

Dec 88

The *LINK*



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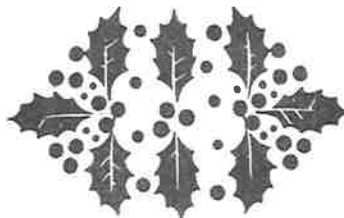
The LINK

Volume IX No. 2

December 1988



Unto us a ★
child is born
unto us a
son is given



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

Annual subscription is £2.00. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

Advertising Enquiries to: Rev'd Margaret Booker. Tel: 812684.

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
* 5th December for January issue *
12th January for February issue
* Please note early date

Printed by 'The Print Shop', Bishop's Stortford



CAROLS
 in the Memorial Gardens
 Chapel Hill
 WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER
 7.00 p.m.
 (Please bring a torch)
 COLLECTION IN AID OF
 CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS
 Soup Afterwards
 in St. John's Hall



CAROL SINGING 1988 FOR HELPLINE

Everyone is welcome to sing, play or collect.
 Meet 7.30 p.m. each evening.

- Tuesday 20th December
 Meet at corner of Chapel Hill and Spencer Close.
- Thursday 22nd December
 Meet at corner of Bentfield Road and Bentfield Gardens.
- Friday 23rd December
 Meet at corner of Cambridge Road and Croasdale Road.
- Saturday 24th December
 Meet at corner of High Lane and High Mead.

Warm clothes and torches are needed.
 Carol sheets provided.

Further details from
 Derek Honour 813160 Judy Goddard 812498
 Peter Jones 813252



Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for
 worship: 11am.

"There are many roads to the top of the mountain". Somebody said these words to me recently, sitting in a beautiful sunlit room in Granchester surrounded by silk Persian rugs and elegant antiques. I had never encountered this epithet before: my personal metaphor was about the spokes of a wheel all leading to the same centre. But this mountain struck me as being an even better concept.

Because you cannot see the person coming up the other side, you have no idea how he is finding his way, how far up he is, how tired he may be, what obstacles he is encountering. You can't hear him, let alone see him. Sure, when you meet him at the top all will become clear. But as you toil your way up your path, how can you empathise with your unseen fellow-traveller, let alone have an inkling of understanding about his journey?

This metaphor is self-explanatory. While we vainly attempt to solve problems both global and personal, God's will is at work. The only real progress we make is in our own personal journey - if we so choose - towards the top of the mountain. Trying to organise the journeys of others is fruitless: we cannot hope to understand them. And anyway, what about understanding our own path? "Know thyself", said Socrates. That is what it comes back to. To know the Self, the Divine within us, and allow that light to lead us towards the top of the mountain in the certain faith that it is doing the same for everyone else.

Rosamond Richardson



Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd John Meehan
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.



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.

My dear Friends,

"Christian", John Bunyan's pilgrim, emerged from the debilitating experience of the Slough of Despond only to encounter yet another, and very different, snare to hinder his progress to the Celestial City. This came in the person of Mr. Worldly Wiseman and his apparently sound advice. His way of thinking has been called "prudential morality". It is a "safety-first", "don't get yourself into trouble", "keep your nose clean" type of morality. Essentially it is the ethics of self-centredness; it is keeping the right side of the law; it is making sure that others will think well of me; it is goodness, not for goodness' sake but for my own. Such prudential morality is not a matter of great merit and can be a real danger to our spiritual well-being.

But Mr. Worldly Wiseman is too shrewd to present his type of self-centred goodness as it really is and in its true light. He makes it sound right. He directs Christian to the town called Morality and to "a very judicious gentleman" named Legality and his son "a pretty young man", named Civility. It all sounds fine. Who can doubt that a life which is moral, legal and civil is highly desirable. For Worldly Wiseman right living is merely a matter of urbane decency and self-interest. But let us suppose he means much more, that he means real and true morality, legality and civility. Who of us is able really to live up to these requirements fully, day after day, in all circumstances? Have any of us the moral and spiritual resources to do so? St. Paul wrote, "The good that I would do, I do not do and the evil that I would not do I find myself doing". That is a problem of failure common to us all.

And this was Christian's problem. He needed to be at peace, joyful peace, with himself, with others, with life in general and (most of all) with God. Such peace could only come for him when he came to a right and happy relationship with God. But he could never achieve this by his own efforts alone. As we would say, "He never made the grade". Consequently he was burdened with a terrible sense of failure with its very crippling sense of guilt, shame and fear.

He could never get right with God on the basis of his own achievements because: A. He never fully achieved, and B. Such a basis could not produce a really loving, filial relationship but only a moral commercialism, a cold contractual meritocracy. The latter is far removed from the family relationships of the Kingdom of God. The only way to be happy with God is, with repentance and faith, to trust utterly in His amazing love and mercy. That is a Father-Child relationship.

