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We hope that the different appearance of "The Link" this month appeals to you. Do let us know your views on the layout.

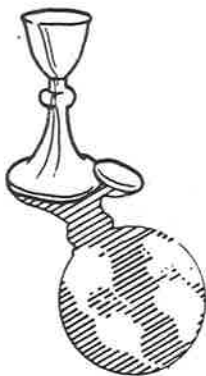
If any organisation contributing to the magazine has a logo or headed notepaper that we could use, if you let us have it with your article we will use it.

Margaret Booker

A PRAYER

O Christ the Light,
illuminate and cleanse the dark
corners of the world
where hang the cobwebs of apathy
and the dust of neglect.
Shine on faces made grim
by poverty and war;
melt the icicles of despair
and the hard frozen wastes
of selfishness;
and let your searching rays
enclose the whole
in one great radiance.

GBH



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
12th February for March issue
17th March for April issue

SACC

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

As I shall not be at the AGM on February 8th (URC Lecture Hall) may I urge you to attend and support all the people who work so hard throughout the year to keep our ecumenical programmes going (Lent '88, Christian Aid, Helpline, Link, Shalom, the Chevetogne twinning and many other activities almost too numerous to mention).

A special word of thanks to Francis Mercer, your Vice-chairman for deputising for me for the second time in my first year as Chairman. May the coming year be one of continued cooperation and fellowship in S.A.C.C.

Eric McIlwain

P.S. Please do read about and respond to the Lenten Services and House Groups which are again taking up a national theme, "Who on Earth are You/am I?"

S.A.C.C. REPORT

Carol Singing in the Memorial Gardens on 23rd December was a splendid affair this year. Apart from the marvellous singing and prayers ably led by the Rev. Harold Fisher, we enjoyed the added treat of being accompanied by a wind band which made all the difference to our singing and our spirits - many thanks to Marion Dyer and Geoff Booker's organisation and the musicians.

During the evening a collection was taken which amounted to £39.07 and this was sent to Save the Children Fund. Again thank you to all those who contributed by singing, playing or just attending.

Mary Warnett



The Sunday evening Unity Service for Lent, covering the themes of the Lent programme, will be held in the following churches.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday February 21st | Friends Meeting House
The Rev. R.S. Rawlings (Methodist)
Theme "I'm being Framed" |
| Sunday February 28th | St. Theresa's
The Rev. P. Boland (Catholic)
Theme "The Generation Game" |
| Sunday March 6th | St. John's
The Rev. M. McCadam (Anglican)
Theme "Inside Out" |
| Sunday March 13th | Friends Meeting House
Society of Friends (Quaker)
Theme "Little and Large" |
| Sunday March 20th | United Reformed Church
The Agape |



All services will be held at 6.30 p.m. See Church Newsletters for the time of the Agape.

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.



Fifteen years after the sudden death of the great Dr. Arnold of Rugby School his son Matthew wrote of him in his poem "Rugby Chapel"

In the gloom of November we passed
Days not of gloom at thy side;
Seasons impaired not the ray
Of thine even cheerfulness clear.

The great man's buoyant and uplifting spirit set the clear, steady light of God shining on his family, whatever the season, whatever the weather. The hurts and pressures of life did not inhibit that clear shining either, for much further on in his poem Matthew Arnold also says of his father

If, in the paths of the world,
Stones might have wounded thy feet,
Toil or dejection have tried
Thy spirit, of that we saw
Nothing! to us thou wert still
Cheerful, and helpful, and firm.

To have lived under the influence of so fine a spirit must have been a rich privilege. And the influence reaped a precious harvest, bestowed precious benefits.

Therefore to thee it was given
Many to save with thyself;
And, at the end of the day,
O faithful shepherd! to come
Bringing thy sheep in thy hand.

Dr. Arnold found the secret of rising above the vagaries of dark moods and depressed feelings. He doubtless knew that he could not argue himself out of such moods and feelings, for to try to argue oneself out of them is to concentrate the consciousness upon them and thus to be even more obsessed by them. Nor are they removed by trying hard, by an effort of will, for again that is to give them too much attention and so to remain in their grip. One very helpful thing is to tell ourselves firmly that moods and feelings are like clouds in the sky, they come and go. But the sun never stops shining; it shines undimmed forever. Clouds only veil that shining; they don't remove it. Indeed, shade and night are evidence that the sun is shining; only light can throw a shadow. So it is with the shining of God's love. Francis Thompson put this beautifully

Is my gloom, after all,
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?

Having penetrated our gloom with that truth, we can then turn, as Dr. Arnold did, to the tasks or challenges or opportunities or interests that lie immediately to hand, take hold of them with both hands as gifts of God's love, and gratefully pursue and enjoy them. Without our noticing it the black mood (if it is only a matter of feeling) will be elbowed out by these gifts of God. He is always offering some such antidotes to gloom for "in His right hand there are pleasures for evermore". Perhaps, like me, these are lessons still being slowly learned in your life too. Well, God help and bless us in it.

Best wishes.

Harold Fisher

Belated thanks to Friends for once again sharing with us in Christmas service and fellowship. We do appreciate deeply having the use of your fine Meeting House.

Thanks too to Marion and Michael Dyer for having the whole company of Methodists to their home for Christmas meal and revels. It was lovely to see the children of all ages enjoying each other's company - relaxed but not rampant!

