy.'

cf 4 Ezra 2:35.34.

On 23rd November we celebrate Christ the King

"Tell the city of Zion, look your King is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey" - Matthew 21:5.

On 30th November is the feast of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland and is also the 1st Sunday in Advent.

J. A. King

POSTSCRIPT TO CHEVETOGNE

As an initially reluctant pilgrim, it seems only fair to add a personal reflection on the almost overwhelming hospitality of our Belgian hosts.

Before our small convoy even entered the village proper, there were welcoming waves from doorways and gardens of outlying hamlets and farms. From the first moments of introduction to our various hostesses we were 'en famille' in both letter and spirit of natural and easy going welcome and our brief time slipped too quickly away in fascinating exploration, moving services, splendid music and merry company.

Our reluctant departure was accorded a Presidential escort of local cars with blaring horns, and as we settled into the long haul for home I'm sure that one thought was uppermost in fifteen minds - "How do we match all that when our new Belgian friends come to Stansted?"

Laurie Hall



In October, the Rev. McIlwain showed a selection of slides, transporting the members on a most delightful trip through the Canadian Rockies, sometimes by boat and sometimes by train. The beauty of this vast and spectacular scenery was enjoyed by all and was enhanced in description by the gentle Canadian accent of Mr. McIlwain.

During the business part of the meeting plans were discussed to start a drama group. It was agreed that the proceeds from the Christmas Stall would go to the Hospital League of Friends.

The raffle was won by Mrs. Shervington and Mrs. Little.

Mrs. Lockwood won the competition prize for 'A Favourite Holiday Snap' with a lovely seaside snap of her daughter.

Ann Calver 812971

STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

Our main event in November is a charity bazaar on the 8th at St. John's Church Hall. We invite all village organisations to take this opportunity to promote themselves and raise funds. At least 15 stalls were reserved by mid October but some are still available and can be booked through Maureen Caton, 34 West Road, Stansted, tel. 813914.

The cost of a stall will be a maximum of £5 to cover the hire of the hall and our advertising expenses. The more stalls there are the cheaper they will be. Admission proceeds will be given to a deserving village cause.

October was a busy month. We held a public meeting on the 2nd at which the speaker was Tom Burke, an SDP prospective parliamentary candidate and well known environmentalist. He spoke about a wide range of environmental issues, including Stansted Airport. The meeting, which was chaired by Melvin Caton and also attended by our local prospective candidate, Mark Hayes, had a good, lively audience.

The following week we held our first disco, 1960's vintage and not, as some apparently thought, for those over six score years. The Graham Harding Roadshow, which provided the music, was excellent and St. John's Hall somehow came alive to the sounds of twenty and more years ago. The prize for the best dressed couple was won by Jenny and Brian Harris.

This month's events:

1 November at 7 p.m. Bonfire and Firework Party at Blythwood House, 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted by kind permission of Marion and Michael Dyer. Tickets £1.20 adults, 50p children from Alan Dean, tel. 813579. Hot refreshments will be on sale.

8 November 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Charity Bazaar at St. John's Church Hall. Contact Maureen Caton; tel. 813914 to book stalls.

Entrance: adults 20p, children 10p. Christmas cards, gifts, cakes, tombola, lucky dip. See details above and in a separate panel advertisement.

For further details of our group and about membership contact Tim Richards, tel. 812748.

Huw JOHNSON CLUB

Once again many thanks to John Stannard and his friends for a cheque for £92 which was raised for us with a raffle for a cuddly dog.

Thankyou John

There is no club during August with most people taking their annual holiday about this time. So when we all saw each other again the first week in September it was good to hear everyone's holiday news. It seems all had a lovely time even if some had better weather than others.

As usual the last Thursday of the month Heather joined us to the delight of our girls. They are getting quite expert at putting on their makeup, and this time as a treat Heather had brought along her nail kit. Denise loved having pink nails but found having to keep her hands still while the polish dried rather a bore. Rebecca without realising finds that your tongue popping out at the corner of your mouth helps you to concentrate and to keep a steady hand when nail-painting.