The burdens we carry may not be guilt, shame and fear, but feelings of emptiness, meaninglessness, frustration and boredom. But the cure is the same - an ultimate and personal trust that the source, guide and goal of all life is a God of steadfast loving-kindness and tender mercy. That gets us rightly related to God, life, other people and ourselves, out of which comes the highest and most gracious goodness.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Harold Fisher

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

On 10 December 1988 people all over the world will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This document, drawn up in the aftermath of the terrible suffering of World War II, sets forth in simple words the basic inalienable rights to which every human being is entitled and without which we cannot lead full and satisfying lives. Its words have been an inspiration to many, showing the world as it could and should be: a place of respect and freedom for all. It has become the international standard by which the behaviour of governments is measured. Sadly, the promises made then have not been kept. Torture and the abuse of human rights is widespread.

Inspired by the aims of the Declaration, and concerned at our failure to implement them, many people will be re-dedicating themselves at this time to the principles of the Declaration.

Action by Christians against Torture, an ecumenical human rights group of which I am a member, is also focussing on this anniversary as an occasion to renew its commitment to work for a world without torture - a flagrant abuse of human rights which is still practised in over 80 countries throughout the world. Further details of this work can be obtained from A.C.T. 32, Wentworth Hill, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9SG or from Bruce Harrison, tel: 813535.



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.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Dec 4	11.00	Bible Sunday Holy Communion the Rev. E. McIlwain
Dec 11	10.30	Group Christmas Services - Gift Day
Dec 18	11.00	Carols & Lessons
Dec 25	10.30	Christmas Day Group Service

Although it is still quite early in November, I need to write this article now if I'm to meet the deadline for the December issue of 'Link'. And as this is the article for December it must surely be about Christmas. I think you'll agree.

As I write Christmas arrangements seem already to be going on apace and I expect by now many of you will have decided where and with whom you will celebrate the festival of Christ's birth. This usually seems to be the first thing to be arranged, after which comes the mammoth task of day to day action to ensure the happiness of a truly memorable occasion on Christmas Day.

The Christmas story is such a simple one, and yet more and more we seem to overlay it with elaborate, even at times wearying preparations.

'Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?' The question is already being asked in spite of the fact that as I write there are still seven weeks until Christmas Day.

All of which makes me realise how easily we let the true wonder of Christmas become lost in the bustle of our happy preparations.

May I share with you a moment when the true wonder of Christmas became very real to me?

It was wartime and the London suburb in which I lived was suffering an air raid during the night of Christmas Eve.

Early on the following morning, Christmas Day, we put on the radio to hear the strains of 'O come all ye faithful' reaching out across the war stricken country, offering a message of hope and goodwill that touched the heart, giving courage and the gift of inward peace to all who were suffering so grievously at that time.

The true wonder of Christmas is that God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the World, and that on Christmas Day we pause to reflect what that great gift has meant to the world ever since, and what it can mean to each one of us at every stage of life, in joy or in sorrow. 'O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord'.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Lydia Rapkin

Report from the United Reformed Church Guild

We were pleased to have Valerie and Peter Trundle with us to tell us about their holiday on Skye. In addition to slides we saw some lovely prints. These showed the rugged majesty of the island, with very few houses. In contrast we saw slides of Portree with the white houses lining the harbour. There were lovely views of an ancient castle in the north of the island.

We are now nearing the end of our session as we are not meeting during the dark nights. It has been so nice to have so many of our members giving us such interesting evenings. This time Miss Doris Whiffen showed us slides of her visit to Austria with its beautiful mountains and clean and tidy villages and towns.

After this we had our Annual Meeting with reports from our secretary and treasurer, the latter showing a healthy balance. It was decided to send a donation to the Windmill Fund.

Mrs Betty Francis gave us a varied selection of slides for our last meeting. We saw views of Somerset, Skye and some nearer home of the storm damage in the lanes and woods at Ugly, also interesting slides of a Victorian Day at the School. Derek, her husband, had taken some clear and lovely slides of birds on his bird table.

We now close until the spring.

M. C. Johnson

Church of England

Clergy: The Rev'd Bob Wallace
The Rev'd Brenda Wallace
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

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	-	8am

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

Victoria McPherson: Cawkell Close
David McPherson: Cawkell Close
Robert McPherson: Cawkell Close
Rachel Smith: Manor Road
Carl Wright: Manor Road
Emily Johnson: Silver Street

Departed

Edna Edith Laird 1 Water Lane
Aged 64 years

DIARY

December

1	10.00	Normans Ct Holy Communion
5	10.00	Mead Ct Holy Communion
7	8.15	Fellowship Group at Ragni's
10		Evening Parish Christmas Party
11	6 pm	Instead of Evensong there will be a Youth Service to which everybody is invited
13	2.15	Tiny Tots: Service & Party
18	3.30	Christingle: St John's Church
21	7.00	SACC Carols in Memorial Gdns
24		For Christmas Services see
25		Advert
29	10.00	Mead Ct & Normans Ct Communion

