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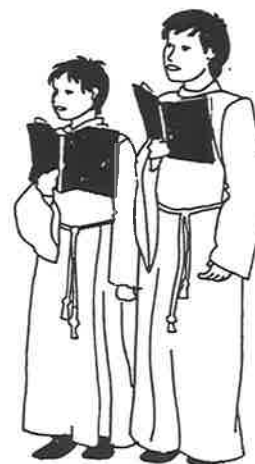
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# A HAPPY EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN

May this be a specially HAPPY EASTER for Reverend Barry Rose and his family as he celebrates EASTER on his last Sunday as Vicar of Stansted.

And to all those who brought GOOD NEWS to Mr. Souter ("The people of Stansted Mountfitchet are obviously a special breed ..." see Parish Council News) .... A VERY HAPPY EASTER!



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

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

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

All other enquiries to the Editor, Mrs Phyllis Harrison. Tel: 813535.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the SACC, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by  
14th April for May issue  
12th May for June issue

LINK LINES

**B**eautiful upon the Mountains of Fitchet  
**A**re the feet of him that bringeth good things,  
**R**egularly, and in a most  
**R**eadable form, to  
**Y**our village mag., your brainchild, the LINK.

**&**  
**J**ust as beautiful  
**A**re those whose vicarage doors are closed to  
**N**one; where within the most humble, unorthodox seeker after faith may enter,  
**E**ven where angels might fear to  
**T**read!

**R**emembered are your kindly words of wisdom at  
**O**ur Unity services, as equally are the fruitful hours  
**S**pent within your walls at  
**E**vening study-groups.

**G**enuine friendliness is  
**O**ne of the qualities parishioners hold  
**D**ear - and, next to it , and not far

**B**elow it, is appreciated your  
**L**oyalty to your LINK, from its first conception.  
**E**very month your valued contributions, gaily illustrated, arrived promptly,  
**S**upplying the Editor with a useful large envelope! and  
**S**ad she is that

**Y**our wise thoughts and constructive ideas will in future be addressed to  
**O**ther periodicals.....But now, for your  
**U**nited support of this little paper. the LINK sends you SINCERE

and WARMEST THANKS + LOVE.



MARKET

# SACC

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF S.A.C.C.

When this edition of LINK arrives at your door the Vicar of Stansted, the Rev. Barry Rose, will be either on the point of departure from Stansted, or he will have just left, since Easter in his last Sunday at Stansted.

S.A.C.C. will have expressed its appreciation to Barry (at the Agape on March 20th) for his untiring efforts in the cause of good church relations in Stansted. We shall remember him affectionately as the rather rum GA-GA at our harvest festival, where he has also appeared in 'drag' and as a quite remarkable Bishop which I am sure he would/may yet be.

I am quite sure that I speak for his fellow ministers and for his own people and for many from the other churches when I say that Barry and Janet have entered into our lives in a quite remarkable way. We shall remember the hospitality of the Vicarage and the real fellowship in Christ which we have enjoyed together.

Although the time of his departure is at hand, we are confident that he will rise to the challenge which Halstead undoubtedly has in store for him.

I can only wish for him on your behalf that his time at Halstead will be as blessed for him as his time at Stansted has been a blessing for us.

Eric McIlwain

### CHEVETOGNE TRIP

The return visit to Chevetogne, in Belgium has been set for the weekend of May 29th. Yes, it's the holiday weekend and a great way to spend it. Cost will be 40-50 pounds per person (coach and ferry) for 4 days and 3 nights. If you are interested, speak to Margaret Booker or Francis Mercer or Michael Dyer or Eric McIlwain. Some French is a help but not essential by any means.

Eric McIlwain

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May 16-21 1988

The Christian Aid Market Stall will be held on Saturday 21st May 10-12 a.m. at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

There will be the following stalls:- Books, Toys, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Plants and Produce, Good-as-New Clothing and Bring-and-Buy. Please let your Christian Aid representatives know if you have any contributions or bring them along on the day. Refreshments will be on sale.

### Notice to Collectors

The Collectors' Packs and envelopes will be in the churches from Sunday 1st May. Anyone who would like to help in Christian Aid Week, either by manning a stall at the market or by collecting envelopes, please contact me.

Catherine Dean  
813579

### SHARING IN LENT

As in previous years the weekly United Services and House Groups were well supported, demonstrating how much there is in common between the various denominations in Stansted. We were challenged to reconsider our attitudes to other people and were alarmed to find out just how much prejudice we have against those who are different from us by way of appearance, age, behaviour or beliefs.

### Agape 1988

Our get-together at our Agape Service on Sunday 20th March was as usual a time of sharing both spiritual and bodily nourishment with our bring-and-share supper after the service. It was also a most fitting occasion for members of S.A.C.C. to thank Barry Rose for all he has done for us and to offer him and his family our very best wishes for his new appointment at Halstead.

Michael Dyer

### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

At the service held on 4th March at the United Reformed Church some 40 people attended.

The collection of £20.16 was for the funds of societies providing Christian literature throughout the world.

## "LETTING GO"

"Your children are not your children.  
They are sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you.  
And though they are with you they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies, but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow  
Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are set forth.  
The Archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite  
and He bends you with His might so that his arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;  
For even as he loves the arrow that flies, so he loves the bow that is stable."

Kahil Gibran: "The Prophet" - quoted at the Lenten Service at St. Theresa's

## 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

The Rev'd Christopher Kevill-Davies  
The Old Bakery, Berden.  
Tel: 78625

### WILL YOU BE THERE?

On Tuesday 19th April we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8 pm. This is a very important event when we elect churchwardens and church council members for the following year. Do remember your elected representatives have power and responsibility and you should make sure you are there to vote. This is also the time when we review the past year's activities. This year it is even more important to attend so that clergy and churchwardens know they have your loyalty and support.