When John arrived wearing a tartan cap we knew we must be going to do something connected with Scotland. It was to be Curling which I understand is a Scottish pastime.

Don't ask me the rules of the games as you know the Huw Johnson Club members make up rules to suit the situation. My rule is to stand way back when some of the over enthusiastic members rolled the Curling Stone along the mat. It is very heavy and would soon send you down like a nine pin.

By the end of the evening John, Stephen and Kieran were considered the experts and most adults felt lucky to be still standing.

Jean Stone

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MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



Rotary Links

On Tuesday evening, 7th October, eight pupils from the Mountfitchet High School, including the Head Girl, Julie Smith and the Head Boy, Jeffrey Meekcoms, were entertained by the Bishop's Stortford Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club is keen to establish links between commerce and schools and took this opportunity to take a party of pupils to the Bury Lodge Restaurant in Stansted.

It is hoped that this type of contact will encourage greater cooperation and understanding between the moneymakers of today and the moneymakers of tomorrow.

All the pupils who were lucky enough to be chosen to go enjoyed the evening and found the discussions and conversations very interesting and enlightening. The other pupils that went were Peter Gibbs, Terry Waldock, James Bryant, Hannah Gilbey, Joanne Bowtell and Lisa Collins.

The French Exchange

The heat of the day was rising steadily as we boarded the coach. One extra person came called Chris, who came from the school where Mrs. Thatcher used to teach.

The journey from Stansted to Dover was straightforward. The boat journey seemed to drag on.

As we drove off the boat we saw factory smoke rising. The coach was not driving on the other side of the road. As we were driving into Nevers we were nervous. Anne Vellacot said "It's only around the corner" every time we turned into another street. So I told her politely to shut up. All the mothers and fathers were waiting. There was a long silence as we drove to the homes where we were staying.

The next morning we all met at school. We told each other all about the families. The whole of Monday was spent at school. They do not have a short day like us. They start at eight and finish at five. We said goodbye-and left.

The next morning we took a trip into Nevers. In the afternoon most of the English went to a party. There was a swimming pool and most of us swam but others preferred the disco inside. Everyone was very hot.

On Wednesday we went on a school trip to go up a volcano. We had our lunch at the top. Ruth had so much to eat. But Lisa Collins, Ruth Vellacot, Amanda Lucas, Helen Jameson and me (Bryony Mclutrye) managed to demolish half of her picnic.

Throughout the two weeks we spoke French and met together daily at the swimming pool or elsewhere.

On Thursday we went on another school trip. Ruth did not have such a big lunch this time.

On the journey back everyone was very tired. I don't think anyone has ever been so pleased to see school as we were when we arrived home.

Everyone had a nice time and found out that speaking French can be very useful.

Bryony Mclutrye 2J

Hockey Match Report

On Thursday 25th September, Stansted Mountfitchet High School played a hockey match against St. Marys. In the first 15 minutes Janette Stone scored the first goal. The players were Elizabeth Trayford, Elizabeth Hedges, Janette Stone, Clare Deamer, Stephanie Brown, Kelley Rowe, Rachel Loynds, Andrea Baines, Sarah Hughes, Joanne Hesketh, Judith Bowtell and reserve was Elizabeth Mitchell. The overall score was 2-1 to St. Marys. I think all the girls played well. So well done to the third year hockey team.

Stephanie Brown 3S

Paper Collection

Mr. D. R. Johnson has been collecting paper for a long time, and a week ago he sent off a load. He raised £12.53. Half of the money went to Christian Aid and the other half is being spent on calculators for the maths department. So contribution would be very welcome. Please bring all your old newspapers and other paper to the school. Why throw money away?

P.E. Awards

On 16th September three 5th year girls were appointed for the captains of the following teams - Hockey, Netball and Gymnastics.

Julie Smith became the captain of Netball, Hannah Gilbey of Hockey and Joanne of Gymnastics. To gain these medals each girl was involved with helping Miss Harman, the P.E. teacher, each lunchtime in practises.

Each girl was very pleased to have been chosen.