January

1	3.00	Nine Lessons & Carols: St Mary's
6	8.00	Feast of Epiphany: Sung Communion - St John's Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Dec 18th	3.30	CHRISTINGLE	St John's
Dec 24th	11.30 pm	MIDNIGHT MASS	St John's
Dec 25th	8 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	9.30	Family Communion	St John's
	11.30	Communion with Carols	St Mary's
Jan 1st		Nine Lessons & Carols	3 pm St Mary's



From Father Tony

Yes, Christmas is nearly here. 'We know' I hear you say, 'we haven't heard about anything else for weeks'. Everybody is talking about their lack of preparations, the cost of presents, and all the other things which leave them exhausted by Christmas Day. Well don't worry, I'm not going to speak about the usual Christmas joys and worries. I'm going to do what you'd expect a priest to do and chat about Jesus.

I want to remind us that at Christmas we remember and celebrate an earth shattering, mind blowing and life changing event. An event which makes every difference to everything, which leaves no atom of our being untouched, which fundamentally rearranges the whole meaning of life. The birth of Jesus.

'Big deal, what's all the excitement about?' some people ask. Well, the excitement is this. Jesus was filled with the spirit of God, so much so that God refers to him as 'His beloved Son upon whom His favour rests'. Jesus is the breaking of God into history in human form. In Jesus humanity is lifted up into the realms of the Holy and we are all made children of God. In Jesus we see the way that we are called to follow. A way that moves us from our human nature into our divine nature, not by leaving our humanity behind but by transforming it into something more alive and exciting.

This Good News leaves none of us untouched. It challenges, confronts and entices us to open ourselves to what it means to be God's children. We can no longer say 'nothing matters in life' because in Jesus we discover a God to whom everything does matter. A God who cares so deeply about who and what we are that He has made Himself a part of us, and He calls us to recognise His presence within us.

This is important stuff. So important that Jesus accepted crucifixion in order to share it with us. Share with us the Good News that we are God's children and should act accordingly; with love and peace and kindness, allowing our Father's Kingdom to come by letting His burst into our lives. Surrendering ourselves to our deeper divine nature by becoming Holy as He is Holy.

These are the things which Christmas is all about. So I do wish all of you a very happy and joy filled Christmas. One which helps you realise who and what you really are. The Children of God!

With Every Blessing.

Fr Tony



PLEASE NOTE

There is a Deanery Youth Evensong on December 11th at 6 pm. This is half-an-hour earlier than usual and EVERYBODY is invited.

YOUTH GROUP

I must begin by thanking all those who helped make our Bonfire and Fireworks Party so successful. We had a super time.

December is a busy time for our Youth Club. On Sunday 11th December there is a Deanery Christmas Youth Event in St John's Hall. Everyone who is in their final year of junior school or older is welcome to come. It begins at 2 pm with workshops organised by a professional music and drama group working towards a Christmas Service at 6 pm to which everybody is invited. Afterwards there is a Fancy Dress Disco in the Hall! Ring Brenda Towle for more details.

Details of other events can be found on our programme or by contacting one of our youth leaders below. Happy Christmas!

love
Fr Tony

Fr Tony: 814463 Brenda Towle: 813712
Paula Holmes: 59068 Richard Hart
Martin Corbishley



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday 10th : 6.30 pm
St John's Hall
FUN FOR EVERYONE
Games - Dancing - Food and Drink
Carols



MOTHERS' UNION

No meeting in December - many of you may well still be away on holiday.

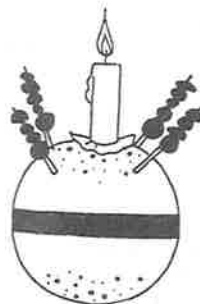
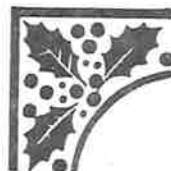
This year's Christingle Service is on Sunday December 18th at 3.30 pm at which we provide the tea afterwards. I would be grateful for small cakes - please - on the day itself.

We shall greatly miss a very faithful member - Edna Laird - who died suddenly last month. She was always so cheerful inspite of being in constant pain - and when she could, came and enjoyed our special meetings in the summer and New Year.

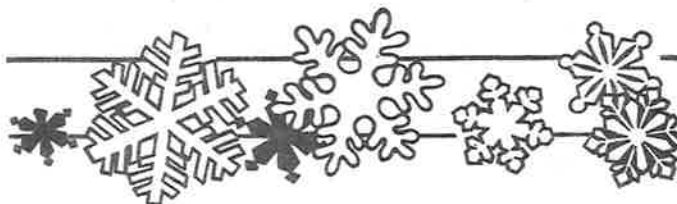
Margaret

FROM THE FAMILY OF MRS. LAIRD

Mr. Laird and family would like to take the opportunity to thank all those people in the village who have sent their condolences and made offers of help on the death of Edna. The support they have provided through this time of grief has given us much encouragement and strength.



CHRISTINGLE
SERVICE
ST JOHN'S
CHURCH
18th. DECEMBER
3.30.p.m.



