

Apr 87

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White Lent

(A French Carol from Isaiah 58)

Lent comes in the spring
 And spring is pied with brightness
 The sweetest flowers,
 Keen winds and sun and showers
 Their health do bring
 To make Lent's chastened whiteness;
 For life to men brings light
 And might to those whose hearts
 are right.

For is not this
 The fast that I have chosen?
 The prophet spoke -
 To shatter every yoke
 Of wickedness,
 The grievous bands to loosen,
 Oppression put to flight,
 To fight till every wrong's set
 right.

To bow the head
 In sackcloth and in ashes,
 Or rend the soul,
 Such grief is not Lent's goal;
 But to be led
 To where God's glory flashes,
 His beauty to come nigh,
 To fly where truth and light do lie.

For righteousness
 And peace will show their faces
 To those who feed
 The hungry in their need,
 And wrongs redress,
 Who build the old waste places,
 And in the darkness shine
 Divine it is when all combine.



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 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.

A HAPPY EASTER!

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
 16th April for May issue
 14th May for June issue

SACC

The Unity Services for Lent started on March 8th at the U.R.C. when Rev. Eric McIlwain portrayed most vividly three seekers after "the Celestial City" in the great tradition to which we all belong: St. Augustine of Hippo, Martin Luther and John Bunyan. On the next Sunday, Father David at St. Theresa's presented the tradition of Catholic spirituality, touching on the aids to worship which help many but may hinder some in their devotional life. He, too, emphasised the strength of the tie that binds us all: faith in Jesus Christ.

This was very clear in the first house group meeting with good representative attendance and most enlightening discussion.

The retiring collection at the 1st Lent Service on 8th March in the United Reformed Church raised £30 for the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week is coming up next month, so to encourage all collectors, long-standing and novices, there will be a get-together on Tuesday 28th April in the United Reformed Church at 7.30 p.m. This year's collectors will be receiving invitations, but anybody who is interested in the work of Christian Aid is welcome to come along. Light refreshments will be served.

Please make a note of Christian Aid week events. On Sunday 10th May there will be a United Service at the United Reformed Church at 6.30 p.m. followed by a Third World Cabaret in the Hall, to which the young people of our churches will be contributing. The Christian Aid market will be on Saturday 16th May from 10 a.m. to 12 noon outside (or, if wet, inside) the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. There will be the usual stalls - cakes, books, toys, good-as-new clothes (not jumble please!), bric-a-brac, plants and produce. Please give any

contributions to your church C.A. representative or bring them along on the day. Coffee and scones will also be available in the hall.

Finally, the more collectors we have, the more thinly the load can be spread, so if there is anybody who can offer to give a few hours of their time in the week of 11th to 16th May to distribute and collect envelopes, I shall be very pleased to hear from you. Of course, you do not have to be a church member.

Catherine Dean
813579

SHALOM DATES AND VENUES

6th April at 1 Blythwood House,
Blythwood Gardens
27th April at 4 Greenfields

WHAT IS SHALOM?

In 1984 interested people from various churches in Stansted were introduced to the John Powell "Fully Alive" course, led by the Rev. Harold Fisher. From this beginning, a much-valued sharing of hopes and problems, came "Shalom", an ecumenical group meeting on alternate Mondays, where we find strength and inspiration from each other, and encouragement and support for all "in search of a way". Monday nights mean a lot to us now, and we hate to miss any of them!

Our programme has been varied. We have had group sharing following various talks on tapes and videos, evenings of prayer and praise led by different members in turn working together, a stimulating debate, a memorable outing to the Church of Seraphim and Cherubim (a Nigerian Church in Birmingham where Tony Bundock has spent some time before coming to Stansted) an evening of slides with commentary from the Rev. Ronald Rawlings (booked for a return visit!) a "Julian" evening, Manny Clayman from the Harlow Synagogue to talk to us about Jewish custom, and other visitors to talk to us about voluntary work in the Third World, about poetry, about Corrymeela (we have become 'Friends of Corrymeela' and intend to hold a special social event some time in July to raise money for this good cause).

The high spot of the last year was our Retreat weekend at Pleshey led by Gerard Hughes the Jesuit priest who has written "In Search of a Way" and "God of Surprises" - recommended reading! Some of us had been on a Retreat before, but to others this was a wonderful new experience, and so much was gained from it. We have already booked our next Retreat for January 1988 to be led this time by the Rev. Gordon Wakefield, a Methodist Minister for over forty years.

**Good news for all deaf and
hard of hearing people.**

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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 Jol-n's Close
Saffron Walden.
Tel: (95) 23296

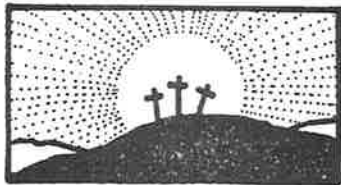
Group Secretary:

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.



Days of Easter joy and a new beginning for Peter. Sunrise by the Galilean lake and the realisation that the Master whom he had so recently and cruelly denied, was offering him forgiveness, and calling him to a new beginning, a future of glorious service in the cause of His kingdom.

The writer in the closing chapter of John's gospel tells most movingly of this meeting between Peter and the risen Lord, and the momentous outcome both for Peter and the future church.

It is easy to imagine Peter at that moment looking back over the year of his discipleship, recalling the circumstances of his first call to follow Christ. Young, eager, impetuous, the Galilean fisherman had seen in the one before whom he stood at the lakeside, a man with attractive qualities of leadership, commanding his respect and admiration, offering him a vision of God he found irresistible, inviting his allegiance in his call 'Follow me'.

Subsequent days and years confirmed Peter's initial conviction that the one he followed enjoyed a unique relationship with God. So it was when Jesus at Caesarea Philippi questioned the disciples, asking finally their opinion of his identity, Peter burst out impetuously 'You are the Christ' and knew that he meant it with all his heart.

Peter's avowals to his Lord were both spontaneous and heartfelt. At times,

however, he realised his impetuosity caused him to speak out when it would have been more sensible to remain silent.

'I will die for you', Peter had declared fervently at supper in the upper room with his Lord on the night before the crucifixion. 'If everyone else deserts you, you can count on me' he'd said. To Peter's distress Jesus had quietly replied 'Peter, before the cock crows you will have denied three times that you ever knew me'.

Peter recalled with rief and bitter remorse how the words of Jesus had come true. There in the courtyard of the High Priest's house, sitting around the fire, three times he had indeed denied any association with his Lord. The cock had crowed, and Jesus had turned and looked towards Peter with a look of deep pity and love.

Could there ever be forgiveness for such an act of complete rejection? Would his master, now so gloriously triumphant over sin and death offer a second chance to one who had failed him so totally in his hour of greatest need?