### April

### CHURCH DIARY

- 4 Barry and Janet 'At Home' St John's Church 7 pm - 9 pm
- 5 Prayer Support Group 8.15 pm, 22 Bentfield Causeway
- 11 Church History - Mini Lectures - 8 pm St John's Church
- 12 Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close 2 pm. Tiny Tots 2.15 pm
- 17 Preacher at 9.30 am. Canon Timothy Stevens
- 19 Annual Church Meeting 8 pm St John's Church Hall
- 21 Barry's Induction at Halstead 8 pm
- 24 Pastoral Letter from Archbishops to be read in church
- 26 Tiny Tots 2.15 pm

### May

- 3 Prayer Support Group 8.15 pm, 22 Bentfield Causeway
- Holy Communion Mead Court 10 am
- 5 Holy Communion Norman Court 10 am
- 8 CONFIRMATION BY THE NEW BISHOP OF COLCHESTER 10 am St John's
- 12 Ascension Day. Holy Communion 9.15 am St Mary's School
- Sung Eucharist 8 pm St John's

### Services:

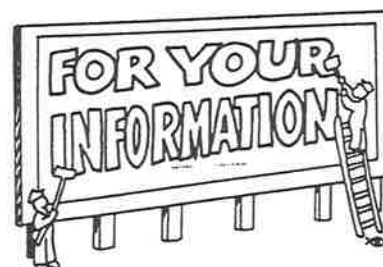
Held in St John's, St John's Road  
and St Mary's, Church Road.

Holy Communion	-	8am
Family Communion	-	9.30am
Children's Church	-	9.30am
Creche	-	9.30am
Holy Communion (1662)	-	11.30am
(1st and 3rd Sundays)		
Evensong	-	6.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday	-	7.30pm
Wednesday	-	10am
Thursday	-	9.15am
Friday	-	7.45am

In summer months some of these services are held at St Mary's. See notice in church porches for further details or ring one of the clergy.





PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

March 6th Katherine Jane Atkinson, 12 Coltsfield  
Christie Joanne Hampton, 4 Maitland Road  
Hannah Bernadette Riley, 21 Cambridge Road  
Brett Edwin Riley, 21 Cambridge Road

Departed

19th Feb	Dorothy Kershaw, 27 Park Road	Aged 86 years
22nd Feb	Gladys Saunders, 40 Stoneyfield Drive	Aged 96 years
22nd Feb	Frederick Bradford, 51 Brook Road	Aged 80 years
2nd Mar	Doris Biglin, 34 Stoneyfield Drive	Aged 66 years
16th Mar	John Newby, 10 Hargrave Close	Aged 70 years

THE CHURCH IN THE INNER CITY

SERMONS AT 9.30AM

SUNDAY 17TH APRIL:  
CANON TIMOTHY STEVENS  
DIOCESAN URBAN OFFICER  
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CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY KING AND  
HELEN ORBELL ON THEIR RECENT  
ENGAGEMENT. WE WISH THEM BOTH  
EVERY HAPPINESS!!!!!!



The SON  
will come  
in GLORY

ASCENSION DAY

THURSDAY MAY 12TH

ST MARY'S SCHOOL EUCHARIST  
9.15AM

SUNG EUCHARIST IN S. JOHN'S  
8PM



HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND

EXPANSION

MINI LECTURES

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

MONDAY 11 APRIL 1988

8PM

SOCIAL REFORM: JANE FREEMAN  
TOWNS AND CITIES; ALASTAIR BONE  
CHURCH OVERSEAS; RAGNI WHITLOCK

## VICAR'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

The time has arrived for me, as your parish priest, to write my last letter for Link. My feelings are very mixed. Janet and I are sad to be leaving Stansted where we have made so many friends and where we feel so much at home. We never find it easy to say farewell. But the Christian life is a journey and an adventure and God sometimes calls us to move on and go into the unknown. We believe God is calling us to live and work in Halstead and that there is a job to be done there for clergy and laity. We have accepted the challenge and now we must look forward. We go knowing you will continue to remember us in your prayers and being but 24 miles away, hoping you will keep in touch and visit us. You will always be very welcome.

We thank you all for your love, support and friendship over these past nine years. What a time it has been! Together we have seen through many changes and made important decisions. Change can be very hard to manage but nothing is achieved by standing still. The Anglican Church in Stansted, we believe, will benefit from a fresh approach and a new leader and be sure, the next few years will also see changes. The whole area is facing the impact of building a modern airport and a new priest at this time will be a great help.

When I wrote my first letter to you we still had the Monthly News. The Link story has been such a success and I never thought it would take off as it has done. Thanks to the co-operation of all the Stansted Churches we have an excellent village magazine. In that first letter I wrote, "During these first few weeks I have come to realise what great opportunities there are for the Church in Stansted. My hope is that together we will continue to build and strengthen the Christian community here". The great opportunities are still here - but at this point I want to offer you a challenge.

The word that keeps coming to my mind is LOYALTY. If the Church, anywhere, is to grow and be strengthened all must be aware of the great need of loyalty. There is our loyalty to God in weekly worship and daily prayer. I do not apologise for saying weekly because I believe very strongly that the strength of the Church depends on this. Weekly worship means we put God first in our lives - we come on the first day of the week to offer thanksgiving and praise. Our Christian life begins at the altar. But loyalty must be seen to extend to one another. When we are not at worship a member of the family is missing from the family meal - that hurts. When we do not support one another in groups, committees and in other activities discouragement sets in.

During the interregnum (we do not know how long it will be) loyalty is more important than ever. The clergy, churchwardens look to everyone for support and loyalty. That is my challenge to EVERYONE of you who consider yourself a member of the Church. If you accept this challenge then the Church, during a time of waiting, will blossom.

I write soon after the sudden death of John Newby and have written elsewhere about him. John would not want a lot of flannel to be written about him but one thing I know for sure, he was very loyal to God and the Church and as churchwarden to me. Follow his example.

God Bless you all. Pray for those who have the responsibility of appointing your new parish priest and when he comes I know you will give him the same love and friendship as you have shown us.

Fr. Barry

## MOTHERS' UNION



Meeting Wednesday April 27th at 2.30 pm  
in the Hall.  
Speaker - Mrs. Ann Calver - on the work  
of the Salvation Army.



## JOHN NEWBY

John and Doreen came to Stansted 30 years ago when Kathryn was only a few weeks old. They immediately came to Church and supported the then Vicar, Canon Lake. Over these 30 years John has done so much for the Church and Stansted that it would be impossible to list all of his activities. In recent years he has been a loyal and hardworking churchwarden (like his father before him) and before this appointment he served on the PCC and Deanery Synod for many years.

John was meticulous in everything he did. If he took on a job you knew it would be done. But above all else I shall remember him for his great sense of fun, loyalty and desire to know more.

