

Jul 87

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

HAIR STYLIST

Mary Abstin

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### THANKS

to all the people of Stansted who contributed to the fine sum of £1000 in the Christian Aid house-to-house collection in May. (See article within).

### THANKS

to Rev. Eric McIlwain and his inter-church team for arranging and seeing through the very happy return visit of our Belgian friends from Chevetogne. (See more within).

### HELP

wanted for the LINK lay-out/paste-up (more and more within!).

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.

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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by  
16th July for August issue  
13th August for September issue

# SACC

## LINK

"The Link" has been in existence now for 7 years and Eric McIlwain has been associated with it for all these years and in the early planning stages - playing a vital role in its monthly production. He has been the one to "paste up" all the articles and get the copy to the printers - He now feels after all these years, in need of a rest from it. So, as from October we need help in "pasting up" - the more help we have the less onerous the job - simple skills in design are required. We, the committee, cannot express our thanks adequately for all the work Eric has done for "The Link" for without him, the production of "Link" would not have got under way or kept going.

Alas, we are to lose another faithful committee member - Fred Boyd - who has in recent years managed the advertising side in "Link" - so excellent is Fred at persuading people to advertise that we have a waiting list for the cover - we need someone to take Fred's place - can you help?

To both Eric and Fred - thank you - from all of us associated with "Link".

Margaret Booker  
Chairman

## CHRISTIAN AID

I am very pleased to announce that the total raised in Christian Aid Week was over £1,000, and I should like to thank all the collectors who gave their time and effort, and all the people of Stansted who gave so generously. The Saturday morning market was well supported.

Christian Aid is not only concerned with raising money, but also with making people aware of the issues relating to 3rd World development. This was the reason for the 3rd World Cabaret which followed the Christian Aid Unity Service. Those who attended will want me to say thank you on your behalf to all who took part in the sketches, songs and readings on the theme of land. This was a very enjoyable and thought-provoking evening.

Catherine Dean

## S.A.C.C. Belgian Visit

As chairman of S.A.C.C. it was my privilege to welcome our Belgian brothers and sisters in Christ on behalf of the 5 Stansted Churches. To say that the visit went well is to put it very mildly! Even our English weather could not have been better. Over that we had no control but I must express thanks to all who did so much

to make the visit so successful. When I say that the "arrangements" committee numbered about 20, representing all the churches I hope I will be forgiven for not mentioning individuals by name. Elsewhere you will read a letter from Sister Agnes and one from the Abbé, Guy Lucas. I think they reflect the great joy which was evident all round.

Eric McIlwain

Stansted Association of Christian Churches and all those in the village who have taken part in the Chevetogne visits owe a great debt to Rev. Eric McIlwain for planning (over more than a year) and carrying out the arrangements for this interchange between our villages and parishes. The experience has been an eye-opener to several and a real joy to all who took part.

The letters reproduced below speak for themselves, but "The LINK" would like to add its own thanks to Eric - and to all the "hosts/hostesses" (see "Diary of a Chevetogne Hostess").

From Abbe Guy LUCAS  
(TRANSLATION) Rue du Cimetiere, 3  
Chevetogne June 2nd

Dear Eric and Mrs. McIlwain,

In the name of the group from Chevetogne I wish to thank you most warmly for the wonderful welcome we received from our Christian brothers in Stansted. Our earnest prayer for the future is to see an ever-increasing bond of love unite us in the Christian mystery.

Guy

Dear Reverend and Mrs. McIlwain  
and all our Friends of Stansted

How could we possibly thank you adequately for your most warm and generous welcome. We are absolutely overwhelmed by your kindness and your friendship in Christ, Who is so pleased, surely, to see us together realising His uttermost desire: "May they be one!" And, really, one we have been, and one will stay, by our marvellous deep ecumenical link! You have done so much for us, in all ways! I know every one of the group has been delighted and very touched!: "The welcome of Stansted is absolutely marvellous!" they said to me "and we can really feel we were expected, because it is absolutely impossible to have planned and prepared all this in a fortnight's time!" They were extremely grateful! And they are already beginning to think about your next visit to Chevetogne for which we are very much looking forward! But we shall never, never forget your most friendly welcome! through the gorgeous days we spent with you, and all thanks to you, the most marvellous gift was given to us: our increasing praise and love of God, and of one another!

Yours gratefully, for ever  
Sister Agnes-Marie

Composed for the Chevetogne Visit  
Social Evening

Chers amis de Chevetogne, a Stansted  
si bienvenus!  
Our welcome is hearty - even tho'  
our words be few.

Vous arrivez d'un coin bien joli de  
la Belgique  
To see all the beauties of Britain  
in less than a week.

Vous etes deja passes par  
Canterbury: ses tours, sa  
Cathedrale  
So the churches of Stansted must  
seem a bit small.

..Neanmoins, quand meme at sans  
aucun doute  
You may find our village friendly,  
photogenic and cute.

Notre vieux moulin, sentinel a  
l'approche meridionale,  
gives a floodlit approach and  
welcome to you all:

A ses pieds, la petite eglise-en-  
presbytere, St Therese,  
Opens it's doors for all people to  
say prayers.

Plus loin, a la maison de reunion  
des "Quakers",  
The Society of Friends and  
Methodists welcome all takers.

L'Eglise de la Paroisse de St Jean  
(avec St Marie)  
Is your real Church of England -  
and, at the old URC,  
M. le Pasteur McIlwain a son propre  
domaine  
How our churches got split up! - but  
see us unite again!

Demain, Malheur! Vous partez do  
nos cotes, si tot!  
There is so much more we should have  
liked you to know!

L'histoire du manoir de notre  
seigneur de Montfitchet (Feeshay)  
Who gave to Stansted it's title in a  
distant day:

Les gloires de l'aviation, tel notre  
aeroport,  
Our railway station, Chinese take-  
away - and oh, much more!