'Peter, do you love me?' The words of Jesus by the lakeside reached deep into the heart of Peter, evoking a response of total commitment to his master's command 'Feed my sheep'. The past was over and forgotten. The call of Jesus for a second time 'Follow me', signified for Peter a new and wonderful beginning to a life of glorious adventure in the service of his master, Jesus Christ.

Lydia Rapkin

SERVICES FOR APRIL

- April 5th 11 am - Rev. E. McIlwain, Communion
- 7.30 pm - S.A.C.C. Agape Supper, Lecture Hall
- April 12th 11 am PALM SUNDAY - Rev. E. McIlwain
- Thursday, Apr. 16th - 8 pm - MAUNDY THURSDAY Group Communion Service
- Friday, 17th - 11 am - GROUP GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT CLAVERING
- also SACC Good Friday Services at St Theresa's, 7.15 pm, and processing thence to St John's for approx. 8 o'clock, concluding by 8.30
- April 19th 10.30 - EASTER - GROUP SERVICE - Communion
- April 26th 11 am - Rev. Lydia Rapkin
- May 3rd 11 am - Rev. Lydia Rapkin Communion

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8TH - COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY BY KIND INVITATION OF MRS. JANET TOWNSEND, 58 CHAPEL HILL, FROM 10 AM.

THURSDAY, April 2nd. - 7.30 pm - GROUP CHURCH MEETING in the Lecture Hall.

U. R. C.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT
Spring Rally - Wed. APRIL 29 - 3.00 pm

Stansted is the host this year for the Spring Rally. We hope to welcome about 250 people from the churches in the district to this annual service. Deaconess Lorna Dazeley of St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chesterton, Cambridge, is speaking on Discipleship. Come and join us in making this a memorable day. Anyone wishing to share in the catering please contact Mrs. Janet Townsend (812593).

Report from the United Reformed Church Guild

What wonderful slides we saw when Mr. John Byatt came and told us about his journey round the foothills of Mount Everest. The views were breathtaking and it was most interesting to meet somebody who had actually been there and to see slides of Everest itself.

The gem of the slides was one of Mount Everest at sunrise. The mountain shone like a gold jewel.

Among the party was a lady of 73.

It was nice to welcome Miss Gilroy to our Guild once more.

She spoke about her trip to Canada just after the war. She went with a friend and not having much money, they applied for posts in various hospitals as they were both nurses.

They had come from a country where most things were still rationed to a land of plenty.

They were able to compare the differences in the attitude to nurses there. There was not the rigid discipline which prevailed in our hospitals then, but has now been relaxed.

She had many stories about their journeys to the various hospitals.

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.

Andrew W. Mellon is a Jew and Professor of Humanities at Boston University. He writes under the name of Elie Wiesel. Born in Romania in 1928 he was deported to Auschwitz while still a boy, and then to Buchenwald, where his parents and younger sister were killed. Under his pseudonym he wrote the story of his time in Nazi Concentration Camps. The book is called "Night" and was written in Paris in 1958. It is available in English as a paperback. He tells the horrific story simply and without histrionics of any sort. It is all the more powerful for that.

One incident he recalls is the hanging of three prisoners, one of whom was a young boy. Elie Wiesel writes. "The Lagerkapo refused to act as executioner. Three SS replaced him. The three victims mounted on to the chairs. The three necks were placed at the same moment within the nooses. 'Long live liberty!' cried the two adults. But the child was silent. 'Where is God? Where is He?' someone asked behind me.

"At a sign from the head of the camp the three chairs were tipped over. Total silence throughout the camp --- then the march past began. The two adults were no longer alive --- but --- being so light, the child was still alive --- For more than half an hour he stayed there struggling between life and death --- We all had to look him full in the face".

"Behind me I heard the same man asking: 'Where is God now?' And I heard a voice within me answer him: 'Where is He? Here He is - He is hanging here on this gallows'"

In a book called "Bevis, The Story of a Boy", Richard Jefferies tells how one day the boy was looking at a picture of the Crucifixion. The boy looked at the tortured victim a long time and was very sad. Then he said "If God had been there He would not have let them do it".

We can understand the reaction of Jefferies' boy, but the truth lies with Elie Wiesel. The Crucifixion tells us that God is involved in all the suffering and sorrow of this disordered and evil world. He is not a spectator or an absent deity. He is with the victims, caught up in the pain, anguished by the sorrow. He

URGENT!

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stands with us in it, to help us bear it, to make it part of his cost of redeeming and transforming the world.

We are in it with God and He is in it with us. This is one of the things Good Friday says to us.

God bless and my love to you.

Harold Fisher

A COUSINLY THANK YOU

As a representative of the Methodists in Stansted I would like to thank the vicar, Rev. Barry Rose, and his people for inviting us to Parish Communion on March 8th, when the Secretary of our Conference, Rev. Brian Beck, was the preacher. If our Anglican friends were inspired and helped by Brian's insights into the four gospels and their messages, we were very deeply impressed by the free and yet ordered family spirit of the Eucharist. As one who has often been involved in Anglican Parish Communion in a partnership church may I say that that particular morning service was a wonderful example of happy christian worship. We were glad to be there and thank you for the invitation.

Ronald Rawlings
(Retired Methodist Minister)

Church of England

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) (1st and 3rd Sundays)	-	11.30am
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.

Curate's Notes

We live in an age where for something to be considered true it must conform to certain scientific proofs. The event of Jesus' resurrection is consequently a matter of great debate because it lacks the moment by moment observation needed to establish it among other scientific facts. Personally I have never sought to play the scientists at their own game by seeking to prove the resurrection. Partly this is because 'scientific facts' aren't quite as absolute as we've been led to believe, but mainly because the 'truth of the resurrection' is a universal truth which I constantly recognise at work in the world. The resurrection is not merely a fact, it is the expression of God's work in the whole of creation. As such we don't approach the resurrection just with our minds but with the whole of our being. There is no aspect of our life which doesn't help us to understand the Easter experience.

People make the mistake of thinking that Jesus' death and resurrection are simply history like the Battle of Waterloo. But what happened once for all to Jesus is happening all the time, happening to us. For in the death and resurrection of Jesus we see a conflict and a victory which are still going on now, a conflict and a victory in which we can see the deepest meaning of our own lives - what our lives are most truly about. In Jesus' life we find the generosity which goes on giving, victorious over all that is mean hearted and close fisted; the peace which enters into hostility and venom and is victorious over strife; the love which made itself vulnerable and was victorious over hatred and cold heartedness. These struggles happen constantly in and among ourselves. In everything we are and do, we are caught up in this drama of Christ. We are not spectators of his death and resurrection. We are completely involved: in us and among us what is creative is doing battle with what is destructive.