A few years ago he obtained an honours degree in maths and after this achievement he began studying comparative religion. During his stay in hospital a week before he died, he was surrounded by his books and had a long and informed conversation with Fr Tony on the difference between the Apostles and Nicean Creeds. He wanted to keep on learning and that is something to admire and emulate.

He was not afraid of hard work. When we began The Link he offered to do the duplicating. Month after month he duplicated tens of thousands of sheets and I know he would smile if I told you the air in the study was sometimes filled with more than the smoke of his cigarettes. He called a spade a spade.

We are going to miss him and he is going to leave many gaps in Church life.

Thank you John, Doreen, Kathryn and Jehane, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Barry Rose



May we thank all the people for their prayers, letters and flowers. The support that has been given has helped us through this sad time. Special thanks are given to Barry, Tony and Margaret.

Doreen, Kathryn and Jehane

## FELLOWSHIP GROUP

It was with a great sense of loss that we learned of the death of John Newby, who was one of our most valuable members. He had such a tremendous wealth of knowledge, and a great sense of humour and he will be missed by all of us. Whenever he started to explain or expand on a topic, we all sat up expectantly, eager to learn, and will always be grateful for the help he gave us and the fellowship he shared with us.

Over the last few months the Fellowship Group has been pleased to welcome some new members. If you would like to join us - helping each other to learn more about God and about how to live as Christians, and praising the Lord in song - we would be pleased to welcome you too.

For more information, please contact Ragni on 816070 or Fran on 815817.

Dates for your diary:-

Wed. april 13 at Ragni's, 38 Bentfield Road  
Wed. May 4 at Ragni's, 38 Bentfield Road  
Tues. June 7 at ) Venue to  
Wed. July 6 at ) be decided

## SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN ....

### Or Suffer Their Mums and Dads?

I always enjoy the Youth Eucharist on a Sunday evening finding it a refreshing service and I thought that perhaps my two children were at an age to enjoy it also.

The service began with a song that the children often sing at school and they joined in with great gusto while I gave myself a secret pat on the back for bringing them. Up to a point everything was going well .... the point at which the candles appeared. Everyone had a small candle to light from the big altar candle placed in the middle of the church. Then the main church lights were switched off. The effect was both meditative and beautiful.

It was halfway through the communion hymn that I noticed that child I was trying to set alight the service sheet while child II was making wax patterns on the cardboard candle holder by tilting the candle at a precarious angle. After many shakes of the head and threatening frowns (which were ignored!), I finally blew my candle out as an indication that they should also blow theirs out. This had the terrible effect of causing child I to make exaggerated signals all through the last verse of the hymn that I could and should relight my candle from his.

I eventually managed to convince him that he should blow his out. However, he decided he couldn't possibly blow his out without blowing child II's candle out as well and he initiated a series of puffing and blowing noises at child II's candle throughout the beginning of the next prayer. The suggestion to blow the candles out came from the curate just in time to prevent escalation into major warfare.

I was feeling more relaxed when the communion bread and cup came round, but my false sense of security did not last when I heard child II complaining about having to miss out on the bread and wine. I bravely ignored child II's pleas but had to rush the wafer to my mouth before child II actually grabbed and devoured it.

Not surprisingly I felt both tense and a little cross on arriving home and my initial reaction was that if the children could not behave then they would not be coming until they were a little older. But then I remembered the words of Our Lord "Suffer the little children to come unto Me" and I immediately felt terribly guilty. I also saw there was a humorous way of looking at "Suffer the little children ..." and that so many parents do "suffer" as they sit through a service trying to persuade their children to behave like adults while their children behave like children.

Overall I had enjoyed the service on Sunday evening very much but more importantly so had the children. They had enjoyed being there and they want to go again. The Lord's words "suffer the little children to come unto Me" were especially appropriate for me at that time and for all parents whose children do not make attendance at Sunday worship easy. It would be easy for me to go to the Youth Eucharist alone next time, but why withhold from them the joy of worshipping with others and, more importantly, of coming freely into Christ's presence? Just as they are, as children not adults, and certainly far from perfect - which is after all how we all come to Christ. In which case how could I possibly keep the children away? I would rather suffer!

Laymum



Hello everyone. Youth club as ever is busy and trying to organise lots of things. Some of our young people are off to the St Albans Youth Festival for a week at Easter. Others are going sailing in April, and we are all off on the Diocesan Holiday to the Isle of Wight in August.

Needless to say a great deal of work goes into planning and preparing even a single evening, let alone a holiday. So we are very grateful for all the efforts of our Youth Leaders Team.

Our next programme is available from March 25th. Please contact our Youth Leaders Team for information:

Fr Tony King 814463  
Paula Holmes 59068  
Brenda Towle 813712

or see

Richard Hart  
Martin Corbishley  
Gary West

# Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

## RANDOM THOUGHTS ON CHURCH-GOING

I have been looking back over my long life and thinking about the changes that have come about. One of these is the partial eclipse of Sunday as a church-going day. It has made me wonder how much this matters. For so many now it seems to be a D.I.Y. car-washing day, whereas when I was a child and even into my adulthood it was a going-to-church, clean-clothes, best-hat day. Whether this automatic church-going, for visitors and family alike, was more a social than spiritual activity, I do not know - probably a bit of both.

My church-going started early. I must have been about two years old; I remember bellowing my head off in Broxbourne church when I was separated from my mother and having to be hurriedly bundled back to her reassuring knee.

When we moved to Ugley we trooped off, of course on foot, Sunday by Sunday, but though the parson and his wife were much loved I cannot remember learning much from him or his successor, who was a sad, disillusioned schoolmaster who told me that his motto was "Blessed is he that expecteth nothing", which I found depressing.

There was a red letter day when I was about 10; I was taken to St. Paul's where I lost my heart to an angelic looking choirboy who sang "Oh for the Wings of a Dove".

Of course I also remember many beautiful services in many "sundry places" but the ones which remain most vivid are those to which I was taken by my Scots grandmother. The walk was long, the sermon was even longer, though we had a sweetie to keep us quiet, but interminable though these services seemed, they did sometimes provide, either in the delivery or the matter, unexpected moments which gripped one's attention. On one occasion we were assured "the sea was made for bathers". I had a spartan aunt who made me swim in icy East Coast water and felt that if this was the sea's only function God had made a mistake in making it.