Vous avez goute Cambridge, cite  
universitaire  
(Not to be confused with Oxford, if you  
happen to go there)

Vous emportez, nous l'esperons de nous un  
joli souvenir,  
- not thinking: "Englishmen! there's no  
folk as queer!"

Merci nos amis, pour votre gracieuse  
visite:

It's really been for us, your hosts, a  
right royal treat

Nous ne disons pas "adieu", mais, "A  
votre prochain retour!"

Come back, Chevetognais! - you'll find  
friends here, that's sure!

May 1987

Extracts of a letter from Robert Dozot,  
one of our visitors from Chevetogne.

.... I will never forget the way you  
received us and above all your kindness  
and your dedication to give us the nicest  
stay from all points of view. I am very  
glad having met you.....

Your organisation was perfect. All the  
places we visited with you were splendid,  
especially your churches. We think we  
understand now that your Christian faith  
and our one are both really the same. I  
think that the Stansted-Chevetogne  
twinning is an unqualified success for  
our two communities - I say "thank you"  
from all my heart. I kiss you!.....

Truly your friend

Robert

## Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk:

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

Meeting for worship: llam.

About a year ago, when visiting a  
friend in Yorkshire, I saw the grave of  
Sylvia Plath, the poetess, in a high  
and bleak moorland churchyard. The  
inscription on the tombstone (a line  
from one of her poems I imagine) was  
"Even amidst the fiercest flame, the  
golden lotus can be planted".

This is a vivid and individual  
expression of something that is very  
much part of Christian thought. I am a  
member of an ecumenical discussion  
group and many of the books we have  
read and discussed, and the tapes we  
have listened to over the years stress  
the need for people to reach the point  
of despair before there can be a full  
awareness of God. It is perhaps  
particularly emphasised, and well  
expressed, by Dr. Martin Israel - who  
spoke so movingly in St. John's a year  
or so ago.

What I have always found difficult  
about this is that reaching a point of  
despair can be caused by a tempermen-  
tal trait; and I find it hard to  
accept that those whose temperament  
does not contain this element cannot be  
as active and enlivened Christians as  
those whose temperament does include  
it. I know it is impossible to know  
what others are suffering - there will  
be many serene, calm people who suffer

very deeply. But there do seem to be some whose temperament does not "touch the depths" and yet their lives shine brightly. Conversely, there are those who by temperament and circumstance do touch the depths, and tragically no light does come to them. I often wonder what it is within us that blocks off that light or lets it through.

I also wonder if it is the contrast that makes us particularly aware of good that comes out of evil or suffering. In painting, the light areas are emphasised by very dark contrasts: the light colour remains the same with or without the contrast - but the viewer sees it differently. Is it perhaps that the illumination that comes in the midst of darkness is so striking and startling that it affects us more deeply?

I think I like Sylvia Plath's view that the golden lotus can be planted even amidst the fiercest flame - and marvellous it is when that happens - but it can also be planted in happier circumstances.

Katharine Hurford

## 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.

### DIARY OF A CHEVETOGNE HOSTESS

#### THURSDAY AM

Up bright and early - today's the day! Still lots to do. How will I fit it all in! First a shopping expedition to buy all the extra goodies - the casseroles are already in the freezer - hope they like my cooking - stagger back from Sainsburys and collapse for a cup of tea before blasting through the bedrooms and removing the dust of centuries! By evening the chicken's boned and stuffed, the house is clean and sparkling (goodness doesn't it make a difference!) and I collapse for another cup of tea. Heavens! is that the time? Tear down to wait on the corner of Blythwood Gardens just in case the coach arrives while everyone is at the evening service - it does! 8.15 pm and it chugs along with its tired load. We wave them down and greetings are exchanged. Everyone looks relieved to have arrived safely

and it's so good to see so many familiar faces from our visit to Chevetogne last year. We direct the bus up the narrow lane - holding up all the traffic as it positions itself for the narrow entrance to St. Theresa's and then a quick dash up across the grass and I just catch them before they go sailing past the windmill! Everyone comes piling out of Mass and what a happy atmosphere there is as all the visitors are welcomed. At last everyone is matched with a hostess and we all wend our way back home for the first big meal!

#### FRIDAY

Up bright and early again! 3 cheers for good friends who have invited us all out to breakfast - this is better than the Savoy - such service - Why don't we do this more often Paula!! Off down to St Theresa's again to meet up for our trip to Cambridge. We all board the coach and Rev'd McIlwain leads in his car through the winding lanes and villages to the Old Spring Inn for our lunch. What a glorious day, everything looks marvellous in the sunshine! Now we can all sit and have a well earned drink and a meal that someone else has prepared! This could be disaster time though - there are 40 of us - how will they manage to take all our orders and get us out in time to see Kings Chapel before it closes! They manage, and with great panache - we are all guided past the menus - orders are taken and only 1 person receives a chicken pie instead of a chicken curry! Now for the long walk - hope everyone can manage this - with a few stops to let the slow of gait catch up we eventually reach Kings Chapel - it is certainly worth a long walk! We just have time to have a quick wonder round, buy a few postcards before it closes - then on to Silver Street and the punts! 4 punts are ordered and 4 volunteers (?) chosen to man them. Manfully they pole down river as we wave bravely from the bridge and then settle down for a quiet hour with a pot of tea in the sunshine! Oh no they're late coming back - dinner will never be ready before our Ecumenical Service! A quick phonecall home and disaster is averted - the casserole is put in the oven and by the time we all arrive back dinner is well under way!