As we approach Easter let us become more aware of death and resurrection in our lives. If we do we will realise how the problems and sufferings we all experience put us more in touch with the reality of God.

Because God is present in all the circumstances of life there can be nobody who at sometime or other has not been 'raised from the dead'! Ultimately the resurrection is not something that we live. To follow Jesus is to be constantly crucified and raised with him. This Easter let us not think about the cross as just an historical event and squabble over the nature of the resurrection. Instead let us offer ourselves to be crucified with Jesus and to participate in his resurrection. By

doing so we will truly be 'The Easter People'.

May you all have a joyful Easter.

Father Tony

ALL ARE CALLED

The laity in the Church are awakening to the truth that every Christian is called to exercise Christ's ministry in the home, at work, in the community and within the life of the Church. In parishes throughout the country exciting developments are taking place.

Our Stewardship Renewal last year presented in a vivid way the same message and as a result of that we are near to the point where a group of church members are offering to do pastoral care. This means they will visit the sick, bereaved, those asking for baptism for their children and others with whom we want to keep a closer contact. This is only a beginning - we hope.

The same theme of lay ministry is being taken up by our Deanery. On 8th and 15th May we are holding two meetings in St. John's at 8 pm to which all are invited.

At these meetings we will present what some parishes are doing in the Deanery concerning lay ministry and there will be a time of discussion. These meetings are open to all. Do come.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday	Holy Communion 8am Blessing of Palms, Procession and Parish Communion 9.20am
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 the Vicar Children's service 2pm Stations of the Cross St Theresa's 7.15pm, followed by procession to St John's. Unity service in St John's 8pm (approx).
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil service of Light 8pm
Easter Day	Holy Communion 8am St Mary's Parish Communion 9.30am St John's Holy Communion 11.30am St John's Baptisms 4pm St Mary's Sung Evensong 6.30pm St Mary's

CHURCH DIARY

April

- 5th Preacher at 9.30 am Clare Amos, Old Testament Lecturer at Wescott House, Cambridge
- 6th PCC at Vicarage, 8 pm
- 7th Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
House Communion at 62 Chapel Hill 7.30 pm
- 12th-19th Holy Week. For services see leaflet being distributed to every hone
- 21st Prayer Support Group, 22 Bentfield Causeway 8.15 pm
- 22nd Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
- 28th Education Ministry Group 8.15 pm

May

- 1st Wine Tasting Evening, St John's Hall 8 pm
- 5th Holy Communion at Mead Court 10am
- 6th Confirmation class visit to Greensted Church
- 7th Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am
- 8th Deanery Meeting in church hall 8pm
- 10th Unity Service 6.30 pm in URC Church
- 11th Mini Lectures on Church History 8pm. More details next month
- 15th Deanery Meeting in church hall 8pm

Parish Registers

Baptisms

March 1st Clare Alison Russell, 62 Rainsford Road

Departed

- 24th Feb Edward Young, 26 Park Road Aged 79 years
- 25th Feb Herbert Ash, Evergreen, Burton End Aged 84 years
- 2nd Mar Derek Burton, Church Road Aged 62 years
- 5th Mar Percy Smith, 4 Water Lane Aged 82 years
- 13th Mar Robert Foster, 72 Manor Road Aged 42 years



MOTHERS' UNION

Meeting in the Hall at 2.30 pm on Wednesday April 22nd.



WINE TASTING EVENING AND SUPPER

Tickets are now on sale for this major parish event. The date is:

Friday 1 May

the venue - St Mary's School
the time - 7.45pm to 11.15pm

Charles Eve of Gilbeys will guide us through the various wines and we are grateful to him for agreeing to come and give us the benefit of his tremendous expertise.

Tickets are £4.50 each, available from the Vicarage.

Please buy your tickets early, as this will both encourage the organisers and also ensure the evening's success.



CAN YOU HEAR?

For some time the church council has been discussing whether or not we should instal a sound reinforcement system in St. John's. At first we thought we should have a loop but it was pointed out to us that this only helps those who have deaf aids. The advice we received was that it is better to have a sound reinforcement system which can help a great many more people. Such a system could also be used to record the services for the house bound, be useful when children want to take part and would be an aid for drama.

We are still exploring the matter and would welcome views of members of the congregation.

If it is decided to instal a system it is important that it should be of good quality and as inconspicuous as possible. We have received a generous and anonymous offer of £500 towards the cost and it may be that others would like to contribute.



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

AMONGST FRIENDS

It was my daughter who led me to investigate the Quakers - not the other way around as you might have expected. What happened was that, at the time, she was attending a large comprehensive school which seemed not to be teaching her anything other than certain (quite valuable) social skills, consisting largely of surviving in an alien environment. A lesson she will never forget and will no doubt find quite useful in her life. But the more academic side of her education was sorely lacking and so I was looking around for another school.

A friend suggested a Quaker school some twenty miles away, which took weekly boarders. I liked the idea. My image of Quakers was that they were very moral, very upright, not strict so much as very self-disciplined. To be respected. Perhaps they could give my daughter what was lacking in our current environment - a sense of values, personal and spiritual, that would have a place in everyday life and not just occasionally on Sundays.

I was extremely impressed with my first look at the school and meeting with the Headmaster. The place had a family atmosphere, unusual in an institutional setting (and surely not easy to achieve). The scholars seemed relaxed and cheerful, polite and mature for their years. High-spirited, of course, but not over the top. The impression of warmth that I sensed was unforgettable and it remains today, even though the school has now become extremely familiar.

My image of the Quakers has mellowed, of course, become less stereotyped. But what I think I can say is that generally speaking they have a sincerity of purpose, a genuine concern and love in what they are doing. They are thinking people who care. This has been one of the most important contacts my daughter could possibly have had in her early teens, as she became exposed - as all young teenagers do - to the vagaries of the big wide world. I am eternally grateful for this extended family which she has found, both amongst the staff and amongst the scholars with whom she lives like brothers and sisters. Perhaps the thing that surprises me most is that

she prefers Meeting for Worship, in silence, to the Church of England services that we used to attend.

So I eventually became a Quaker, too, and my second child, who is dyslexic, goes to a Quaker school which has a remedial unit designed to help his handicap. At that school too I am impressed with the caring feeling that comes across, a sense of dedication out of the ordinary in that it absolutely lacks competitiveness. The children are led, not pushed, into learning skills, and taught values other than the hierarchical ones of a materialistic society. My children are truly among Friends.

Ros Richardson

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.