USPG

OVERSEAS LINKS COMMITTEE

AMERICAN EVENING

The American Evening on Saturday 22nd October 1988 was well attended by around fifty, including a significant number of children at whom much of the evening was directed. The centre pieces of the evening were presentations of slides of Stansted and its Churches with a recorded commentary by Barry Rose, which had been sent to Midvale Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, and slides with commentary sent by them to us. The presentations were useful and interesting introductions of the two church communities to one another.

The themes of a small exhibition of things American included general information on the U.S., Wisconsin, Madison, Christian life in Midvale and news of Jack and Laurie Pinkert who had written specifically to their friends attending the evening. During the interval a very successful quiz based on the exhibition was held for adults and children together.

Anyone who was unable to attend Evening and who would like to see the slide presentations should contact me (0279 815518).

MIDVALE -WELCOME LINE

The Overseas Links Committee would like to explore the creation of a 'Welcome Line' for parishioners of Midvale Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, who may be visiting the United Kingdom, particularly when they enter the country through Stansted Airport. There is no doubt that, when visiting a foreign country, a welcoming face (or voice) dissipates the natural anxieties that arise in unfamiliar surroundings and gives the traveller greater confidence to enjoy the visit. Simply to know that whilst in a foreign country there is someone to turn to at the end of a telephone is a great comfort.

Many travellers are reluctant to make contact with strangers and, therefore, we regard it as important that contact should first be made before travellers leave the security of their own homes. We would therefore encourage travellers from Midvale to telephone us before leaving home to introduce themselves and to acquaint us with an outline of their plans.

If you are interested in participating in the 'Welcome Line' we should be glad to hear from you and to discuss the degree of involvement that you would be prepared to undertake. We would plan to maintain a brief register of participants so that on hearing of a traveller we could identify the most suitable contact, ascertain their availability and, if they are willing, establish the contact.

Those interested in participating should contact:

Alastair Richardson (0279) 815518
Marion Johnson (0279) 812284

Alastair Richardson

Village News



VILLAGE DIARY

December

- | | | | |
|----|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| 7 | 11.00 | Stansted Hall | Burton End |
| | | Barnardo's | Christmas Fayre |
| | | Adm 50p inc. | refreshments |
| | 8.00 | Day Centre. | Garden Club |
| | | Christmas | Social |
| 18 | 3.30 | St John's | Christingle Service |
| 20 | 7.30 | Carol Party | for Helpline |
| 21 | 7.00 | Carols at | Memorial Gardens |
| | | (see notice) | |
| 22 | 7.00 | Carol Party |) |
| 23 | 7.00 | Carol Party |) see notice |
| 24 | 7.00 | Carol Party |) |

January

- | | | | |
|----|------|-------------------|---------------|
| 7 | 8.00 | Stansted Hall | Conservatives |
| | | Dinner | Dance |
| 28 | 7.30 | Stansted Hall | Social & |
| | | Liberal Democrats | Dinner Dance |

STANSTED CARNIVAL

Stansted Carnival Committee are now beginning to plan the 1989 Carnival which we hope will be even bigger and better than ever before. Our fund raising begins with a Barn Dance in April, which we hope will be just as well attended as last year. The more profit we make, the more the people of Stansted will benefit. We are therefore seeking beneficiaries for 1989. If you know of anyone or any organisation in Stansted in need of help, please contact the Chairman, Brian Harris, 10 Highmead, tel. B/S 815885 or Secretary, Sue Reed, Castle Cottage, Grove Hill, tel. B/S 812461.

ST. MARY'S C of E PRIMARY

Dear Link Magazine

We really enjoyed doing your firework Wordsearch but we couldn't find "firework". Can you tell us where it is, or has someone made a mistake?

Yours faithfully
Kevin Thain and
David Ruff

Oops! Someone has! I can't find it either (Puzzle from "Church News Service"). Well spotted, Kevin and David!

Editor



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

Thank you to Stansted Carnival Association for their donation. It will be used for gymnastic mats and other items such as a paint trolley.

With Christmas on the way the children are rehearsing for the nativity play, making Christmas cakes and practising party games for the Christmas party.

Last month the older children visited Stansted Fire Station and had a lovely time trying on hats and boots. The fireman showed them how his hoses worked, and as it was a sunny day made a magnificent rainbow.

Rainbow Playgroup is at:

Youth and Adult Centre, Lower Street, Stansted.