The Service is marvellous, all the visitors are so moved by the spectacle which we take so much for granted in Stansted of our 5 Churches taking part in services together. So many people have turned out for this and our visitors meet many more of the villagers over coffee afterwards. Then back to Laurie and Paula's for another get-together and some winetasting! and back late to bed!

#### SATURDAY

Another huge English breakfast! I could get used to this! Even so with all the French that's spoken it seems quite continental! Today our guests are to be shown around the Windmill - again the weather is glorious - Thank you God! We

have lots of interpreters and I push Emilie around the green while her mother Pascale explains the workings of the windmill in French! We all pile onto the bus again with our goodies for the picnic at Little Easton - some cars follow and we wend our way happily again through waving fields and pass well-tended cottages. At last arriving at Rectory Lakes the food is unpacked and shared and another feast is consumed! We all enjoy the sunshine, the companionship and the ducks! Good grief - just 2 hours left to get to the shops for some souvenirs to take home! We all rush around Bishop's Stortford looking for typical English souvenirs - at last they are found in Gateways - marmalade, Chivers jellies and Birds Custard!! Tonight's our big night, we've been preparing for this for months - Our Social at the Day Centre! Thank goodness for our Shalom group. They have all turned up trumps and are going to prepare the Centre for us and look after things in the kitchen. Edna and Harry have collected the wine and tablecloths and flowers and when we arrive at the Day Centre it is transformed! And such smells! Everyone is seated and served and the entertainment begins. Peter Baker is our MC and raconteur. Fred Boyd joins him for some fun - these boys could be professionals!! What talent we have in our village: singers and guitar players, piano players, even a group of singers newly formed to sing and recite to our visitors! The jokes are translated - the atmosphere is truly marvellous but we are also sad because this is our last night together.

#### SUNDAY

After another huge English breakfast we meander down to 10.30 Mass. Franz the coach driver looks over his vehicle and suitcases are piled on board. However, it is not to end yet! A telegram has arrived - their boat has been delayed and they have another two hours with us! Mike and Marion Dyer offer their garden for lunch and we all take our leftovers which are to be converted into yet another feast, into their lovely garden and spend our last few hours yet again eating and drinking! Once more we file back to St Theresa's car park - the pace much slower now as we realise it is all about to end. There are tears, embraces and lots of good wishes and invitations for the next year. A last photograph and we pile into our cars to race down to the roundabout to position ourselves for a last farewell - Goodbye dear friends - see you next year! We return to Mike's for a last coffee before having another look around the day centre to make sure it is left perfect for Monday and then back home to get down to the mundane again - changing beds and washing! Was it worth it? It most certainly was - in the planning and preparation for it we became good friends and bonds were formed between many

families - if only our visitors enjoyed it half as much as we did it was all well worth while. By the way Eric - have you arranged our next visit yet?!!

E Quinn

## 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.

How did you celebrate Pentecost this year? Did you send the season's greetings to your friends? Did you adorn your home with colourful decorations? It is perhaps strange that the most significant event in the Christian calendar should have escaped the materialistic trappings that try, albeit unsuccessfully, to suffocate the other major feasts of Christmas and Easter. Sadly, Whitsunday is now even separated from the holy-day which used to follow it; and as far as secular society is concerned, the anniversary of the coming of the Holy Spirit has quietly disappeared.

The name 'pentecost' is derived from the Greek 'pentekoste', meaning fiftieth, and it refers to the fifty days between the two ancient feasts of Passover and Pentecost. For the pre-Christian Hebrews, Pentecost was equivalent to our harvest festival, and was an occasion for rejoicing and making offerings to the Lord. For the disciples in the year of our Lord's death and resurrection, it coincided with the most momentous event in their lives. For the church today it is a time for reminding ourselves that the Holy Spirit is very much alive, and pleading for us to give him room in our lives. Some of us may be frightened by his power, and wonder whether we can cope with it. Others may feel more comfortable with a binary God; but as far as I am concerned I need all the power and strength that is on offer from all three members of the Trinity. Perhaps we should give Pentecost a higher profile next year, even if it is bad news for diets and turkeys!

We look forward to joining in the United Eucharist at the United Reformed Church on Sunday 5th July at 10.30 am. There will be no Methodist service on that day.

Shalom Michael Dyer

Having completed another thought-provoking re-run of the 'Fully Alive Experience' we are rounding off the season's activities with a couple of special events.

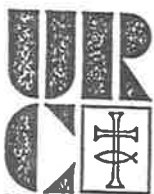
Sunday 5th July - A return visit by

members of the Church of the Cherubim and Seraphim. Many of us remember visiting these joy-filled Christians in Birmingham some time ago, and are looking forward to sharing with them again. We meet from 2 pm onwards at the Methodist Church in Bishop's Stortford for a time of prayer and praise.

Monday 13th July - Our annual picnic praise in the delightful surroundings of Rectory Lakes in Little Easton. We meet in St Theresa's car park at 7.15 pm so as to share transport. Do not forget to bring food and drink to share with each other (and the geese!).

All Shalomites (past, present and future) are welcome to the above events. We are a group of ecumenically minded Christians coming together to share our joys and tribulations in a variety of ways. During the summer we may be meeting informally as we did last year, and all are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Rita on B/S 59038.

M. Dyer



## 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.

At the recent General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the U.K. (held in Cardiff) the Assembly heard a report on the progress of church union discussions with the Congregational Union of Scotland.

Ever since the Churches of Christ joined the U.R.C. in 1961 there have been U.R.C. congregations in Scotland. It now appears that the Scottish Congregationalists will enter the U.R.C. by the time of next year's Assembly (May 1988).

The negotiations are also being observed in Scotland by the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopalians and the Scottish Churches' Council, so this union does not preclude further church union in Scotland.