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday. This day commemorates the time when our Lord Jesus Christ consented to the popular demand that he show himself to be a leader of his people, according to their idea of him. His people were oppressed, unjustly taxed, and denied many of their political and ethnic rights. For years their little country had been occupied by foreign invaders; by force it had been made part of the mighty Roman Empire. There had been attempts to form resistant groups. There would be sporadic fighting and bloodshed with all the havoc and suffering that violent conflict brings. Jesus lived in a brutal, violent and cruel time; very different from romantic pleasant pastures, birds and lily of the field pictures we imagine. The early church historian Tertullian remarks that the Romans in their attempt to crush opposition, sometimes crucified up to a hundred men at once. This was during the lifetime of Jesus. He was no escapist dreamer. He knew from first hand experience man's inhumanity to man. Many people thought He was a political Messiah. They misunderstood Him, they misunderstood His claims and His teaching. He would, however, enter the capital amidst enthusiastic proclamation, not on a war horse, but on a little donkey of peace.

Maundy Thursday. For some years before

1250 B.C. the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. It might be possible for one or two slaves to escape, but for the whole slave work force to escape, to settle in a new land, to develop into a nation and become exceedingly wealthy and prosperous would seem utterly impossible, unless He who made everything in the beginning was behind such a venture. This mass escape was the turning point in Jewish history. It was celebrated with great thanksgiving to God. The Thursday before Jesus was crucified was the Jewish feast of thanksgiving called the Passover. Jesus and disciples observed the custom. But this time Jesus elevated it to become the turning point in human history. It takes a long time for people to become civilised and come to the knowledge of the truth. The church is as yet very young. On Maundy Thursday the church gives thanks to God for a new passover. To quote St. Paul: "Neither life or death, no power, nothing that exists, nothing yet to come, can separate us from God's love for us".

Good Friday. Is called good because the goodness, the love, in Jesus outweighed all the badness, hate and evil within the whole human race. No ordinary man was our Saviour - He was, he is, the Son of God, God in human nature. His death was not the end of him.

Easter Vigil - Saturday evening. The church in speed and brevity retells the Bible Story and concludes with the First Mass of Easter - He is risen - He is not here. And yet - and yet in every truth He is here and will remain with us till the end of the world.

Easter Greetings to everyone.

Fr. David Chapman

Palm Sunday 8.00 : 10.30 - Stansted
9.15 - Henham
Maundy Thursday 8.00 pm - Stansted
Good Friday 3.00 pm - Stansted
Easter Vigil 8.00 pm - Stansted
Easter Masses 8.00 : 10.30 - Stansted
9.15 - Henham

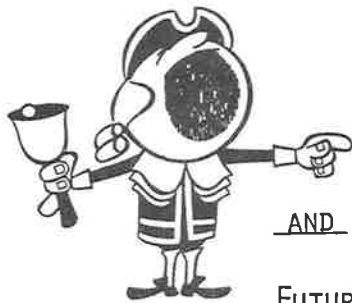
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WINDMILL GUEST HOUSE
48, Silver Street, Stansted.
(813614)

Please ring for details of our
Outside Catering Service

Village News



AND

FUTURE
EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

April

- 2 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society. Mr. Wright, Timber Framed Buildings
- 8 10.00 am 58 Chapel Hill, Bible Society Coffee Morning
- 9 8.00 Day Centre. B.S. Recorded Music Society
- 11 2.30 U.R.C. Hall. Gardening Club Spring Show
- 12 6.30 St John's. St John Passion - Handel
- 13 7.30 Mountfitchet School Hall Hair & Fasion Show - £2.50
- 28 7.30 U.R.C. Christian Aid Collectors Meeting
- 30 8.00 Day Centre. Royal British Legion Wine & Cheese £2.00

May

- 1 7.45 St. Mary's School Wine Tasting & Supper (see notice)
- 4 2.00 Youth & Adult Centre, Lower Street Scouts & Guides May Fayre
- 7 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society. Mr. Going. Prehistoric and Roman Stansted
- 10-17 Christian Aid Week
- 16 10.00 Christian Aid Market. Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill
- 16 8.00 Mountfitchet School Hall

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Saturday 11th April

Mountfitchet Garden Club Spring Show

Raffle prizes, plant sale, refreshments, admission free. 2.30 - 4.30 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Stansted

Ross Allen, Secretary
2a Chapel Hill, Stansted



THE DAY CENTRE

We had a most enjoyable social afternoon this month. Mrs. Fran Panrucker played the guitar and sang folk songs which we all knew and were able to join in. Mrs. Stevens had prepared a quiz for us and what a nice lot of people came.

We have quite a number of events for afternoon entertainment which are well attended and it is so nice to meet with friends. Events are on the noticeboard in the Centre, so do have a look when you come.

K. M. Jordan

Day Centre

- April 2 Thurs Keep Fit
- 7 Tues Bingo 2.00 pm
- 9 Thurs Keep Fit
- 10 Fri Whist Drive 2.00 pm
25p
- 14 Tues Beetle Drive 2.00 pm
25p
- 16 Thurs Dancing Display
3.00 pm
- 17 Fri CLOSED
- 21 Tues Bingo 2.00 pm
- 24 Fri Whist Drive 2.00 pm
25p
- 28 Tues Mystery Trip £2.50
Leave Day Centre
2.00 pm

DAY CENTRE

THERE WILL BE A COFFEE MORNING AT THE DAY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH IN AID OF THE MODERNISATION OF FULLERS HOUSE, CHURCH ROAD. SOME OF THE WORK WILL BE COVERED BY GRANTS BUT MUCH WILL NEED TO BE RAISED BY PRIVATE FUNDING.

IF ANY ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO RUN A STALL AT THIS EVENT TO BENEFIT THIS CAUSE WOULD THEY PLEASE CONTACT EITHER THE DAY CENTRE 815091 OR BRENDA SCARR 813080.

STANSTED CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION
BARN DANCE
SATURDAY 16TH MAY
MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL HALL
8 pm till midnight
£4 (inclusive of chicken and
chips supper)
Music + calling by Redbridge
Folk Band
Licensed Bar available

Tickets available from
B & R Electrical, Cambridge Road
Family News, Chapel Hill
Ruth Robinson, tel 812755
Bill Fegan, tel 812974
Johns Fabrics, Church Street,
Bishop's Stortford

**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The new Society got off to a good start with an attendance of approximately 45 at the meeting on 5th March. Tony Wellings displayed and spoke on examples of Domestic Bygones, which although not of great monetary value, demonstrated how much domestic work has changed in the past few decades and invoked memories among some of the older people present.

It is proposed to research into how people have lived in Stansted over the centuries, conduct interviews (particularly with the older inhabitants), take copies of interesting documents and photographs, collect newspaper and journal cuttings, and record details of items pertaining to Stansted

The next two meetings, to be held at the Day Centre, at 8 p.m. will be:

Thursday 2nd April. Mr. W.J. Wright, a member of Bishop's Stortford Local History Society, on Timber Framed Buildings.