Over 4 Mon, Wed and Fri mornings
3-4 Tues and Thurs mornings
Phone Auntie Ann 813319 (am)
812457 (pm)

Also at the Youth and Adult Centre on Wednesdays 1.30 - 3.30 pm. MUM AND CO, for mums (or dads) and children under 3(ish). Come and have a cup of tea and a chat and let the children enjoy a change of scene - with painting, puzzles, a playhouse and climbing frame, and best of all, other children. There's also a corner with toys for the babies.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER:-

- Wed 7th GIRLS' CHRISTMAS DINNER at The Cock, Henham. Phone Carol on 816209 for bookings and details
- Mon 12th CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY at St John's Church Hall, Stansted 2.30 - 4. Tickets £1 each (babies under 6 months free). Tickets available in advance from committee members

EXERCISE CLUB

5th December only, Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Sessions start 9.45 am. Creche and refreshments available. £1.50 per session

COFFEE MORNINGS 10 - 11.30 am

TODDLERS

- Fri 2nd Dec Nikki Lye's, 28 Rainsford Road, Stansted
- Fri 9th Dec Penny Brooks', 42 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted
- Fri 16th Dec Jackie Feehan's, Cordwents Stansted Rd, Elsenham
- Fri 6th Jan Annette Wright's, 2 Washington Meads, Maitland Rd, Stansted

UNDER 1'S & EXPECTANT MUMS

- Tues 6th Dec Pam Moore's, 14 Meadowcroft Stansted
- Tues 13th Dec Pascale Fowell's, 57 Woodfields, Stansted

Christmas Holiday weeks beginning 19th & 26th Dec. Merry Christmas everybody.

Christine, 815239



MORNING MARKET

"MARGARET GABB AND JEANETTE FYNN wish to thank all who worked so hard and gave to the Morning Market on Wednesday 26th October, and to those who came to support the event, and those who could not come but made donations - A VERY BIG THANK YOU. The total sum was £363.40. Both the Missions to Seamen H.Q. and the Blue Cross Society have expressed their gratitude."





BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The annual Barnardo's Christmas Fayre will again be held at Stansted Hall, Burton End, Stansted. 11 am - 1 pm on Wednesday 7th December.

Last year, the warm comfort and the atmosphere of Christmas in this splendid old house was greatly appreciated by everyone. Do make a special effort to come - and bring your friends. Perhaps those coming by car could offer a lift to the less fortunate? Everyone is welcome. There's a marvellous raffle with lots of prizes, a Christmas stall, cakes, delicatessen, 'bring and buy', 'guess the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc.

Come and enjoy yourself - in a good cause. Entrance 50p, including refreshments.

Mrs Pauline Garnell
813124



HUW JOHNSON CLUB



A Halloween party, a firework display and a visit from Des and his wife Mavis with Punch and Judy made November an exciting month for our club members. Mr Punch was booed and scolded for putting the baby through the sausage machine, but with the help of James who reversed the sausage making process baby was successfully restored to Judy and a penitent Punch. As usual the crocodile and the policeman helped to show Mr Punch the error of his ways. With five birthdays to celebrate in November club evenings seem to be one long round of eating.

Next month we have our Carol Service and Christmas Party. We haven't had any visitors yet to have coffee with us so may we once again invite you to come along to St John's Hall on Thursday evenings between 7 pm and 9 pm (on Dec 8th we meet at 62 Chapel Hill), so why not come and see us in action.

Marion G Johnson



UGLEY VILLAGE HALL

Ugley Village Hall require a part-time caretaker. For particulars telephone Mrs. Webb, 813102.



Incorporated by Royal Charter

GIRL GUIDES

Stansted District

Guides and Brownies have been flourishing in Stansted for many years now. We have always been very active and very full and our numbers never go down. Every girl in the district had the opportunity to go on Camp or Pack Holiday this year and many of them did and enjoyed being in the unique situation of learning to live and work together, whether under the stars or in the family atmosphere of a Pack Holiday house.

We have in Stansted 3 Packs of Brownies with 24 girls in each Pack. The recommended number for a pack is 18! We have a long, long waiting list which means that although the starting age is 7 years many will not begin until they are 8.

We have 2 Guide Companies, both of them well attended with numbers rising all the time.

On Monday the Guider manages on her own with the help of Mums but desperately needs a committed leader to help her.

On Wednesday a Brownie Guider is needed.

Do you know anybody who has been a Guider who has moved into the area? Or could you commit yourself to working with Children in Guiding? If so we NEED YOU NOW. You will be given every help and training for the job and we will even help you with your uniform.

Guiding is very worthwhile, please support us in any way you can.

Guiding is Fun - not just for the children but for Guiders too. It keeps you young!

Best wishes and hope to hear from you.

Jan King
District Commissioner
B/S 850469



SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

Thank you once again to those who took part in the sponsored swim, especially Hazel and Brian Adamson and Laura Brown.

Events for December:

Wednesday 14th Dec - Nativity Play
Thursday 15th Dec) Xmas
Friday 16th Dec) Parties

For more information about Sideways please telephone Helen Pawsey on 813828.

Sideways would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Margaret Gilbert



DAY CENTRE

The Members of the Day Centre are very grateful to all the organisations who gave Tombola and Raffle prizes for the Coffee Morning in aid of the modernisation of Fullers Houses. We would also like to thank everyone who supported us and enabled us to raise £132.