It is a matter of great significance that, since its foundation in 1972 when Presbyterians and Congregationalists in England and Wales came together as the U.R.C., this new, united church (the first on the U.K. scene) has worked continuously for further union. If you believe, as I do, that the Holy Spirit is calling the churches to unity in our time, with well over 100 unions already notched up world-wide since 1925 (the United Church of Canada), you must be cheered by this small denomination as it pioneers church union in the United Kingdom.

Although these unions have been, to a large extent, unions of like with like or at least similar, they do bring hope that one day we may be able to overcome even more entrenched differences between the churches. Differences which, thank God, do not now prevent our Christian fellowship, as witness the Belgian exchange visit, but which still give us pause at the altar of our Lord, where we should be "one in the Spirit and one in the Lord".

### U.R.C. Services for July

Sunday, July 5th

10.30 (Please note) - JOINT COMMUNION, Methodist Anglicans and U.R.C.

July 12th

11.00 - Rev. Eric McIlwain - Family Service

4.00 - Anniversary Tea - Lecture Hall

6.00 - Anniversary Service. 20th Ann. of present Grouping Arrangements - Preacher - the Rev. Tony Ruffell of Halstead U.R.C.

July 19th

11.00 - 10th Anniversary of Council for World Mission - T.B.A.

July 26th

11.00 - the Rev. Lydia Rapkin

August 2nd

11.00 - the Rev. Eric McIlwain  
Holy Communion

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

**UTTLESFORD CAMTAD**

**Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness**

**COMES TO STANSTED**

**If you have a hearing problem**

**RING — HELP**

**B.S.**

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm. LINE 816008.**



# 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

The Rev'd 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.

## VICAR'S NOTES

Is Stansted going to change? This seems to be the question on peoples' lips. Property prices are soaring and this will exclude first-time buyers; retired residents will also be tempted to sell up and move away to a cheaper area. Some say that if the airport brings about a lot of change they will be off to Suffolk or Norfolk and so we could see great mobility in the population.

We do not know exactly what will happen and surely panic should be avoided. My hunch is we will not see much change for 10 years - but I could be wrong.

But these questions came up at a recent house group meeting when we were discussing how to freshen up the life of our Church. Two concerns emerged from the discussions which are not unrelated to changes in population.

First, it was felt that as a Church we need to do more to welcome and integrate newcomers. Of course, an overkill in welcoming can frighten people away altogether - but there are ways of making new residents feel welcome and wanted.

Among other projects we hope to produce an 'Information Waller' so that everyone knows what is going on.

Stansted Association of Christian Churches are also revising the leaflet which sets out local information and provides a map of the village.

The other subject for discussion in our groups was worship. Do we need to make some adjustments to our pattern of worship? Is there room in our pattern for a non-Eucharistic service? Our Church Council reviews worship continually and within the last year have changed the pattern and made some slight changes to Parish Communion. But it is right that the matter should be kept under continued review and in the autumn we plan to have an Open Meeting inviting everyone to come and talk things over. As you know you can never please all the people all the time and there is a danger of seeing worship as an entertainment. Of course we worship God because we want to respond to Him in Praise, Love and Adoration. We come to give and we discover that in giving we also receive.

All this gives me the opportunity to remind you of something I say every July. Do go to worship when on holiday - wherever you are. Apart from the refreshment it brings us so often by worshipping in another Church we receive inspiration and new ideas.

If you are going away have a good time - and please travel safely.

God bless you.

*Thank You!*

Several families have left Stansted in recent weeks. Leslie and Carolyn de Chernatony of Chapel Hill have moved to Bedfordshire. They were both involved in the life of the church especially with St John's Appeal. Jack and Laurie Pinkert with their children have returned to America. They were a great asset to the Church. Laurie summed up her feelings when she said that before they came to the UK they prayed about it and were apprehensive about the move. But they read that it was in taking a risk that you find blessings. This, she said, has been so true of her experience in Stansted. We certainly found blessings through them. Bill and Joan McKee have also moved from Burto End to go and live near their daughter in Devon. Since they moved into Stansted from Farnham they have come regularly on a Wednesday morning and have helped in many ways. Bill has often helped out by taking services. We would like to thank them all and wish them every happiness in the future.

We hear of other possible moves and will report them as they come about.

# NewsFlash!

Recently the Church Hall was left in a deplorable state after a wedding reception. It was quite unusable and took two people a day to clear up the mess. Obviously this means we are going to have to review our policy in letting the hall for wedding receptions. Certainly we are going to have to say 'No' to receptions that have a disco and a bar. The Hall Committee will meet shortly to discuss the issue and it is possible that wedding receptions will be banned entirely. A pity but we cannot let the hall be so misused.

This might be the opportunity to explain that the church hall is run by a sub-committee of the Church Council and their policy is to make it as widely used by the community as possible. The Church itself makes no profit from lettings. All funds are ploughed back to repair and improve the hall. In other words voluntary help is keeping going a community asset and we see this work as part of our help and care for the people of Stansted.



On Saturday Susan Robinson and Alistair Bone are to be married and a service of blessing takes place in St. John's at 2.30 p.m. We wish them every joy and happiness.

At the end of this school term Marion Johnson retires from St. Mary's School. She came to Stansted from Cardiff and has stayed here ever since giving of her time, energy and considerable enthusiasm to School and Church. It is difficult to imagine the school without her but she deserves a rest. A new chapter now opens for Marion and I expect for us too. God Bless.

Try and come to the Parish Communion on 19th July for the school leavers' service as this will be Marion's last church service with the children.

## A REMINDER .....

that on July 5th there is a Unity Communion at 10.30 a.m. in the URC Church and NO 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion that day.