Thursday 7th May. Mr. C.J. Going, a member of Chelmsford Archeological Trust, on Stansted Area in Prehistoric and Roman Times.

It is also hoped to have a summer outing to Hatfield Forest and a visit to the Essex County Records Office.

If you are interested, do come along to the meetings.

Peggy Honour (Secretary)
B/S 813160

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB



There will be a Senior American Tournament on Sunday 5th April at 2 p.m.

The Prudential Grass Roots Coaching Classes are filling up rapidly, so if you are interested please telephone Janet Hollis, B/S 812073. The classes start on Tuesday 28th April 5-6 p.m. and Saturday 18th April 10-11 a.m. They run for 6 weeks and are for 8-14 year olds.

Also 4 Adult Classes on Saturdays, 18th April - 9th May inclusive from 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

The new season starts on 1st April and new members should contact Janet Hollis or Alan Bulley, the Treasurer, B/S 814855.

There will be a Ladies Tournament on

Tuesday 2nd June in aid of the N.S.P.C.C.

The Eddie Wilby Tournament will be on Sunday 14th June at 2 p.m.

The Hopkins Tournament at Dunmow will be on Sunday 28th June.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

TAKE 2 OPTIONS
HAIR & FASHION SHOW
MONDAY 13TH APRIL
MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL HALL
7.30 pm
£2.50 (inclusive of refreshments)
Proceeds to Stansted Carnival

Tickets available from
Options Hair Salon, Elsenham
Options Fashions, Chapel Hill
B & R Electrical, Cambridge Road
Ann Fegan, tel. 812974



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our next social function is a WINE AND CHEESE evening at Stansted Day Centre on Thursday 30 April at 8 pm. Tickets are £2 only including a glass of wine and are available now from any committee member. Reserve the date now and then come along with our friends. There will be a 'ticket number' prize and, of course, a raffle for which valuable prizes have been offered.

The arrangements for the Garden Fete on Saturday 6 June are taking shape rapidly and we shall be announcing details later in April - so don't forget to keep the date free.

Since our last news we were saddened by the passing of Frank Robinson a respected member of many years standing who had held office in the Branch. The Branch Chairman attended the funeral at Elsenham Church and a Poppy Wreath was sent from the Branch.

All members and associate members are reminded that 1987 subscriptions are now due and payment should be made to their usual collector.



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

What a delightful evening we spent on 19th February when Irene Walker demonstrated her cookery skills by producing mouth-watering dishes which

she then divided and raffled so that many of us could take home samples.

Our Group Meeting was at Berden on 11th March when members from seven villages met. David Burnett-Stuart showed us his fascinating slides of Japan, Malaysia, Burma and the Philippines.

On 16th April our branch meeting will be in Manuden Village Hall. This is always an enjoyable occasion and our Manuden hostesses never fail to give us a royal welcome. Coach will run from Stansted and we hope to see as many members as possible on board.

Pat Clower
815220



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Our Valentine's Party held in February went with a swing! The toddlers enjoyed playing a few games, dancing to the music and nursery rhymes and singing along or clapping while Fran played her guitar. We owe a big thankyou to Fran who entertained our children (and us) for so long!

The A.G.M. held at the beginning of March summed up the year's events (and what a lot of them there were!) and our group's accounts. We did so well with our fund-raising last year that we are able to buy a new television for our clinic! We also welcomed a few new members on to the committee.

In April the get togethers for expectant mums and under 1's on Fridays 10.30 - 12.00 noon are at the following addresses:-

3rd April at Claire's, 47 Gilbey Crescent

10th April at Jane's, 30 The Croft, Elsenham

17th April - Good Friday

24th April at Frances', 31 Elm Close, Elsenham

On Thursdays the Toddler Groups are held from 10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. and are at the following addresses:-

2nd April at Margaret's, Ivy Cottage, Ugley

9th April at Sue's, Greenview Cottage, Woodend Green, Henham

16th April at Frances', 31 Elm Close, Elsenham

23rd April at Annie's, "Greenlands", Albury

30th April at Jane's, 52 Bentfield Road

We are having an "Easter Party" on Wednesday 15th April in the Quaker Hall from 2.30 p.m. till 4 p.m. Bring your children along in a fancy "Easter hat" to enter our competition. Easter eggs and squash for children and Hot Cross

Buns and tea for mums - all for a mere 50p per child over one, mums and under ones free! Come and join in the fun and games.

Our annual stall will be on Bishop's Stortford market Thursday, 30th April, all morning. We will be selling all sorts of things to raise money so if you're in Bishop's Stortford that morning, don't forget to come and look!

Jacky Moore
814424

An important date for your diary -
17/18 October 1987 - this year's

STANSTED ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKET

Last year we raised over £1,000, which we distributed to local charities and good causes. Perhaps we could do better this year.

Do make a note of this date and support this enjoyable and worthwhile village event.



W.I. AFTERNOON

After the traditional singing of 'Jerusalem' Mrs. Doris Stiles, the President dealt with the business of the meeting and the minutes were read by Mrs. Joan Grose, the Secretary.

Arrangements were finalised for the Coffee Morning to be held Wed. 25th March at 10.30 am at the Day Centre. Proceeds from this for the blind.

Mrs. Mary Walker and Mrs. Joan Wheeler had attended the half yearly meeting at Chelmsford and Mrs. Walker, the delegate reported on this to the meeting.

The guest speaker was Mr. J.W. Bonner whose subject was the History of the East End of London. He spoke with interest of its colourful history, the various influences in its growth and of the origins of many of the well known names of places in that area. It was obvious that many memories were revived for some of the members and others were interested to have learnt so much of such an historical part of the capital.

8 members received birthday posies and the competition was won by Mrs. Patmore.

Ann Calver

812971

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The March meeting was organised by the Members' Day Committee with Liz Jordan and Eve Rice as President and Secretary. The Members' Day meeting usually takes on a festive air as with the welcome glass of wine on arrival. It was well attended by members and visitors, and after a rousing rendering of Jerusalem (it is still a novelty and joy to have a piano accompanist), Mrs. Jordan guided us through the business.

Two important events to remember - The May Market to be held at the Day Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 9th May. In addition to the usual attractions we have been able to arrange several craft stalls including patchwork, lacey cushions, soft sculpture and peg dolls.

A Quiz Evening is being arranged at the end of May (date to be finalised). This will be for members and their friends; a ploughman's supper and wine will be available and it is hoped that this will prove to be a popular and entertaining fund raiser.