Emma Stevens 3J

Work Experience

Just before the end of the summer term about 80 fourth years had two weeks' work experience. This meant the pupils going out on their own and finding companies who would let them experience the kind of work they would like to do, for example, Julie Smith went to Harlow to work with animals and Ann Vellacott went to Primary School in Clavering. In Ann's two weeks at the school she was involved in helping the teachers with the spelling and reading and making the work look very nice. Mrs. Troke, the

Headmistress of the school said "Ann was a great help to both the children and the teachers".

Mrs. Marsh was in charge of the work experience and according to her she said "The two weeks were very successful and helpful".

Emma Stevens 3J

Budding Bothams

On July 16th Stansted Mountfitchet School played St. Mary's Primary School at cricket. It was very exciting game as Nigel Brown put away 10 fours.

In the winning team the players were:

N. Brown, P. Deehan, D. Salisbury, D. Ellis, S. Gulliford, D. Hanson, G. Harman, R. Brown, J. Evans, K. Collis, B. Jarvis.

The total score was Mountfitchet School 125 runs for 2 wickets and St. Mary's scored 20 and they played well and were good sportsmen.

Nigel Brown played exceptionally well and took 2 wickets and also scored 50 runs not out. Darren Salisbury scored the only six in the match. Four of the winning team didn't get to bat as the match was restricted to 20 overs an innings.

CAROL SINGING

Thoughts must now be directed towards Christmas so our thoughts go to Carol Singing. There will be a meeting on Thursday, 6th November, at 59 Blythwood Gardens, to decide on the dates for singing, areas of the village to be covered and the charity to be supported this year.

Please come to contribute your ideas.

Derek Honour
Judy Goddard

CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR

8 November, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at St. John's Church Hall

Stalls run by village
organisations and craft people
plus refreshments, lucky dip
and tombola

Entrance: adults 20p
children 10p

Organised by Stansted SDP
Proceeds to local charity

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

200th Anniversary of the Windmill

Celebrations A working party has been set up to organise events in connection with these celebrations scheduled for the weekend of 29th-31st August 1987. Lord Blyth (whose ancestor gave the Mill to the village) has agreed to attend the festivities on Monday 31st August. The intention is that this should be a "village" event and as such it is hoped that as many village organisations as possible will partake and help or support in some way. If you feel you would like to contribute in any way at all please contact either the Clerk - 813214; Mrs. Joan Summers - Chairman of the Windmill Committee, 814854, or Mrs. Peggy Honour - Chairman of the Stansted Millers, 813160.

The civic amenity skip is due to be in Crafton Green Car Park again on the following dates: Tuesday 28th October - Thursday 30th October, and Tuesday 17th November - Thursday 20th November.

A good home is wanted for an electric night storage heater 4'3" x 1'3" x 3' high. No charge but would have to be collected - cannot deliver. Enquiries please to the Clerk - 813214.



The September programme ended with a formal debate on Nuclear Power and proved to be interesting and informative. Both sides of the argument were put before us though most of us were still relatively undecided on the matter when it came to take the vote. Morally and emotionally we felt it should be banned, but were left unconvinced that at present there was a truly viable alternative.

At the moment the membership is being asked to consider a change of name. It is generally felt that the word "Housewives" and its current connotations no longer truly represent the organisation, its aims and activities. A recent survey has shown that the majority of members are now in paid employment of some kind, and it is likely that many more of those who are currently full-time housewives will return to some form of involvement in community activities or paid employment once their children are older. And so we are looking for a name that gives the idea that membership is open to all women. A vote is being taken at the moment and the result will be published in the spring.

If anyone is interested in joining, our present programme is on display in the library. Our next programme planning evening is on November 25th and we would be pleased to welcome anyone interested in finding out more.