ARE YOU LONELY? BORED? OVER 60? If so, join us any afternoon at the Day Centre and join in any of the events taking place there. Better still come for the Day and have your lunch there.

Diary for December

Thur Dec 1	Scrabble 2.30 pm
Fri Dec 2	Whist Drive 2.00 pm 30p
Tue Dec 6	Bingo 2.00 pm
Thur Dec 8	Scrabble 2.30 pm
Fri Dec 9	Whist Drive 2.00 pm 30p
Mon Dec 12	Xmas Lunch & Party
Tue Dec 13	Beetle 2.00 pm 30p
Thur Dec 15	Bingo 2.00 pm
Fri Dec 16	Whist Drive 2.00 pm 30p

Centre closed from December 18th
Re-opens on January 3rd
with Bingo at 2.00 pm

If you are interested in gentle Keep Fit, please contact Mrs Booker 812684. If enough numbers it will restart in January.



KEEP FIT AT DAY CENTRE

Are you interested in joining a gentle "Keep Fit" class?

Thursday afternoons at the Day Centre, 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm - cost 50p a session.

If you are, please sign up on the notice in the Day Centre - we need at least 8 people to make the class worthwhile.

MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

Having heard a talk on the work of the Wood Green Animal Shelter, members of the Seniors Club, many of whom had visited the Animal Shelter at Heydon, wished to visit the larger shelter at Godmanchester. This outing was arranged in September. We were all impressed by the large landscaped enclosures where animals are able to roam or play freely until new homes are found for them. A variety of animals from a tiny mouse to a large pink pig or a Shire horse can be seen at the shelter. After the visit we toured the area taking in Grafham Waters and Royston where we stopped for tea.

Our Annual Sale this year was held at the Day Centre in October and was well supported. We are grateful to all who helped us to make this a very successful event.

An evening trip to see the 'lights' at Southend was our most recent outing.



THE WOMEN'S OWN

70 years old and still going strong, every Monday at the U.R.C. Hall at 2.30.

No membership subscription - just come along any Monday: you will always get a welcome.

We had our anniversary on November 7th when we enjoyed a hot lunch cooked by the Committee and a lovely birthday cake made and iced by Mrs. Little. The Committee then gave an entertainment.

The Women's Own was started on 11th November 1918 by a group of women who met together for prayer for husbands and sweethearts serving abroad during the First World War.





STANSTED DEMOCRATS

In September our dogless and catless pet show drew a lot of entries, including a prize winning giant stick insect. All proceeds were donated to the Wood Green Animal Shelter. The following week's jumble sale drew the usual mountain of jumble in aid of branch funds.

As usual on bonfire night we held our annual firework display at Blythwood House by kind permission of Marion and Michael Dyer. There was a good crowd and the hot punch was popular. Supper consisted of hot dogs and baked potatoes but Yorkshire Parkin was absent from the menu this year. The branch also ran a cake stall at the constituency bazaar in Saffron Walden on 15 November.

We held a discussion evening in November at the Honours' home on the party's policies and general direction. Much of the discussion centred on environmental issues; locally relating to possible future moves on Stansted Airport and nationally on issues such as the Prime Minister's belief in "green" nuclear power. We also started an autumn membership campaign last month by calling on our supporters and inviting them to join the party.

Future events include the committee Christmas Dinner on 9 December and our annual dance at Stansted Hall. Details of this are as follows:

28th January 1989 at 7.30 pm. Supper Theatre and Dance at Stansted Hall. Dancing again, by popular request, to Misty, a Stansted based band. Tickets are available now from Catherine Dean, tel. 813579, Maureen Caton, tel. 813914 or Jane Sell, tel. 812408 and cost £6.50, a reduction on last year's price! Tickets are limited so you are advised to get them before Christmas.

Alan Dean



STANSTED MOUNTFLETCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel. 813214

Mrs Janet Buttery, Clerk
Council Offices
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted

LITTERMAN We are sorry to announce that George, the Parish Council Litterman, died suddenly on 25th October last. He did a super job in the village and really enjoyed it. He will be sadly missed.

We are pleased to report, however, that a replacement has been found and Mr. Bill Sapsford has been appointed the new Litterman. We are sure you will give him as much help and support as you gave George - after all, we all want to enjoy a clean, tidy environment.

DOG FOULING Would dog owners please be more considerate and especially not let their dogs foul any of the Play Areas in the village.

SKIP DATES - Next dates in Crafton Green Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December 1988 Monday 9th - Thursday 12th January 1989.

NEWSLETTER The autumn issue of the Newsletter should have been delivered to you by now - if you have not had a copy please ask the Clerk.

MEMORIAL GARDEN The Parish Council is considering making improvements to these Gardens and would welcome any suggestions parishioners may have.

Finally, we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 1989.

MORE HELP NEEDED!

More volunteers are needed for the newly moved Uttlesford Home-Start offices.

Based at 12 Hill Street, Saffron Walden, Uttlesford Home-Start was established four and a half years ago.