Our speaker, Mr. Bill Clark, the Warden of Wandlebury Country Park, is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about his work but, for lack of time, he confined his remarks to the history of the site and the buildings on it. It was once an Iron Age hill fort on the Gog Magog hills, encompassing some 15 acres - and there is plenty of evidence still there to support this; today the estate covers around 110 acres and is officially designated a country park and nature reserve. Over the centuries, people and events have played their part in the development of the site, particularly the Godolphin family, and an important association flourished with the horse racing activities at Newmarket. Mr. Clark took us through the years up to the present time and included a photograph of the remains of a Wellington bomber which crashed during the last war on to a tree in the woodland. It has slipped down through the branches during recent storms, but is still there at the beginning of the nature trail, for all to see. Mrs. June Riley gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Clark.

The refreshments were based entirely on traditional British regional recipes for cakes and biscuits and, during the coffee break, a quiz was tackled by members. This was prepared by Christine Hope and, in keeping with the botanical theme of the evening was on wild flowers and plants - winner, Clare Francis.

A theme-associated raffle and a treasure-and-trash stall helped to raise funds for contributing to the Cambridge Preservation Society which looks after the Wandlebury Country Park.

These 'Members' Days', which are held

once every year, give an opportunity for new members to take part in organising and running a meeting (plenty of help and advice available), and although some are a little hesitant to become involved, they invariably enjoy the experience and are willing and pleased to repeat it another year.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th April 7.45 pm St. John's Hall, when we shall be listening to Martin and Janis Jordan talking about Explorers. If you have not already sampled the WI, why not come along to see if you like us? You will be very welcome. If you would like an escort, do ring Judy Colliver on 812470 or our Secretary, Pat Lock on 815984, who will be happy to hear from you.

J. Freeman
813186



"OUR VILLAGE"

Mention was made last month to the newspaper service offered by W.H. Smith & Son at the Railway Station which aroused memories of several other village newsagents. Some of you may well recall, some perhaps you may not.

During the very early years of the 1900's you could have purchased a local newspaper, The Herts & Essex Observer, for 1 penny. (There is not a coin minted today small enough to relate to this as it would be less than half 1p). The two principal agents at this time being Messrs. Minnett & Co (also a chemist) and Mr. F. Vaughan, can anyone tell of where the latter operated from?

Around 1910 Miss E. Bunting from her Silver Street shop sold newspapers, periodicals, magazines, all in regular supply, any goods not in stock could be procured to order. Also at about this time G.T. Ecclestone were agents for the local paper.

Now we must turn the pages to 1930 where in the July Edition the Herts & Essex Observer carried a cricket report of Stansted v Quendon Hall, this being a high scoring cricket match that still stands as a record, Stansted scoring 276 for 3. H. Bradford Run Out 121, P.E. Andrews bowled for 101. Quendon Hall scored 175 for 9 wickets when rain stopped play. It would seem several wet shirts were worn trying for a result.

The 1930's also saw N.H. Adams as a newsagent, being an agent for the Essex Chronicle. Stationery, wools and fancy

goods could also be purchased within. The cost of your local paper during the early 30's had risen to 2 pence whilst the Daily Mirror and Daily Mail remained at 1 penny. A.G. Wells of Lower Street could supply all Sunday newspapers. Mr. E. Poole whose shop was on Chapel Hill advertised a lending library at 2d per week, and during the 1950's Radio Times; BBC Programmes in advance 3d. The Listener; the Best for Broadcast Talks 4d and London Calling; Overseas Talks & Programmes 6d. He was also a tobacconist and sold patent medicines. This shop was later to become John Tuckers, a family newsagent, plus the newsagents H. Leach, where the "Late Final" containing the football results could be bought. An efficient newspaper delivery service to the village and local district was given. Ten shillings (50p) seems to ring a bell, being the approximate wage for paper boys-girls for a weekly morning round.

Now today where we are most fortunate to have two newsagents in the village who between them have something like 27 delivery rounds, these being M. Collins at Chapel Hill and Deamers, formerly of Silver Street now at Cambridge Road. Both of these shops provide much more than just a newspaper service, i.e. tobacconists, confectioners, dry cleaning agents, etc., but above all the service given by all staff is always courteous and friendly, keeping up a long village tradition and with your continued support will hopefully flourish for many years to come.

P. J. Brown

SEEN AROUND STANSTED

LAMBS AT ICKLETON

Every year, about February, Valance Farm, Ickleton, opens its barns and yards for two or three weekends for families to come and see the new lambs. This is a lovely outing for children (and parents and "oldies") - and a fundraiser for charity with a stall of home produce.

Sorry if you missed it this year, due to lack of publicity! Watch this space next January for dates and times (only 9 months to go!).

DAFFODILS AT THRILOW

You haven't missed those yet.

Every year Daffodil Weekend at Thriplow, near Great Chesterford and Duxford, raises thousands of pounds for the parish church and for charities such as the Leukaemia Research Fund at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. For 20 years, the Daffodil Committee has planted hundred-weights of daffodils around the village - and that doesn't include all those planted in private gardens open to view.

This year's weekend: April 11th and 12th from 2.0 - 6.0 p.m. Teas available in several places - school,

barns, village hall. If you have a car, why not take someone who hasn't? Further details from organiser, Maurice Frilling. Tel. Fowlmere (076 382) 616.

STANDING STILL IN STANSTED

A lorry marked "SHORE PORTER, REMOVALS and STORAGE - ABERDEEN. Est 1498.(FOURTEEN NINETY-EIGHT!) the capitals are mine.

Being of Aberdonian extraction myself, I was intrigued to think my great, great etc. grandfather, who was a tollkeeper up there, might have let slip a few tonnes of herrings to this firm and thus helped them to continue the success they seem to have established! Was any Stansted firm established before 1498?

HEARD IN STANSTED

A very interesting conference for village representatives of the Saffron Walden Rural Over Sixties Association, held at the Day Centre on March 9th. Our M.P. Alan Haselhurst took the morning session on health care in the area, and gave a lot of time to answering questions from the floor - to obvious satisfaction. The afternoon session was in two parts: first on the Red Cross, when Mrs. Rendle, deputy commissioner for Essex gave a short history of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva and showed a video of present relief work. This was followed by a summary of Red Cross activity in Stansted - the Toy Library, Medical Loans service and Home Physiotherapy service. Mrs. Hall of Chesterford described her work as a Red Cross Home Physiotherapist - up to 7 free treatments per patient may be given - this scheme is not funded by the N.H.S. and for all the Red Cross work in Essex £200,000 has to be raised annually.

The afternoon ended with a talk on the University of the Third Age which would encourage all those as young as 45 years upwards to offer their talents and share their leisure time in interesting pursuits, without the cost involved in "professional" classes.

Somebody wandered in during the day to see what was going on in the Day Centre - quite a lot!