## Parish Registers

### Baptisms

24th May Laurence David Ernest Martin  
20 St John's Road  
Hayley Emma Parker,  
33 St John's Road

7th June Sophie Rosalyn Comyn-Noyes  
29 Bentfield Causeway  
Benjamin Webb, 5 Water Lane



## Marriages

- 16th May Graham Phipp, New Ashe Green, Kent, and Christine Teresa Childs, 51 Sunnyside
- 13th June Robert Martin, Bentfield Bury Cottage and Karen Pomphret, Wicken Road, Clavering.

Confirmed by the Bishop of Chelmsford on 31st May

Nicholas Archer, John Dockerill, Allison Ford, Camilla Harvey, James Hobday, Joanne Langley, Laurence Martin, Diane Middleton, Hayley Parker, Louise Potter, Sheila Rolfe, Joyce Russell, Suzanne Russell, James Salmon, Alexander Stiles, Paul Thain, Lucy Williams, Richard Williams.

## Departed

- 3rd June Winifred Robinson, 2 Falconers Park, Sawbridgeworth Aged 82 years
- 4th June Bernard Dockerill, 60 Birchwood, Birchanger Aged 67 years

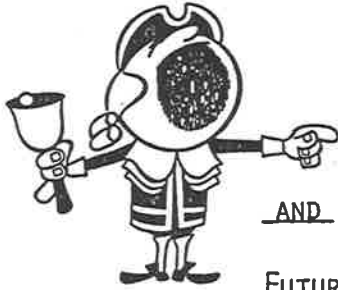
## Church Diary JULY

- 2nd Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am
- 3rd St Thomas the Apostle. Holy Communion 7.45 am
- 5th Unity Communion - 10.30 am - URC Church  
Youth Eucharist 6.30 pm - St. Mary's
- 6th PCC Meeting 8 pm. The Rowans, Bentfield Causeway
- 7th Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am  
Youth Rally Event - details in weekly newsheet
- 8th Parents Annual Meeting at St Mary's School 8 pm
- 9th Church Overseas Links Group 8.30pm The Vicarage
- 19th St Mary's School Leavers Service 9.30 am St John's
- 22nd Mothers' Union Lunch in Vicarage Garden  
St Mary Magdalene. Holy Communion 10 am
- 25th St James the Apostle. Holy Communion 9 am

## AUGUST

- 6th The Transfiguration of our Lord Holy Communion 7.45 am and 9 pm

# Village News



AND

## FUTURE EVENTS

### July

- 4 Mounthfichet School Hall
- 5 10.30 Bentfield School Barn Dance
- 5 U.R.C. Church.
- 9 8.00 Unity Communion Service
- 9 Day Centre. B.S. Recorded
- 11 8.30 Music Society
- 11 The Snuff Box, Bentfield Rd.
- "Action Aid" Pate & Plonk
- 19 9.30 am St. John's. St. Mary's
- School Leavers Service
- 23 8.00 Day Centre. B.S. Recorded
- 23 Music Society
- 29 11.00 St. John's Hall & Gardens
- Dr. Barnardo's Market

### August

- 31 Windmill 200th Anniversary
- Grand Fayre (see Council
- Notice)

### September

- 25 Day Centre. Royal British
- Legion. Michaelmas Supper.

### "OUR VILLAGE"

One of the necessities for life we still carry in common with the very first and all subsequent travellers or settlers who spent any time within the area known today as our Parish, for they like us could not have survived without a supply of pure or perhaps not so pure water. Wherever a settlement sprang up, close availability of water would have been of first importance, the only difference today is the method of delivery.

Long before the first wells were sunk people would rely on streams, springs, ponds and puddles for their daily needs.

It may be worth noting that many animals today will drink from a fresh rainwater puddle in preference to tap water. To sink a well was an expert digger's job often done at great risk to themselves. Fatal accidents were not uncommon, and in this our village shared. Many houses and cottages had a private or shared well somewhere in the garden; many are still evident; others covered and lost until, as some do,


collapse leaving a great hole lined with bricks holding together by their placing and weight.

To number the wells in the village would be an impossible task now, but to say there were scores of them would not be unfounded, some being in daily use into the early 1950's. It would be of interest to know if you used one any later than this.

There was a village pump close to the junction of Elsenham Road and the Street (Lower Street). It was often said that the rent from the field known as Pump Field was used to pay for the maintenance of this pump although no hard evidence has yet come to light on this. The pump in fact ran dry about 1902 causing many problems but by this time the Stansted Water Company was well established and eventually came to the rescue. The pump was completely removed around 1932.

Two water drinking troughs were also available in the village, one being constructed of iron, but by the early 1920's it was reported as having been cracked for many years and several people had run against it in the dark and now that motor cars were being largely used its usefulness was drained and it was duly removed. The second trough being close to the fountain, this also by the early 1920's had contained no water for some time as when the trough had been filled it was of no benefit for drinking purposes because motor tractor drivers were putting their suction pipes in to refill with water their thirsty machines. Motorists would also dip empty petrol tins into the trough when their cars ran short of water. No horse would then drink from the supply. Many people who kept horses would not let them drink at a public trough anyway, so it probably seems the age of the motor and their owners had much to answer for water - "which thousands drink who never dream, whence flows the boon they bless" (thanks to the lines from Amwell).

P. J. Brown



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or BISHOP'S STORTFORD (0279) 813599

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Village Trail - the Parish Council has recently published a leaflet entitled "Stansted Mountfitchet Village Trail", where it is from several local shops, the library and the council offices. Follow the trail and see how well you know Stansted!

Mountfitchet School Hard Play Area - the two hard tennis courts at the Mountfitchet High School are available for hire from the Parish Council - evenings, weekends and all school holidays - apply to the Clerk for details. Can also be used for netball, football training, roller skating, etc. Why not hire it for the next children's birthday party in the family?