Having moved from Dunmow the offices will still continue to support families with pre-school children, who are experiencing difficulties throughout the Uttlesford area.

The scheme which has already supported two hundred and forty families needs volunteers with a sense of humour, a flexible attitude, no formal qualifications and the experience and understanding of being a parent.

All prospective volunteers join a ten week, one day a week preparation course, held every Tuesday at 9.30 pm to 2.30 pm and the next course begins in early January.

Anyone interested should contact Linda or Gay at Uttlesford Home-Start, 12 Hill Street, Saffron Walden. Tel: Saffron Walden 513495.



All our members were saddened by the passing of a very courageous member - Mrs. Edna Laird - after years of care by her husband Eddie to whom we extend our sympathy. The funeral at the end of October was attended by members of the Committee and others connected with the Stansted Branch.

This year's Poppy Appeal. Thanks to the splendid preparatory work of Mrs. Levey and members of the Women's Section, all poppies were distributed to collectors, shops and other outlets before collections commenced on 31st October. The news at the time of writing is that contributions are well ahead of last year and so we hope for an outstanding result when all the collecting boxes have been returned.

The AGM is on Thursday 17 November and, by the time the December issue of the Link is in the hands of subscribers, the new Committee will have been elected and all members will wish them well.

The President, Chairman and Committee extend to all members and their families and friends the very best wishes for Christmas and for a healthy and happy New Year.



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A Pre-Christmas Drinks Party will be held at Savages, Lower Street, the home of Peter and Kay Jones on Sunday 27th November at 12 noon. Tickets are £2.50 each and may be obtained from Bridget Gott 814440, Jean Pennington 816249 or Pat Bickerton at 9 Spencer Close, 812411.

The Annual New Year Supper Dance will be held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 7th January, 8 pm - 1 am. Dancing to The Ray Anderson Sound.

Tickets available from David Butterfield B/S 812770. Price - £10 each and £5 each for under 25 year olds.

What a good turn out of members we had for our AGM - for we all know that AGMs are not popular. Our President, Mrs. Gabb, opened the meeting and thanked all officers and all those who had helped so much to raise funds during the past year, which our Chairman told us had been a very successful one.

Officers elected for the coming year are:-

- President - Mrs. Gabb
- Chairman - Mrs. Little
- Vice Chairman - Mrs. Fuller
- Secretary - Mrs. Whall
- Treasurer - Mrs. Levey
- Committee - Mesdames Clower, Measures, Patmore, Snow, Steele, Travelier, Wedlock, Wiffen.

After the completion of business all helped to prepare poppies for distribution.

The British Legion Carol Service is on Sunday 11th December at Felsted and our Christmas Social Evening is on Thursday 15th December.

A Happy Christmas to all and good fund raising in 1989.



Pat Clower
815220



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mountfitchet Garden Club would like to extend a special invitation to all members and friends to attend our meeting on December 7th which will also include our annual Christmas social.

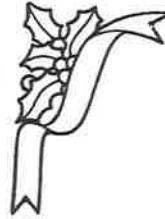
The evening will open at 8 pm with a Quiz/Slide competition, followed by our regular raffle and then a Christmas get-together.

The Committee look forward to your attendance at this most convivial of gatherings. For those of you unable to attend, may we take this opportunity to send you Christmas Greetings.

Next Meeting on December 7th at Day Centre, Chapel Hill.

Sue Wilkinson





Stansted Afternoon W.I. held their AGM at the Day Centre in November. Four visitors were welcomed. Mrs Joan Grose, Secretary, presented the Committee Report for 1988 and Mrs Trix Little, Treasurer, presented the audited accounts for adoption. A vote of thanks to the Treasurer was made by Mrs Jordan, echoed by all present. Mrs Ann Calver presented the President's Report, thanking all Committee Members and those who helped during the year. She was thanked by Mrs Brenda Scarr. No voting was necessary as only nine members were prepared to stand for Committee. Mrs Ann Calver was re-elected as President, unopposed.

The Competition Cup for most points gained in the monthly competitions was won by Mrs Pauline Cianciola. Raffle prizes were won by Mrs Margaret Gibbs, Mrs Lilian Bowman, Mrs Brenda Scarr, Mrs Cilla French and Mrs C Johnson. This month's competition was for six homemade sweets, all donated for the raffle as extra prizes. Winner of the competition - Mrs Pauline Cianciola, second Mrs Joan Grose.

The trading stall was manned this month by Mrs Hancock. The December meeting will be the Christmas Party.

Mrs P Cianciola
814487

Stansted Art & Craft Market

Records - Records - Records all the way for the 10th Art & Craft Market held at the Adult & Youth Centre on 15th and 16th October.

100 artists, 600 paintings, of which 128 were sold for £5,000 together with 27 craft stalls produced an event which drew the crowds. 2,500 people went and that's without counting those who returned to look again. After the dreadful storm on the equivalent weekend last year, the Committee were grateful for the reasonable weather, which saw all parts of the market, including the refreshment area, very well patronised.