Phyllis Harrison

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A successful Jumble Sale was held at St. John's Church Hall on Saturday, 7th February. Over 100 people attended and a profit of nearly £90 was made.

On 16th February Peter Brown gave a most interesting talk about different aspects of Stansted's history. This meeting was

at the Football Club and Peter used slides to illustrate his talk. He is such a popular and knowledgeable speaker and in such demand and we thank him most sincerely for the time he spent with us.

The Ladies Annual General Meeting was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday, 4th March.

About 30 ladies attended and coffee was served before the A.G.M. Dirk Vetawinkel, the new agent, conducted the election of officers and committee. Those elected were:-

Chairman - Bridget Gott
Vice Chairman - Diana Bishop
Hon Secretary - Pam Sutton

George Perlington has retired as Treasurer and a new Treasurer will be elected at the Branch A.G.M. on Friday, 13th March.

Committee: Pat Bickerton, Janet Hollis, Joan Fynn, Kay Jones, Nellie Marshall, Doris Morton, Jean Pennington, Rose Rogers, Susan Smith, Evelyn Tame, Pat Trigg and Betty Waterman.

The guest speaker was Mr. Cyril Townsend, M.P. for Bexleyheath who gave a very interesting and inspiring talk.

This was followed by a Ploughman's lunch with wine.

Future Events

Outing to Beth Chatto's garden at Elmstead Market on Tuesday 2nd June. Details later.

Ladies lunch - Wednesday 29th July - Details later.

Saffron Walden Constituency invites people to a sale of Quality Ladies Fashions at wholesale prices, on Thursday, 9th April, 11 am - 4 pm at Blamster's Hall, Duton Hill (between Thaxted and Great Dunmow A130) by kind invitation of Mrs. G. Askew. Lunch, coffee and tea available.

For further information, or any other enquiries, please contact:-

Alan Corbishley - B/S 813040 or
Bridget Gott - B/S 814440.

BENTFIELD SCHOOL

Poems about shells & stones from Unit 4

The Shell

It has lots of prickles like a hedgehog
Big spines, little prickles
A little spiral staircase round the end
of the shell
Looks like a hedgehogs nose
The sound inside the shell is like the
wind and sea altogether
It looks like a shiny polished table
A human's ear.

My Shell

A speckled combine harvester black
Going round and round
Cutting through the sea
I can hear inside
The ech
Of an empty place

A creepy crawly spider
Darting across the ground

The colours of the outside are
mysterious. Dark brown, light,
Enchanting white.

The colours inside are
Magical peach, light pink
Light orange, dark pink
Enchanting white

I touch the outside
Oh! there are cogs going
round

The inside how can I
Describe it, its silk

Its got to be
I cant be wrong.

The Rock

A street lamp
Shining on a puddle of oil left by a
car
All the different colours flowing into
one.

It feels like the sun shining on me
With the cool breeze blowing my hair

The edges are like needles
Pricking my finger just like sleeping
beauty
It looks like the hillside from a
distance
The glittering flowers dazzling my eyes

Rainbow Stone

As the sun rises over that rainbow
stone,
It's rainbow colours are
Soft and dewey,
As the sun rises over that rainbow
stone,
On a cool, cool morning
Glinting in the suns bright rays.

The stone lays there glinting with its
strong sharp edges
Sharp as a razor blade
The uneven and rough edges of the
stone
Is it a jewel?
Is it a very precious stone?
It lays there waiting to be found.

The Stone

An oil slick drifting in the sea
Rainbow colours shining brightly
It feels as cold as ice in a fridge
14. And feels as rough as sand paper.

MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS

February 18th found us listening to a talk on Heat Conservancy. It was given by Mr. Tozer, who told us how he and Mrs. Caldicot, his helper, go out and talk to folk about it. He told us that ALL their people make an appointment before going to make a survey, and that they carry identity cards too. He emphasized that this is NOT a con! However, Mr. Tozer warned us against cons, as these seldom do a "proper" job and are very expensive.

March 4th found us enjoying a talk by Mr. Wicks on seedlings, plants, etc. He told us how he raises the seeds, and, how he uses a mixture of his own to raise them in. Also, how he keeps his greenhouses very cool, indeed, some of his stock he raises outside in the open. Mr. Wicks brought with him primulas, geraniums, miniature daffodils, calceolarias and even fushias. These were offered for sale, and were eagerly bought up by the members!

Now we are all wondering how March is going out. The first two or three days were "lamb-like", but then it became "lion-like"; so is it going out "lamb" or "lion"?

 Stansted
Guides and
Scouts.

May Fayre

May 4th 2-p.m.

Youth Centre
Lower Street.

Stalls. Sideshow's

Refreshments

Raffle



STANSTED GUIDES AND BROWNIES SUPPORTERS COMMITTEE

Coffee Evening

On Wednesday, April 8th, there will be a coffee evening in the Guide hut. The Guides will be putting on an entertainment and there will be visual displays covering various aspects of the group's activities. It is hoped to have the new tent on display aswell. There will also be a BRING AND BUY STALL. During the evening a very short time will be given over to the A.G.M. with reports from the leaders. We do hope you will come along and enjoy what promises to be a very entertaining evening.

Monday Night Guides

We are in urgent need of help on Monday night guides. You don't need special qualifications or training - just enthusiasm, willingness and time. Please contact the Monday night Guider, Sheila Bowles, on 814973 if you could help.

May Fayre

We are joining together again this year with the Cubs and Scouts to hold a joint MAY FAYRE on Monday May 4th. It will be held in the Youth and Adult Centre in Lower Street. We do hope you will all come along.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Next meetings at the Day Centre at 8.0
pm
April 9th

A. Downes - The Marshes of Glynn
Dvorak - String Quartet in F. Op.96
Francaix - L'Hovoge de flore
R. Strauss - Songs

April 23rd

Grieg - Holberg Suite
Vaughan-Williams - Concerto for Oboe
and Strings
Rachmaninov - Rapsody on a Theme of
Paganini
Beethoven - Piano Concerto No.4 in G

Mary Scholes
813155

On March 27th Aubrey Levey retired and looking back he wrote the following notes

PASTORAL FIGURES FROM THE PAST

Hats the shape of upside down soup plates were the headgear for the Revd. Mr. Cain of Newport and for the Revd. A.C. Turberville of Stansted half a century and more ago. In those days I used to cycle around the district from time to time with particulars of funerals. Canon Geare of Farnham was a long-time holder of the living there

and well known for being extremely precise in everything he did and expected similar exactness in all arrangements made with him. The Revd. J.W. Court of Widdington, the Revd. Canon Proctor at Thorley and Canon Geare all served their respective parishes for over fifty years apiece. Doctor Hughes at Saffron Walden had several assistant curates one of whom once forgot that he had to take a funeral service at a particular day and time - he knew all about it the next day when Dr. Hughes "carpeted" him.