More vivid still was a sermon by a missionary lately returned from Africa. He was so anxious we should remember his words that he repeated them over and over like a kind of litany. "The mosquito is small, savage and successful and it carries in its head twenty two teeth, a saw, a suction pump, gimlet and squirt". What moral we were to deduce from the mosquito I have never discovered. No harm as a Christian in being small, but surely not savage, or necessarily successful? I realise this reminiscing is all very trivial: I really set out with the idea of asking a question: Was automatic church-going better than no going? Is it better in spite of smaller congregations to have only people in church who are really committed?

Meantime I feel profoundly grateful for the privilege of being able, week by week, to experience the support and sense of renewal given by our Quaker Meeting for Worship.

Nancy Tennant



# 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.

I am really sorry for our weather men. They receive so much unjustified criticism. "So they have got it wrong yet again".

I too have been critical. I remember once I had planned a few days of walking in the Lake District. The forecast was nothing but rain and S.W. winds. "Oh well, nothing venture, nothing gain". Besides I rather like walking in the soft rain blowing in from the Atlantic. In fact, to my delight, I had nothing but sunshine. Anyone would think the men at the met. decided what weather we were to have. "Let's give East Anglia some rain tomorrow and the West some sunshine". Then they stick the appropriate symbols on the chart. Well, of course, it does not happen like that in reality. They don't decide what kind of weather will occur. They decide what predictions to make, hoping that the reality to come will correspond with their forecast.

Now this reminds me of other forecasts many of us make, maybe not so explicitly, that govern our lives to some extent. I am not thinking of forecasts about the environment by continual use of pesticides or the build up of CO<sup>2</sup> (or is it CO?) in the atmosphere. I am thinking of the predictions people make (usually quite privately) of life after death or even death after life.

"On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with spices they had prepared". Why? To anoint the corpse of Jesus. Their whole life then, all their thoughts and emotions, all their activity at that time, revolved around the idea of going to anoint the corpse of Jesus Christ. What in reality did they find? An empty tomb. They had been living, thinking, working and existing for something that did not exist, viz. the corpse of Jesus. Their forecast was not correct. They had got it all wrong. He was alive.

1988 years later - well let's say 1958 approx. years later, he is still alive. Do we go looking for the dead Christ? Of course not. Everyone saw or recognised him then; or experienced his presence or shared in the spiritual happiness of his acquaintance. Read John 14, 18-24.

Now that is something really worth striving for. There is an ambition really worth trying to fulfill.

"My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me;  
He chooses all the colours,  
I weave unsteadily.

He sometimes chooses sadness  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
While I the under side."

Happy Easter to everyone from

Fr David and community



**NOTICE** On Thursday, 7th April at 7.30 pm in Thaxted Parish Church, Cardinal Archbishop Basil Hume will speak on the subject "Pilgrims Together". All who belong to Stansted churches and community are invited and urged to be at this meeting. We hope many of you will be there.



# 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.

In his resurrection appearances Jesus was both different from and yet the same as the Jesus he had been before his death. He was certainly different, sufficiently so for him not to be immediately recognised on several occasions by those who knew him very well. He was capable of new and, apparently, super-normal things: he suddenly appeared or disappeared without the usual phenomena of arrival and departure. He came to the company of his disciples accurately aware of what their thought and speech had been in his absence. He seemed not to be subject to the normal constraints of ordinary human life on earth.

Yet this marked difference did not separate him from his pre-death life with a rupturing and obliterating discontinuity. In fact, as the angel said, he was "This same Jesus". There was a vital and unmistakable continuity between what he was before crucifixion and what he was after resurrection. Different, yes, but only in the sense of being more, very much more, of what he essentially and uniquely is. Beyond death he is "this same Jesus" marvellously enhanced in a way appropriate for life in the eternal world.

I believe this is a manifestation of what God has in mind for all of us. That is to say, in the life beyond death Bill Smith will still be Bill Smith, but much more fully himself, transfigured for the nature and conditions of life eternally lived with God. Yet - and this is crucial I believe - still Bill Smith, having vital continuity with the unique person he was before death. This was surely the assumed background to our Lord's thinking on these matters. To the dying penitent thief he says "Today, you will be with me in paradise" - you in your own "Youness" with me in my own "Meness", as it were.

Even in this present life we see some sign of this. In my early sixties I am very different, physically, spiritually, mentally and psychologically, from what I was in my teens. Even so, forty-five years on, notwithstanding the ravages and embellishments of time, I am still I. Hopefully I am more of what God made me to be, his grace developing that embryonic yet unmatched and unrepeated personality he gave me at birth. And this is what I believe about every human being. Surely the love and the wisdom of God would both be impeached if he allowed to be obliterated, mostly in an arbitrary and reckless fashion, men and women who are just becoming their real selves when death strikes. How could an all-wise and all-loving God allow a unique human being with infinite potential to be totally lost out of deference to germs, accidents, violence or disorder matter?

In short, I believe our Christian faith declares that God raises us from death to be very much more of ourselves in our own unique personalities. God bless and confirm you in this. Happy Easter to you all.

Harold Fisher

From all of us at the Methodist Church I offer deepest gratitude to Barry and Janet Rose and their family. It has been both joy and benediction to have your friendship, collegueship and ministry over the years. The Kingdom and God and ecumenism in Stansted hath prospered greatly by your presence, prayers and labours. With our thanks we also assure you of our continuing love and prayers for you. Best wishes and God's blessing for your future ministry. Harold.

## SHALOM

### PLESHEY RE-VISITED

The Shalom group spent the last week in January at the Pleshey House of Retreat; and in spite of earlier floods, we were not disappointed either by the weather or by our eminent speaker, the Rev. Dr. Gordon

Wakefield. Although officially retired, Dr. Wakefield is one of those people who recognise that their vast knowledge and experience is something that cannot, and should not be capped once they become a senior citizen. As a past principal of the theological training college in Birmingham where Tony Bundock was a student, our speaker was more than sufficiently qualified to guide our

thoughts on the various ways we may use to work out our faith. He illustrated many of his points by referring to the spiritual vicissitudes of John Wesley, and reminded us that our salvation is not dependent on our holiness or other people's works of supererogation, but is freely given by God's grace.

The atmosphere at Pleshey is highly conducive to productive prayer and meditation, and this was the experience of the Anglican order of Sisters who started a community here in 1909. They have long since moved on, but I am sure their spirits are still with us.