Windmill 200th Anniversary Celebrations By the time you read this tickets for the grand celebration Barn Dance will be available. Priced at £4.00 each including a Millers Supper. Dancing to the Redbridge Folk Band at the Mountfitchet High School on Saturday 29th August 1987. Contact the Clerk, any Parish Councillor or Stansted Miller for tickets. Monday 31st August is the date to have in your diaries - stay in Stansted and enjoy the Grand Fayre. Any donations - cakes, bottles, books, bric-a-brac, raffle prizes, etc. gratefully received. Also we are still in need of manpower - to help run sideshows, etc. Please contact the Clerk, any Parish Councillor or any Stansted Miller.

Telephone Council Offices 813214

N.W.R.

Spot the difference? You may notice that our logo has changed - no longer NWR but NWR! On June 3rd National Housewives Register became NATIONAL WOMENS REGISTER - a new name and new image to reflect the different lifestyle of the woman of the 80's.

NWR is a nationwide women's organisation with 23,000 members in 1,200 groups. Although part of a national organisation our local group here in Stansted is autonomous, offering women of all kinds fun, friendship and lively discussion on a wide range of subjects. We meet informally in our homes in small groups to talk and think for ourselves. Our evening discussions are interspersed with other interesting activities such as theatre outings occasional speakers, book group and social events.

Interested? We certainly hope you are for we warmly welcome new members. Keep a look out in the village for our posters or phone Isabel for details of our new programme.

Isabel Mayo 814572  
Julie Cooper 59129

### BENTFIELD SCHOOL. P.T.A. BARN DANCE

On Saturday 4th July  
in Mountfitchet School Hall

Swing your partners to our  
Traditional Western Theme Band

Tickets £3.50 inc. Chicken Salad  
followed by Apple Pie

Prize Raffle  
First Prize £100.00  
Plus other cash prizes

EVERYONE WELCOME



DR. BARNARDO'S MORNING MARKET

The annual summer event - in aid of Dr. Barnardo's - will be held this year, for the first time, at St. John's Hall and gardens, Stansted, on Wednesday 29th July at 11.00 a.m.

We are hoping for a bumper event - and good weather! Everyone is welcome. There will be more stalls than usual - cakes, delicatessen, produce, toys, 'bring and buy', 'guess the weight of a turkey and a cake' and more besides. Also, as always, a really super raffle. Come and enjoy yourself, and meet friends - all in a good cause.  
Entrance 40p, including refreshments.

**ACTION RESEARCH**

**THE STANSTED GROUP**

invite you to a

**PATE AND PLONK EVENING**  
on

Saturday July 11th 1987 at 8.30 pm

at

The Snuff Box  
Bentfield Road  
Stansted

Tickets £2.50  
including refreshments  
\*Bar\*

For tickets please contact Catherine Dean 813579 or Katy Dockerill 812997 or any member of the Committee.

Our Coffee Morning held on 20 May at the home of Angela Khalil was a great success and raised £160 for Action Research. Many thanks to all who so generously supported this event.

Action Research is very proud to have the Duchess of York as its new patron. She has expressed a desire to work actively for the Fund.



### STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

Mrs. Win. Christophers chaired our "members" meeting of the Stansted Afternoon W.I. this month. She welcomed the 39 members and four visitors, who included Mrs. Brenda Ryan from Stansted Evening W.I. and two members from Henham W.I.

Miss Alison Little was the Secretary for the afternoon.

Mr. Keith Gibbs gave a most interesting talk on "Gilding and Decorating" churches and well known buildings. Mrs. Brenda Scarr gave the vote of thanks.

Mrs. Brenda Scarr reported on the A.G.M. held in the Albert Hall this month.

The competition for "My Favourite Plate" was won by Mrs. Joan Grose and Mrs. Stella Cooper was second.

Three posies were presented to members celebrating birthdays this month.

The raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Edna Reed, Mrs. Janet Poole-Adams, Mrs. Trish Little and Mrs. Cilla French.

Margaret Gibbs  
813019

### STANSTED EVENING W.I.

Our meeting on June 11th was well attended despite it being Election Night and those that came enjoyed an evening away from politics! President, Mrs. Janice Cooper, welcomed visitors and the speaker Mr. David Coleman. Helpes and cakes were asked for for the Carnival on June 27th and the Windmill Celebrations on August 31st. We are also running a white elephant stall on that date. A Fashion Show has been arranged for Friday October 16th in St. John's Hall. Tickets will be £1.50 to include refreshments and all are welcome. The Quiz Evening will now take place in September at Ugley Village Hall, the date to be finalised shortly. Names were taken for those who wished to apply for a Bursary to attend Denman College. We give two Bursaries a year for £35 each, which pays about half the cost of a weekend. The Denman College appeal

fund has now reached over £700,000 for necessary repairs and alterations Essex W.I.'s have sent about £19,00 of this amount to date.

Mr. David Coleman thoroughly entertained members with his talk of 'My Lifetime of Furniture Making' Starting in London as an apprentice he joined Maple & Co at 16 years old to learn the craft of a cabinet maker which took 7 years. He moved out to Epping, then Sawbridgeworth and worked in Clement Joscelyne in Bishop's Stortford for 7 years, before setting up his own business. He appeared on BBC2 in 1970 and from then on 'broke in' to the American Market, who really love is antique reproduction tables. He now has a workshop in Saffron Walden, where he still happily works with his partner, whom he trained as a boy. The 'Queen Anne' table made in English Walnut which he brought along to show delighted us all.

After coffee Mrs. Janice Cooper gave her report of the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall, which she attended on our behalf. She found it a very stimulating meeting and was pleased to have a prime seat in the 5th row from the front! The Speaker was Gordon Benningfield the Artist, who spoke of the need for Conservation. The Resolutions discussed and voted on by all the W.I.'s on Consumer Credit, Irradiation of Food and Earnings and Benefits, were all carried.