Details of the donations to local charities and good causes will be announced following preparation of the accounts but the Committee feel confident that their target of £10,000 in donations in 10 years will be well and truly passed and thank all those who contributed in so many ways to this achievement and to all of you who attended and we hope enjoyed the occasion.

Greg Snow
Chairman

"OUR VILLAGE"

Sunday October 2nd 1988 was to see the first League Football match taking place on a newly prepared pitch at Bentfield Causeway. A field had been made available through negotiations between our Parish Council and Hassobury Trust which began during 1986.

Preparation of this field was a major project undertaken by the Parish Council and involved their Sports & Leisure Committee which faced the initial task including access, fencing around both field and pond, ground work, etc. Parents and supporters of Stansted Junior Football Club gave much of their time to laying out and marking the pitch, erecting goal posts, etc. which, added together, resulted as a great credit for all efforts.

The honour of competing in this first match went to Stansted Comets (Under 10's) who entertained Plantation of Saffron Walden. The Home team opened their account within the first minute of play with a fine goal by Scott Meecham. At half-time the score stood at 6-1. The second half saw the Comets playing their best football of the season so far, adding 4 further goals whilst conceding another 1. Stansted Comets line-up and goal scorers were as follows: Jack Bowie, Darren Hughes, Simon Curran, Robert Oxley, Paul Judge, James Amott (Captain, 2), Luke Rowe, John Loughlin (1), Joel Kenny (2), Gareth Robinson (1), Scott Meecham (4), Christopher Dymock and Gavin Morrison.

May all who participate in future organised sporting fixtures upon this ground be rewarded with enjoyment from the game and play in the spirit shown on this first encounter. Whether winning or losing, the latter being a case just fifty years ago that befell a team from M.H.G. that did battle in this very area which perhaps we may recall next time as the Referee's blown for time and his decision must be final.

P. J. Brown



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

During the winter we play tennis on Sunday mornings starting at 10 am until lunch time (coffee is served during the morning).

Winter membership can be arranged at reasonable rates.

The Christmas Dinner this year will be held at The Cross Keys at Saffron Walden on Friday 9th December.

All details of the dinner and membership from Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.



THE CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY



THE SHALOM GROUP

The Corrymeela Community - and "The Link"

A letter to Edna Goreing of the Shalom Group from Angus Macpherson of Corrymeela

Dear Edna,

Greetings from Corrymeela!

Thank you for your most interesting letter, all the news about your Shalom Group and "The Link". It's great to know that such groups exist and with such a varied religious input. I have sent "The Link" on to David Blakley the General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches as I know he will also be most interested.

Perhaps you would find it interesting to know that where I live in North Belfast - "never out of the news" - there is an amazing amount of ecumenical activity, e.g. Lois my wife and I are in a Bible Study of Catholics and Protestants which grew out of the Peace People, back in the seventies. We meet monthly and have grown in so many ways. We also have a Fast Group which meets on the 16th of each month, moving from home to home. The idea is we try and fast from 8.0 pm on 15th until 8.0 pm on 16th, come together for soup, rolls, coffee and biscuits - provided by the host family. We also try to have someone home from the 3rd world who tells of their work wherever it is and then we all give what we have saved on food into a 'hat' and to the organisation of the speaker. Thousands of pounds have been raised since we started 12 years ago.

We also have in North Belfast two ecumenical communities 'The Colomanus Community' and the 'Cornerstown Community' which have been established despite the situation and both doing excellent work across the divide. I am sorry I do not have any literature about them to send to you.

Thank you all again for your interest, encouragement and most practical support and every blessing on your work and witness.

Yours
Angus

P.S. I hope some folk from your Group will visit Corrymeela in the not too distant future.

THOUGHTS ON SOLITUDE

Everybody needs periods of solitude - particularly so in today's world where everyone is so busy, constantly surrounded by people rushing hither and thither.

It is only in solitude that we can really find ourselves, be ourselves.

Whether consciously or unconsciously, when in company we all tend to be what we are expected to be. The man noted for his ready wit feels a compulsion to be always witty; the man considered a deep thinker must always produce some profound observation. We also tend to have a picture of ourselves which we must present to the world - this is me! Even with our dearest loved ones, those to whom we feel really close, there is often still an element of reserve. It is only when completely alone that we can find and face our true selves.

It is also true perhaps, that it is only when alone that we can find, listen and talk with God.

We can find Christ in our fellow creatures, we can join together in prayer, praise and worship, but it is surely in silence and solitude that we come closest to true communion with God.

Mrs M Dunbar
Shalom Group

Good news for all deaf and hard of hearing people.

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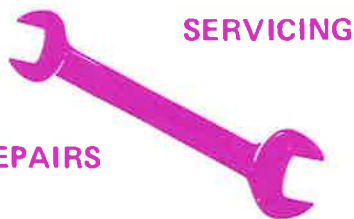

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