Michael Dyer

Stansted Shalom Group

dates: 11th and 25th April.  
9th and 23rd May.

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.



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

We were pleased to welcome Mr Anseli who came and gave us a most interesting talk on the Camaroons, a country we do not hear much about. He was sent, with other experts, by UNESCO to report on the schools there. We saw slides of schools, both very grand and small ones in rural areas. We also saw slides of tea plantations, palm trees, cocoa beans and bananas. The poinsettias grow as large bushes, making our pot plants look very insignificant. There are few good roads and many scholars in rural areas are forced to stay at school owing to the difficulty of getting home.

Mr & Mrs T Johnson came and told us about a cruise they took on the Oriana when their children were younger. They took Ann, Peter and Huw in his wheelchair. Huw kept a diary and typed it out when he returned and finished it just before he died. We all felt very privileged to hear this read to us and it was refreshing to hear the details and comments from a young point of view. The cruise took them from Southampton to Las Palmas, the Canary Islands, Madeira and to Spain and Portugal. In some places Huw and his wheelchair caused quite a sensation. We do thank them for sharing this with us.

We discussed a proposition that the Guild should run from March to October, thus avoiding the winter months and it was proposed to try this.

Our Guild is open to all and we would welcome anybody who would care to come.

M. C. Johnson

Mr. Paul Stennett of Southend certainly caused a stir recently by his action in paying £50,000 for the words "Jesus is alive" to be franked on most letters handled by the Post Office during the Easter period.

Whether we agree with this rather unusual way of proclaiming one's faith or not, I, for one, cannot help but feel grateful to Mr. Stennett for reminding me to give priority in my Christian witness to this stupendous fact which is firmly at the very heart of the Christian gospel.

From the moment when the first friends of Jesus, disappointed and despairing after the crucifixion, met their risen Lord, and knew in that meeting that death had been conquered and life was glorious indeed, throughout the centuries until now, men and women have been exultantly exclaiming "Jesus is alive", as they in their turn have come face to face with the reality of the risen Lord in their lives.

On Easter Day in flower-filled churches, triumphant with resurrection joy, the glorious message will be proclaimed in word and song, and the truth that "Jesus is alive" will pour out through the people into the life of the community so that everyone everywhere will share in the Easter joy.

In the words of one of our modern hymn writers, Brian Wren:

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring,  
His love in death shall never die.

Lydia Rapkin

With Easter greetings to you all.



### "OUR VILLAGE"

Mention of "turning the mangle" last month has brought to light several memories. Miss Betty Turner whilst living in Lower Street recalls the big mangle belonging to her mother that was kept for use in an outside shed along with her copper. This hand operated mangle was in great demand for many of their neighbours and local people made use of it. Some would leave a copper or two (pennies) upon the mangle board as an appreciation of its services.

Perhaps we should briefly tell what a mangle was and did, as several years have passed since when they were in general use. Set between a cast iron framework were two rollers some 16" to 18" long made from either wood which was probably Rock Maple, this being extremely smooth, or solid rubber, these rollers were set in motion via a set of cog wheels that in turn were connected to a handle. The rollers could be adjusted by a turnscrew or screws to allow a lesser or greater gap between them. The purpose of mangling was to remove all excess water by passing your washing between the rollers. A copper on the other hand was a permanent fixture built in the out-house or scullery (today's kitchen).

Mrs. Brown remembers hers being built by workmen of Messrs. W.M. Robinson & Sons. It consisted of a large round copper container (capable of holding several gallons of water) which was held in place by brickwork rounded off and plastered. A fire box or copper hole was built between; this was connected into a chimney to remove smoke to outside. Early Monday mornings the copper would be filled with soft water butt water, fire lit and stoked up with any burnable rubbish that needed to be disposed of; old shoes were particularly sought after for some reason for this job. While washing, after its prior wash or scrub, was put into the copper for a boiling time of around 20 minutes, from there lifted out with a copper-stick on to the wooden lid to drain. Next two rinses, the second being in water containing a blue bag which added white to your whites. From there it was the turn of our mangle.

A copper of course, being very versatile, was not alone used to boil washing. It provided hot water for the family's Friday-night bath. The tin bath that hung upon a nail in the shed was brought in, placed in front of the fire, then the bathing ritual began. Also it acted as a cooker. Many a meat pudding and countless Christmas puddings spent their cooking hours within. I'm sure you will think of many more.

P. J. Brown

### BENTFIELD SCHOOL P.T.A.

On 27th February we had a Disco which raised about £130.00. Thankyou for all your support and don't forget our Grand Summer Fair on 11th June. The theme is sport.

Some of the 7 year old children have been writing short poems about the dark and also the noises cars and lorries make.

### Lorries

Lorries going rattling by  
bumping over bumps  
When they stop  
they make a sheeshing sound  
It goes along the road  
banging as it goes  
Running down the road  
Past the cars and vans  
Zooming down the motorway.

### Nightmares

Night time  
the most horriblest time  
is the spiders  
under the bed  
and the monsters  
in the wardrobe  
it takes a long time  
until I get to sleep

### MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL FLOODLIT HARD PLAY AREA

Available for hire for tennis,  
netball, football, roller-skating,  
etc. Evenings, weekends, and all  
school holidays. Apply to Parish  
Council Clerk, 813214, for  
details.





## FUTURE EVENTS

### April

- |       |         |   |
|-------|---------|---|
| 6     | 8.00    | Day Centre. Mountfitchet Garden Club AGM                    |
| 11    | 8.00    | St John's. History of the Church of England. Mini Lectures  |
| 11    |         | N.C.T. Craft Party at "Greenlands" Albury (see notice)      |
| 12    | 2.00    | Day Centre Outing to Bury St Edmunds (see notice)           |
| 14    | 8.00    | Day Centre. B.S. Recorded Music Society                     |
| 16    | 2.30    | URC Hall. Gardening Club Spring Show                        |
| 17    | 9.30 am | St John's "The Church in the Inner City" Canon Stevens      |
| 18-21 |         | Skip at Crafton Green                                       |
| 22    | 8.00    | St John's Hall. Conservatives Fashion Show                  |
| 24    | 10.30   | Newport F.G. School 10 Km Fun Run £2.00 Tel. B.S. 850 446   |
| 27    | 8.00    | Day Centre. Annual Parish Meeting                           |
| 27    | 8.00    | Royal British Legion. The Three Colts. Talk on Today's Army |
| 28    | 8.00    | Day Centre. B.S. Recorded Music Society                     |

### May

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| 7     | 2.00  | Youth Centre, Lower St. Guides & Scouts May Fayre  |
| 16-21 |       | Christian Aid Week. Collectors needed (see notice) |
| 21    | 10.00 | Quaker Meeting House. Christian Aid Market         |
| 29    |       | Visit to Chevetogne, Belgium                       |



### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Clerk: Mrs J Buttery, 813214

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - 8.00 p.m. Day Centre, Crafton Green, Wednesday 27th April.