The present Lord Lieutenant of Essex is the son of a well remembered Rector of Gilston, the Revd. Mr. Lewis who invariably invited the messenger into his study to discuss the matter in hand. Mervyn J. Stewart at Manuden had been a chaplain in the Royal Navy and was possessed of a voice guaranteed to drown the sound of any noisy wave. A rural setting for a funeral with the Vicar competing with - and winning - a voice battle with a flock of sheep bleating on the way to the graveyard.

Dr. Stewart at Ugley who had been a missionary in Lapland and who sported a considerable beard lived in a vastly too large Vicarage full of books. The Revd. Mr. Shaw of Henham afterwards went to Colchester but was well known while ministering at Henham. Great Dunmow was unique in having the Revd. Noel Mellish the only holder of the Victoria Cross on whom I called.

Here in Stansted of course there came the Revd. Canon Barrow who invited from time to time the Revd. Dr. Frank Wyeth of Newport Grammar School to take a Sunday morning service at St. Mary's. Frank Wyeth was unusual in that he was a master of arts, a doctor of science, a bachelor of divinity, the holder of the military cross (the Somme) and a priest well known to Henry Wilson the then Bishop of Chelmsford.

I hope Canon Barrow can see something of himself in his former assistant curate now Bishop of London and perhaps we could say that all of them would not mind being called gentlemen - warriors in God's cause.

The firm Levey has been in business since 1649 and although no Levey is now involved the business will continue to be run by Poultons of Epping.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Thursday before Shrove Tuesday we held club at Mrs. Johnsons house, well in her kitchen actually, making pancakes.

When it came to tossing pancakes I was surprised by how many experts we have. Everyone had a turn and not one dropped on the floor or stuck to the ceiling.


Timmy was a little unsure of himself until he found he could see his reflection in the window and then it was on with the work at hand. "Off with his tie" I think that makes all the difference. please note, all pancake chefs out there. Then with great confidence taking the pan in his right hand tossed the pancake twice watching himself all the time in the window satisfied everything was as it should be, he put his tie on and left the kitchen. We kept the pancake's hot until there were enough made for everyone to sit down together to a sugar and lemon pancake and a cup of coffee. It was agreed by all that they went down very well.


When Jackie helped us to make jewel-lery a few weeks ago everyone enjoyed themselves so much that she paid us another visit. This time we were more sure of ourselves and soon began to make necklaces in a variety of colours with all different sizes of beads. Those ladies with pierced ears were lucky and had earrings made for them by James and Becky.

What was happening as we all stopped to watch what we thought must be a new game or dance, as we saw knees down, bottoms up and Ann, Marion, Jean and Laurie disappeared underneath the table. After shuffling about for a while they reappeared to cheers from their audience with handfuls of beads. Somebody had knocked a tray full of beads all over the floor.

One person went home a little bit disappointed and that was Harold. Nobody had made him a necklace, but never mind, better luck next time Harold.

Jean Stone


EXTENSIONS
GENERAL BUILDING
RENOVATIONS



PHONE:
 BISHOP'S STORTFORD (0279) 813140
 or BISHOP'S STORTFORD (0279) 813599

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



Happy Valentines

Over 150 people enjoyed the Valentine's Dance on Saturday 14th organised by the school's PTA.

The music was provided by the George Thorby Big Band who were playing at the school for the sixth time. Later in the evening a fish and chip supper was also enjoyed.

The school's PTA is very active and is helping to raise much needed funds to improve the educational resources at the school. The Valentine's Dance helped to raise over £400 for the school.

Discovering the Past

A History trail will soon be available for visitors to Stansted Mountfitchet.

The Parish Council has been working for several months on a historical walk around the village and last week (17th Feb) the History Department at the school successfully tried out the walk with their classes.

The walk includes many of the historic buildings in the village including the windmill, churches, schools and the castle as well as many lesser known features.

The pupils were impressed by the amount of history around them and the walk helped to make them appreciate what can so easily be taken for granted.

Jakki Edwards 5J

French Exchange

For 2 weeks in February (13th-27th) 30 school pupils from Nevers in central France were in Stansted. They were staying with pupils from the Mountfitchet High School as part of a French Exchange scheme fun by Mrs. Thatcher, head of modern languages at the school.

For the first week of their stay they were entertained by the school and trips were organised to Warwick Castle and to a Farm Centre.

Most of the French visitors were taken on trips to London to see the sights. Other popular trips were to Duxford Aircraft Museum and to see the colleges at Cambridge.

In April the Mountfitchet High School pupils will travel to Nevers on the return leg of the exchange.

Sayers Croft

Over the half term break 31 pupils from the Mountfitchet High School stayed at the outdoor centre at Sayers

Croft in Surrey.

It was a very eventful time packed with walks and day trips. The pupils went orienteering and walked to the Devil's Punchbowl, a dramatic and very beautiful valley. They also walked to the Devil's Jump, which is a hill where in thundery conditions you can see the lightning striking the ground.

The day trips included visits to Guildford, Brighton, where the dolphinarium was very popular, and to Portsmouth to see HMS Victory and the Mary Rose.

A very enjoyable time for everyone and a very different experience to the usual half term spent at home.

The Harlow College Interviews

On 5th February, the Deans and Lecturers of Harlow College came to the school. The day had come for the Harlow college interviews! We waited patiently and nervously in our lessons until it was time for our interviews. At our allotted time, we were called for and sent to our lecturer, each of whom represented one subject.

The lecturers were very helpful and they answered any questions you asked.

It was not as formal as we had all thought, we talked freely about our proposed course and the college in general. When we had come to an agreement, we were offered a place at the college in our chosen course. I am happy to say that everyone was accepted.

We were then sent to the Dean of Study who is there to finalise everything. She would confirm your choice and we were all given a leaflet explaining everything about all full-time courses. Although there were conditional offers, this means you would be guaranteed a place at your course, as long as, for example, you managed to get two 'O' levels.

We were all very happy and very relieved that we had been accepted. We are also very grateful to all the Lecturers and Deans that came to our school, for their time and consideration.

Julia Phillips 5S

Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 3rd March the Mountfitchet High School PTA ran a trip to the West End of London to see Les Miserables performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

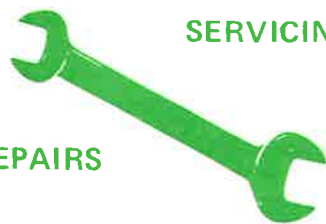
The school coach took the party of parents and staff on what proved to be a very enjoyable night out.

Many thanks to Mr. Wrangmore for organising the trip and for driving the coach.

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