Local Organiser -
Lyn Inston B/S 814051

"OUR VILLAGE"

Where did you mean by down the Logs? Several times this question was asked after a brief mention was made last month. Well, prior to the building of houses along the lower side of Sunnyside (started around 1958) and later the bungalows at Waterside there was a large meadow that ran almost the entire length of Sunnyside ending adjacent to a small orchard which adjoined outbuildings of the Kings Arms Public House and stretched from the road down to the allotments, but in main used for the placing and storage of huge tree trunks (hence the logs) until they were required down at the saw mill, or known probably better to some as the Machine Shop in Lower Street being the builders yard and office of Daniel Robinson, who carried out work in all branches of the building trade, also a brickmaker, offering Good Reds, Stock and Facing bricks. Many of you must have seen bricks bearing D.R. stamped within the frog, indeed many of your houses may well be built with these.

As regards the timber side, English timber seasoned oak, elm and ash planks, oak gates, fence posts, bags of sawdust for 1/-, woodshavings 6d, these items were always in high demand.

But now back to the logs. Tree trunks would be hauled to this meadow strapped upon a long timber waggon which in turn would have been pulled by various means over the years from horse, steam engine, heavy motor lorry to tractor. Access in was by Water Lane, crossing by way of Sunnyside with a gateway next to the orchard. A well-worn track between these two points offered a good short cut from Water Lane to Chapel Hill. Once inside, the unloading, stacking and indeed reloading of these massive timbers was a highly skilled job that always seemed to attract an audience. Any of these workmen you may recall I would like to note.

For a while a small part of the meadow was used for a coal depot, where after the final clearance of the site several families benefitted by being able to dig out coal that had sunk into the ground. November 5th for many years saw rival bonfires one either end, these having been built and guarded some time before the event. Although it was a visit by the fair that attracted large gatherings into this meadow the centre piece being a brightly decorated and lit roundabout that came alive to the sound of old organ music. Encircling this marvel stood swing boats and sideshows but far too many to tell of today.

P. J. Brown

STANSTED CUBS AND SCOUTS

Stansted Cubs and Scouts would like to thank all those who attended their very successful Bar-B-Que on September 20. Over £200 was raised to help towards the cost of repairs to the Scout Hut.

Mrs. Val Foreman, 17 Loates Pasture, is holding a Bring and Buy Coffee Morning at her home on 20 November from 10 am. Proceeds to go to the repair fund.



WOMEN'S SECTION

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Our September meeting agreed donations of £300 to Women's Section schemes and the Poppy Appeal. Then we were given a demonstration of decorating loaves of bread for Harvest or Christmas, followed by a harvest auction which raised £22.

Our meeting on 20th November will take the form of a social evening with entertainment and refreshments and all Royal British Legion members are invited.

The Women's Section Christmas Group Meeting will be at Thaxted on Wednesday, 26th November and our coach leaves at 6.15 p.m.

Pat Clower



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

November - the month of Remembrance - is with us again.

It is the time when we can show tangible gratitude for the sacrifice made by the many on our behalf. Please be generous in the course of wearing your poppy. Remember - the veterans of the 1939-45 war are now suffering ill health through their experiences, and Northern Ireland and the Falklands have taken their toll more recently.

The Branch Standard will be at Farnham on Remembrance Sunday. But wreaths will be laid at the Stansted memorial by the Branch and the Women's Section at 10.45 a.m. It is good that a new tradition has been started - making this an annual event - honoured also by the Chairman of the Parish Council laying a wreath as representative of the Parish Council and the villagers at large. After that ceremony a service will be held in the United Reformed Church.

Please come if you can.

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

On Tuesday 23 September a party of 50 visited Chartwell in Kent, the former home of Sir Winston Churchill, now in the care of the National Trust. After a guided tour of the house members and their friends visited Sir Winston's studio and explored the gardens.

Coming events.

Monday 17 November 8.00 at the Football Club. 'What Do you Want to Know?' from Pat Wawn, C.C. and Harry Pugh Chairman of Uttlesford District Council.

Saturday 29 November. Christmas Party.

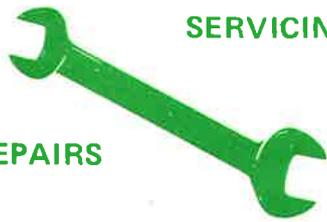
Saturday 10 January. New Year Dance at Stansted Hall.

For further information contact Alan Corbishley 813040 or Bridget Gott 814440.

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