#### Agenda:

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 1987.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Statement of Accounts.
5. School Managers' Reports.
6. To receive Chief Supt. W.G. Pirie, Essex Police.
7. Resolutions of which ten days written notice has been given to the Parish Council.
8. Open Forum.


**QUESTIONNAIRE** - Planning for the 21st Century - is being distributed to all households in the parish. As part of the preparation by Uttlesford District Council of a new Stansted Village Plan the Parish Council is considering what should be included in this revised plan. It is hoped that as many people as possible will answer at least some of the questions. If you do not receive a copy please ask the Clerk or any Parish Councillor for one.

**Best Kept Village Competition** - following our success in last year's competition the Parish Council has decided to enter again this year. We hope that everyone will once again participate in any way they can - perhaps by having a hanging basket or a flower tub on their property; keeping gardens and hedges tidy, (the judges do look at domestic gardens as well as all public places), using the receptacles provided for litter, etc




Skip - the next skip will be in Crafton Green on Monday 18th - Thursday 21st April.

Good News - following the publication in last month's Link of a letter from Mr. Souter who spent some time in the village as a child during the war, he has now written to say how overwhelmed he has been by the response he has had - "these last few days have been like a dream". "The people of Stansted Mountfitchet are obviously a special breed - their response has been so kind I will never forget these last few weeks".



**EXTENSIONS**  
**GENERAL BUILDING**  
**RENOVATIONS**



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



**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.**

4

#### STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

John Keyworth gave a very interesting talk on the History of the Bank of England at the Three Colts on Monday 25th January.

The Conservative Parish Councillors held surgeries at The Parish Council Office on Saturday 30th January and 27th February.

A very successful and well-attended Jumble and White Elephant Sale was held at St. John's Church Hall on Saturday 6th February. A profit of nearly £150 was made.

The Annual general meeting of the Women's Branch was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 2nd March at 10.30 a.m. It was a very friendly, informal and sociable event. Thirty members attended and, also, Alan Haselhurst, our Member of Parliament, and Anne Witherington, Chairman of Saffron Walden Constituency Women's Branch. The speaker was Gillian Shepherd, Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk. The election of officers and committee members was conducted by Dirk Vettewinkel the Constituency Agent.

**Chairman** - Bridget Gott  
**Vice Chairman** - Diana Bishop  
**Secretary** - Pat Bickerton

The committee was re-elected with the addition of Pauline Butterfield and Joan Summers. Kay Jones and Rose Rogers have retired from the committee.

A ploughman's lunch with wine was served.



**\* FUTURE EVENT \***

**Friday 22nd April 8 p.m.**

Fashion Show by Valerie of Sawbridgeworth (previously Oriental Wear) at St. John's Hall. £3 including light refreshments.

A meeting was held at The Three Colts on Monday 22nd February. The speaker was Gerry Wade, who spoke about the M11 Corridor and the possible effect on Stansted.

The speaker at The Three Colts on Monday 25th April at 8 p.m. will be Alan Haselhurst, M.P. on "A Light-hearted look at the Parliamentary Year".

There will be a Conservative Parish Councillor's Surgery at The Parish Council Office, Crafton Green on Saturday, 30th April at 10 a.m.

There will be a Treasure Hunt on Monday 23rd May at 7.30 and a coach trip in May - details of both events later.

Any further details or information from: Bridget Gott, 814440  
or Pat Bickerton, 812411



# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

At the time of writing we are all looking forward to the Group 'C' meeting on 18 March and to the SPRINGTIME SUPPER on 25 March. A record number of tickets have been sold for the Supper.

The next date is Wednesday 27 April at The Three Colts, Cambridge Road, at 8 p.m. Our President's son, Major Timothy Power and Colour Sergeant Pelham are coming over specially that evening from Basingbourn to talk to us about today's Army and to answer our questions. This should be a most interesting evening and we hope you will come along and bring your wives and your friends.

On Friday 4 March the funeral took place of Mr Fred Cheal a much respected member of the Branch. Mr Cheal served in the last war with distinction in the R A M C and subsequently in the T A. He had served in our Branch with great keenness as Secretary, Chairman and Poppy Organiser. Senior members of the branch attended the funeral.

We are still wanting to appoint a Poppy Organiser who need not be a member of the British Legion. The work is highly rewarding and is not exacting. Assistance has been promised from several sources. Interested men or women who feel they can help should please speak to any member of the Committee.

Our Service Committee who deal with local benevolent work have recently had a major success. Thanks to Mrs Stevens and the Committee after many months of effort, they have succeeded in obtaining a special pension for the widow of a former Prisoner of War.

In future, Service Committees are to be called Welfare Committees.



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

At their February meeting members were treated to some delightful slides of such varied places as Sheffield Park, Lavenham, Edinburgh, Felixstowe, Whitley and Stansted taken and shown by Doris Wiffen.

When Stansted played hostess to the quarterly Group Meeting on 9th March sixty six members from six villages saw a fascinating demonstration of cake icing by Ann Muir.

The coffee morning at Mrs. Gabb's on 16th March raised £92, including donations, and we are very grateful to all who so generously supported us.

The speaker at the branch meeting on 21st April will be Jea Reay on "Interesting Holidays".