Our competition for homemade Dolls' House Furniture was won by Sylvia Osborne with Kath Johnson second.

Next month's meeting is a coach trip to Lavenham Priory so there will be no meeting in the hall.



### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We shall be having a stall at the WINDMILL Exhibition in conjunction with the 200th Anniversary Celebration of this great village landmark. Come and join us there and let us tell you about all the work being done for charity by the Legion.

\*\*\*\*\*

In view of the great success of the Cheese and Wine evening held at the end of April and the happy evening that everyone enjoyed we are now planning one for late September. On Friday 25 September we are holding a MICHAELMAS SUPPER at the Day Centre. Reserve the date now. Full details will appear in the August issue of The Link and we will tell you then from whom you can obtain tickets. This time numbers will be limited so be sure to keep the date free.



We celebrated our 41st birthday on 21st May with a delicious buffet supper and wine; and were entertained by Peter and Rosemary Thompson and David Dale. We said "Farewell" to Josie Bugg, and our Chairman gave her a wedding gift from the branch.

Sixty-five members from seven villages attended our Group Meeting at Littlebury on 10th June and were given an amusing talk by Nancy Stephenson.

Please do not forget our "Cuppa for Caring" on 1st July in Mrs. Gabb's garden with a Bring and Buy stall and a Raffle. This is an effort which involves the whole of Eastern Area and all villages will be competing to see which can contribute most to the Women's Section Benevolent Fund.

Our speaker at our branch meeting on July 16th will be the Marketing and Publicity Director from Stansted Airport.

Pat Clower



**The National Childbirth Trust**  
Education for Parenthood

During May a talk was given by behaviour therapist Pat Russell on the subjects of 'eating, sleeping and tantrums'. This was very well attended and Mrs. Russell (who has recently appeared on BBC Essex) answered lots of questions from mums eager for help with their particular problems. Also in May a planning meeting was held and numerous events have been arranged for the remainder of the year (watch this space and parish noticeboards for details).

On June 11th Mrs. Whiteley, headmistress of Bentfield School kindly gave a talk entitled 'Preparing your child for School'. This proved to be very informative especially for those mums with children just approaching primary school age.

The get togethers for Under One's and Expectant Mums this month are as follows:-  
JULY

- Fri 3rd Liz's "Moorlands" High Lane, Stansted Tel. 816724 10.30 - 12.00
- Fri 10th Frances' 31 Elm Close, Elsenham, Tel. 814170
- Fri 17th Pascale's, 57 Woodfields, Tel. 812500
- Topic for discussion\* Play & Money value of toys

- Fri 24th Jackie's, 30 Rainsford Road Tel. 814424
- Fri 31st Jane's, 52 Bentfield Road, Tel. 813138

The Toddler Group will meet as follows:-

JULY

- Thurs 2nd Frances' 31 Elm Close, Elsenham Tel. 814170 10 am - 11.30 am
- Thurs 9th Lynn's, 19 Bullfields, Newport Tel. 40057
- Thurs 16th Jane's, 52 Bentfield Road Tel. 813138
- Thurs 23rd Jenny's, 26 Longcroft Tel. 813958
- Topic for discussion - Potty Training
- Thurs 30th Theresa's, 27 Recreation Ground Tel. 816080

Events for July (see posters for more details):-

- Tue 7th Treasure Hunt in Stansted
- Wed 15th Swimming at Grange Paddocks
- Sat 18th Bring and Share Party (Members only)
- Wed 22nd Cream Tea at Jackie's, 30 Rainsford Road, Stansted, 75p (Members only)

Events for August

- Mon 3rd Pub Lunch at The Cock, Stansted
- Wed 12th Picnic at the play park, Bentfield Green, Stansted

For more information ring me on B/S 81239 (or any committee member). See you soon. Christine.



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

June has been a very busy and enjoyable month for all the Rainbow children. Many outings took place as planned and the Carnival has been a great excitement for all. Thank you to all the mums and members of the committee who helped and worked so hard to get out float ready on time.

We have other plans for the month of August. "The Windmill Fee"; we shall be there. Please bring your little ones to join our Windmill Colouring Competition, judged by a local artist. There will be prizes for the winners.

Mum & Co. will meet for the last time this term on 22nd July and will start again on 9th September. Once again, come and join us. It's great fun for the toddlers and the mothers can enjoy meeting other new members.

Playgroup will start on 7th September like the local schools. There are still a few places available. For further information please contact our leader Ann Conroy: am BS 813319 and pm BS 812457. You may also come and see us any mornings between 9.15 am and 12 noon.

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**BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY**

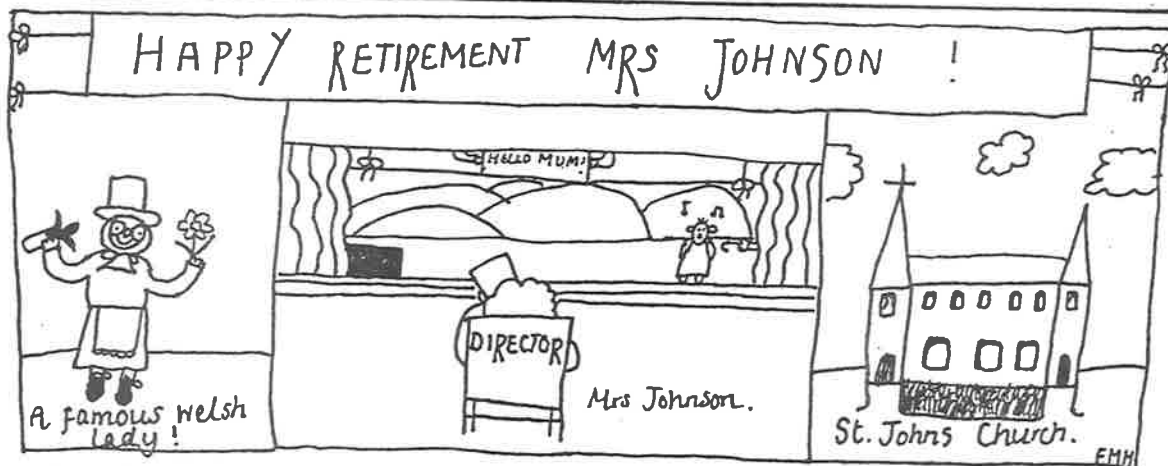
Meeting in the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