Pat Clower  
815220



### April Diary for Day Centre

Tues Apr 5th	Afternoon Bingo	2.00pm
Thur Apr 7th	Keep Fit	2.30 pm
Tues Apr 12th	Bury St Edmunds Fare £2.30p Leave Day Centre at 2.00 pm	
Thur Apr 14th	Keep Fit	2.30 pm
Fri Apr 15th	Whist Drive 25p	2.00 pm
Tues Apr 19th	BINGO	2.00 pm
Thur Apr 21st	Keep Fit	2.30 pm
Wed Apr 27th	W/Essex Age Concern Whist Tournament	
Thur Apr 28th	Keep Fit	2.30 pm
Fri Apr 29th	Whist Drive 25p	2.00 pm

K. Stevens

### DAY CENTRE

It is good to see that more of our Senior Citizens are using the facilities on offer at the Day Centre. There is always a warm welcome there whether you go for just a snack and chat, or for lunch. Lunches are varied and good value. Bingo, beetle and whist are gaining increasing followers also. April sees the start of the summer coach outings which will include half-day trips to Bury St. Edmunds, mystery trip and Luton Arndale Shopping Centre, and full day trips to Windsor and The Royal and Empire Exhibition and Felixstowe.



### BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meetings at the Crafton Green Day Centre at 8 p.m.

April 14th Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)  
Piano Concerto No 2 Op 83  
Academic Festival Overture Op 80  
Symphony No 4 in E minor Op 98

April 28th

Mary Scholes  
"FAUST" 813155

**THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST  
STANSTED & DISTRICT GROUP**

In February we held our ever popular Tiny Tots Valentines Party which once again was very well attended and I think the mums enjoyed the sing-a-long with Fran and Pascale as much as their offspring!

On the 2nd March the AGM was held and at this the committee for the following year was elected and we also said thanks to the out-going committee members for their work over the past year.

Also in March a talk was given by Dr. Howarth on the work of the Well Women Clinic which is held weekly at the St. John's Road Surgery. Lots of people attended the talk which was held at Nikki's house, so thanks to Nikki for the use of her house and also to Dr. Howarth and everyone else involved.

Our coffee mornings and events for April are as follows:-

**APRIL**

**The National Childbirth Trust  
Education for Parenthood**



- Fri 1st Good Friday
- Tue 5th Easter Holidays
- Thur 7th UNDER ONE'S at Christine's, 45 Bentfield Causeway  
Tel 815239 10 - 11.30
- Fri 8th TODDLERS at Maggies, 42 Bentfield Causeway, 10 - 11.30
- Tue 12th BABY & CRAWLERS at Jackie's, 6 The High Street, Elsenham,  
tel. 816282 10 - 11.30
- Thur 14th UNDER ONE'S at Jacky's, 30 Rainsford Road, tel. 814424d 10 - 11.30
- Fri 15th TODDLERS at Dawn's, 32 Blythwood Gardens, tel. 815479 10 - 11.30
- Mon 18th TALK ON CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES at the Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill,  
Stansted. 10.30 - 11.30 am. Entry Fee 75p (incl. coffee)
- Tue 19th BABY & CRAWLERS at Nikki's, 28 Rainsford Road, tel. 814437  
10 - 11.30
- Thur 21st MARKET STALL from 8 am in Bishop's Stortford (jumble & bric a brac  
to Francis Parish, Moat House, Grove Hill, Stansted by April 15th,  
home made cakes and perishables by 20th. tel. 812565)
- Thur 21st UNDER ONE'S at Pascale's, 57 Woodfields, tel. 812500 10 - 11.30
- Fri 22nd TODDLERS at Margaret's, Ivy Cottage, Ugley, tel. 815717 10 - 11.30
- Tue 26th BABY & CRAWLERS at Pascale's, 57 Woodfields, tel. 812500 10 - 11.30
- Thur 28th UNDER ONE'S at Amanda's, 3 Bentfield Road, tel. 815192 10 - 11.30
- Fri 29th TODDLERS at Nikki's, 28 Rainsford Road, tel. 814437 10 - 11.30



**MONDAY 11th APRIL**

CRAFT PARTY at Annie's. "Greenlands". Albury (Turn left at the crossroads in the centre of Albury village then the house is on your right).

Please look out for posters around the village for details of this and other events.

Christine



**MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB**

Following the success of Mr Harbutt's talk on Hardy Perennials and Icelandic Poppies at our March meeting it is hoped that he will return in the not too distant future to continue his discourse on this most interesting subject.

Please note that there are two important dates to remember in April:

First, on Wednesday evening 6 April our AGM is to be held at 8 pm, Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. The meeting will be followed by a slide show on a topical gardening subject.



On Saturday 16 April, our Sixth Annual Spring Show takes place. This will be held at United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted, commencing at 2.30 pm. The show will include displays of spring flowers, vegetables and floral art. The show is open to the general public and refreshments will be available. A Grand Raffle will be held. Also there will be a sale of produce at the end of the show.

Sue Wilkinson



## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We had another 21st birthday to celebrate so we made our way to the Pizza Hut at Bishop's Stortford, taking of course Michelle the birthday girl.

A lovely sight met our eyes with 4 large tables set for a party with hats, balloons, a place mat to colour, colouring pencils and mini mars bars. The staff were at the door to welcome us and they could not have done more to please us. With so many toppings to choose from it's a job to know which to have. We settled for cheese and tomato and ham, tomato and cheese and everyone ate their fill. There were many jugs of coke and lemonade passing round the tables. Michelle then had a lovely surprise when a Care Bear birthday cake arrived. Of course Happy Birthday had to be sung with many of the other customers joining in. Everyone enjoyed themselves and many thanks to the super staff. Even when as we were being served Stephen asked if anyone had eaten at the Deep Pan Pizza, the rivals at the other end of town, the staff saw the funny side of his question. The balloons and other goodies were collected together to be taken home.

If it had been a windy night some of us would have taken off; we were hanging on to so many balloons. Older members then went on to Marion's for a glass of wine for the birthday toast and to carry on with the party for a little longer. We all went home tummies full and happy after a super evening.

As always when dates like Shrove Tuesday and Mothers Day arrive we see what we can do. So the nearest Thursday to Shrove Tuesday found us making pancakes. Our members love to get into the kitchen and believe it or not they don't even mind doing the washing up. When they had each cooked, tossed and eaten their own pancakes they then made one for their parents with a choice of jam or lemon and sugar filling. Only one pancake landed on the floor due to a lack of concentration of my part - not one reached the ceiling.

Don't think we spend every week eating or drinking because a few weeks later we had Mothers Day cards to make. Out of the card was cut a window with a window ledge on which the children stuck tissue paper flowers which they had made. The finished cards were very pretty and we hope all the mums were pleased with them and had a lovely day.