July 9th

- Dvorak - Cello concerto in B minor Op. 104
- Tchaikovsky - Serenade for Strings in C Op. 48
- Beethoven - Symphony No. 5 in C minor Op. 67

July 23rd

- Sibelius - En Saga Op. 9
- Dvorak - Piano Quintet Op. 81
- Brian - Symphony No. 9
- Schubert - String Quartet in G Minor D. 173



**ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

As the end of term approaches at St. Mary's School the children and staff will be saying farewell to Mrs. Marion Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is taking early retirement after spending all of her thirty years teaching life at St. Mary's School.

Mrs. Johnson has had a long association with St. John's Church and her committed Christian faith has encouraged the children in the Church's activities. Under Mrs. Johnson's direction the children have taken part in Nativity Plays, wonderful Passion plays, church services and outside of school term at the Good Friday Projects.

Many of you grandparents, parents and children will remember all those exciting, colourful pantomimes which always gave Mrs. Johnson a headache but invariably turned out "alright on

the night". There were the occasional hiccoughs especially one year when many of the cast had chicken pox. Mrs. Johnson wrote all the scripts and songs which always had a local feel about them.

A special party will be given by Mrs. Johnson for the children at the end of term and an evening party for her friends and colleagues past/present will be held.

All the children, staff, friends and colleagues wish Mrs. Johnson and her husband Tom a very happy retirement and all our good wishes for the future.

If you would like to contribute towards a present would you please send your donation to the school by 10th July.

Christine Hope

DAY CENTRE

Day Centre events have been quite numerous of late. In April 41 members enjoyed a Mystery Trip. The weather was good, gardens and hedgerows at their spring best as we travelled through The Palhams, Baldock and on to Dunstable. There was much speculation as to the tea spot when we turned towards The Downs and Whipsnade. On the top of the downs we pulled up at The Whipsnade Gallery at The Old Rectory and de-coached for a welcome cup of tea. Members were delighted to find that it was run by Frank Ifield and his wife and to see and chat to him. Home by 7.45 p.m. after an enjoyable day.

May 8th was members A.G.M. day. Around fifty members attended and heard from Mrs. Scarr that 3,010 lunches had been served during the past year. Donations totaling £338 had been made to the Centre. These will be used to pay entrance to Thursford Organ Museum and for a Free outing to Clacton in August. Tea will also be provided at Clacton paid for from Day Centre funds. Mrs. K. Stevens and Mr. G. John were again elected as Members Representatives on the Management Committee. Details of the Lifeline Scheme were also given to members.

May 13th 30 members went to the Thursford Organ Museum. Coffee was taken at Swaffham and lunch at Little Walsingham. The music of the fairground organs, rides on the Gondolas, and recital on The Mighty Wurlitzer were greatly enjoyed. Tea was at Swaffham and though the weather wasn't at its best a good day out was enjoyed by all.

Day Centre Diary

Tuesday July 7th Bingo 2.00 pm  
 Friday July 10th Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p  
 Tuesday July 14th Beetle Drive 2.00 pm 25p  
 Tuesday July 21st Bingo 2.00 pm  
 Tuesday July 21st Coach outing to Hitchin Market Fare £2.00 Leave Day Centre 2.00pm Names and fare by July 14th please  
 Friday July 31st Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



HARD PLAY AREA

Available for hire for tennis, netball, football, roller-skating etc. Evenings, weekends, and all school holidays. Apply to Parish Council Clerk 81314 for details

Why not book it for your child's next birthday party?

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

With the lighter and ever hopeful warmer nights here its nice to get out as much as possible. Everyone enjoyed a leisurely walk, down Chapel Hill, along Lower Street, up High Lane, out on to the All taking us to Cambridge Road and back to Marion's house for a welcome cup of coffee.

With Denise and Paul in wheelchairs we started off in one group, some people stopped to chat to friends and some of us were looking in people's gardens and generally watching what was going on. We were soon in a long drawn out line.

I am quite a newcomer to Stansted, only having lived here 16 years compared to some who have been here 30 years or more, so I enjoyed listening about how some places used to be and being shown buildings which have changed during the years. It was an interesting and not too tiring walk.

No-one can say we don't go for a variety of activities on Thursday evenings; the week after, our walk found us in St. John's Hall in the kitchen actually cooking. Everyone, young or old loves choc-laty sweets or cakes so once again we made an old favourite - chocolate krispie cakes.

Our Denise is an expert cook, now so she makes her own and then stays to supervise the others and a grand job she does aswell. The good thing is she does not mind staying when everyone else has finished to help with the washing up.

The krispie cakes were bagged with just minutes to spare before it was time to take them home to their waiting families for supper.

I hope everyone enjoyed eating them as much as the children enjoyed making them.

Jean Stone

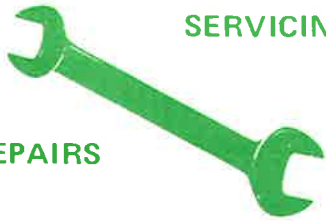
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B S 54225

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party? dance?

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