Jean Stone



## STANSTED TENNIS CLUB



Coaching for 8-14 year olds

There will be coaching at the club on Tuesdays commencing 26th April from 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm and

Saturdays commencing 30th April from 11.30 am - 12.30 pm

The cost is £5.50 for 6 lessons and then we hope to have a further 4 weeks of coaching which will cost 50p per hour. Numbers for each class are strictly limited to a maximum of 20, so early booking is advised. Please ring Janet Hollis B/S 812073.

The new season starts on 1st April and new members are always very welcome.

An American Tournament will be held on Sunday 10th April at 2 pm. This is for Senior Members.

The roof of the clubhouse has been repaired after suffering severe damage from the October hurricane. Also, new netting surrounding the courts and a second gate into the courts was completed in the middle of March.

Finals Day for the Senior Tournament will be on Sunday 24th July.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis B/S 812073.



Lord, When I am Hungry.

Lord, when I am hungry  
Give me someone to feed,  
When I am thirsty  
Give water for their thirst.

When I am sad  
Someone to lift from sorrow  
When burdens weigh upon me  
Lay upon my shoulders  
The burden of my fellows.

Lord, when I stand  
Greatly in need of tenderness,  
Give me someone who yearns  
For love. May your will  
Be my bread; your grace  
My strength; your love  
My resting place.

- Translation of a French prayer





## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING W.I.

Mrs. Pat Cooper announced that we have at present 41 paid up members and would welcome more! Mrs. Brenda Ryan and Mrs. Pat Cooper agreed to attend the County AGM on 3rd March. This is usually a well attended and interesting meeting with a good speaker. It is hoped that a Needlecraft Grant-Aided Class will be arranged for early summer, where members will be offered tuition in various types of embroidery and lampshade-making.

Next month members are to be asked for ideas for speakers for 1989. Previously this has been done by a small committee. A speaker from CAMTAD - the campaign for tackling acquired deafness - gave a short talk as the main speaker for March. Mrs. Georgie Bulteel told members of an organisation that welcomes unwanted spectacles. She will be pleased to collect them at the W.I. meetings. Mrs. Pat Cooper spoke about the Pancake Race. It is hoped that next year we can encourage other organisations in the village to join us. Mrs. Sue Holland, Treasurer, gave her budget for the year, setting us a target of about £300 to raise. Some suggestions included a Flower Arranging Evening open to anyone and a Market Stall in Stortford.

Mr. David Lindy, an osteopath from Bishop's Stortford, described the development of osteopathy, begun in 1874 in Missouri by Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, to the present day. In England now there are 1400 registered osteopaths, 25% of whom are female. There are now 4 schools of osteopathy and the training is 4 years long. Many doctors are now referring patients for this treatment but it is not yet available on the National Health. Mrs. Sylvia Osborne thanked the speaker.

An "Avon Stall" with plenty of bargains was well supported by members. A game of Pictionary was organised by the President and proved to be quite a noisy affair even though we weren't supposed to speak, only draw! The competition for "your favourite romantic keepsake" was well supported and was won by Mrs. Margaret Chastney, 2nd Mrs. Vera Ansell, 3rd Mrs. Jean Fuller.

Visitors are always welcome. We meet the 2nd Thursday in the month at 7.45 pm in St. John's Hall.

Judy Colliver  
812470

## STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

The March meeting of the Afternoon Women's Institute was well attended. The President Mrs. Ann Calver welcomed four visitors and presented eight members with March birthdays with buttonholes. Mrs. Pauline Cianciola reported on the recent County AGM held in Chelmsford.

Mrs. Joan Grose brought along some lovely slides and talked about village signs, an interesting subject with so many varied types of signs made from many different materials.

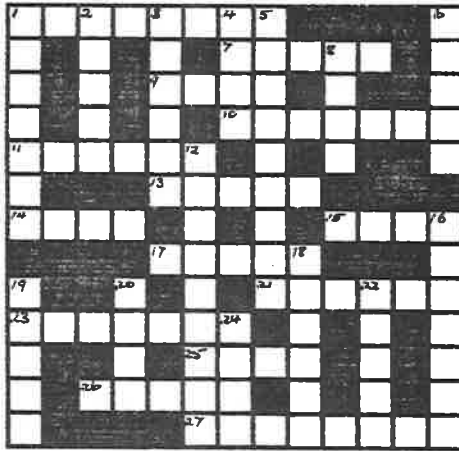
The competition was for an unusual postcard and was won by Mrs. Palmer with a tie for second place between Mrs. French and Mrs. Little. The raffle winners were Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Thomason.

The President announced a coffee morning to be held in the Day Centre on Saturday 9th April.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th April at 2.30 p.m. in the Day Centre. The speaker will be Mr. Eric Maple, and his subject - Haunted Essex.

Pauline Cianciola  
814487





ACROSS

- 1 The reverend's years? (8)
- 7 No head for roasts, but still they're driers. (5)
- 9 Regrets not being sure. (4)
- 10 The holy man turns and walks slowly. (7)
- 11 Where badgers are inlaid? (6)
- 13 Ages found in heavenly ears. (5)
- 14 Seven could be deadly. (4)
- 15 No score for emotion. (4)
- 17 Reg and me become one. (5)
- 21 Rag Ted, made an unpleasant noise. (6)
- 23 Spouts about the king ,producing a vegetable. (7)
- 25 Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. (4)
- 26 A prophet tho' seals may contain him? (5)
- 27 Spend a pound and one old penny for some magnificent change. (8)

DOWN

- 1 The Roman man took spirits, but foolishly couldn't light their lamps. (7)
- 2 Save a hundred around the tunnels. (5)
- 3 I tarry around to see the precious event. (6)
- 4 The ego's ruined and departs. (4)
- 5 Seasonal encouragement! (6,3)
- 6 A thousand for a party giver, he may be holy. (5)
- 8 You are a singular person! (4)
- 12 Even in the pig houses you've reached three score and ten. (9)
- 16 The red dune changed, but lasted. (7)
- 18 My Queen, his lordship's fur. (6)
- 19 Wessex beheaded, and he was! (5)
- 20 Played in the pool, or around. (4)
- 22 "Thou shalt render unto Caesar" contained the direction. (5)
- 24 Pan's call if similar. (4)

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