SHALOM GROUP DATES AND VENUES:

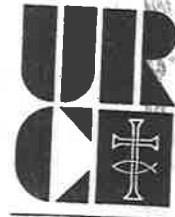
1st February - Blythwood House, Blythwood Gardens
15th February - "Racou", Bentfield Bowers
29th February - 23 Burnells Way

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:

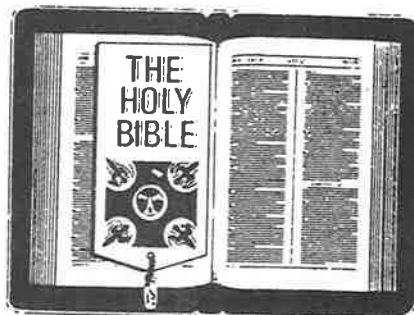
11am each Sunday

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

SERVICES AT STANSTED U.R.C. FOR FEBRUARY '88

Feb 7 11.00 am - Holy Communion, the Rev. Lydia Rapkin
Feb 14 11.00 am - Junior church
Feb 21 11.00 am - Mr Brian Wright
6.30 pm - Lent Service - St Theresa's
Feb 28 11.00 am - the Rev. Eric McIlwain
6.30 pm - Lent Service - St John's
Mar 6 11.00 am - Holy Communion, the Rev. Eric McIlwain
6.30 pm - Lent Service, Methodists

23rd February 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting of the Church - Congregation



I was reminded recently of the great debt we in this country owe to those who, centuries ago, devoted their whole life, and were prepared to sacrifice even life itself, in order that the scriptures might be freely available for all to read.

Of John Wycliffe who more than six centuries ago, long before the art of printing was invented, gathered young students around him to copy out by hand his translation of the Bible into English. Some of the very beautifully illuminated manuscripts they produced have been carefully preserved and can be seen in museums today.

Wycliffe longed that all, rich and poor, might have the opportunity to read or have read to them God's word. The demand for his few hundred hand-copied Bibles was very great. Even single pages from them were written out by those able to obtain these precious books, and then passed on to others in order that they might learn them by heart.

Far from commending Wycliffe for his zealous enthusiasm in spreading God's word, those in high places in the church condemned his work and he was finally excommunicated for making the sacred scriptures available to the common people in their own tongue.

A century and a half later another Englishman, William Tyndale, likewise defied the authority of the church by insisting on reading his English translation of the Bible in a London church. Tyndale had the advantage in his age of the printing press and hoped that because of this, his manuscript might be printed in sufficient numbers that all who wished to obtain a copy of God's word might be able to do so.

The church authorities, however, did not share Tyndale's views, and he was forced to flee to the continent in order to find a printer willing to co-operate with him in printing and smuggling copies of the Bible into England.

For this disobedience to authority Tyndale was eventually arrested and executed. Ironically, shortly after his death a new King ascended the throne of England and before long Bibles were placed in every Parish Church in England.

A modern Bible translator, J.B. Phillips, in his book 'Ring of Truth - a translator's testimony', shared the same desire of Wycliffe and Tyndale that God's word should be available for everyone in a translation acceptable to them. He confessed that as he handled the word of God in his work of translation, the text came alive for him and the material spoke to his condition in the most uncanny way. What began for J.B. Phillips as a purely academic exercise, to his surprise, thrilled with life and truth and spoke to his deepest need.

We acknowledge our debt to those past and present, whose vision of the life-giving power of God's word has enriched our lives and led us closer to Jesus Christ.

Lydia Rapkin



REPORT FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

We were pleased to welcome Mr. Newby to our Guild. He spoke about his experiences in Sri Lanka where he and his wife went with his brother who was going on behalf of "Save the Children". He had studied the history of this island and with his slides we felt we understood a little more about this troubled spot.

Mrs. Fuller from Clavering gave us an enthralling talk about her nursing experiences on the Normandy beaches. She had trained at Peebles and had also trained at a Burns Unit and left with the rank of Sister when she went to Normandy just after the allied landings.

They had to set up a field hospital, so everything that was needed had to be transported. Mrs. Fuller also worked at the hospital where they patched up the severely injured before sending them to our country and here penicillin, in its infancy, saved many lives. We were full of admiration for the courage and devotion of the nurses in most difficult circumstances.

M. C. Johnson

A LETTER OF THANKS

I am writing on behalf of the family to say thank you to everyone for their kind messages of sympathy at our sad loss of Nicola.

Donations have realised over £300. £225 has been sent to S.W.A.G. towards a resuscitation machine, and some trees are being planted at Bentfield and Mountfitchet schools in Nicola's memory.

Phyllis Little

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



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.

VICAR'S NOTES

By the time you read this most of you will know that I have been appointed as Vicar to the parishes of Halstead and Greensted Green. I am sure you know Janet and I took some time over this decision as it will be a wrench to leave Stansted where we know and love so many people.

Halstead is a small town with a population of 10,000. Its past has been closely related to Courtaulds Mill, now closed. Greensted Green is a small village 2 miles from Halstead and has a population of 400 and a church designed by Gilbert Scott. In Halstead there were two churches but last May Holy Trinity was made redundant - so there is one church, St. Andrew's, situated at the top of the High Street. There are two church schools, one aided and one controlled, a very small hospital, two church halls and a modern Vicarage with a massive garden. It is also a training parish so I will continue to have a curate. All in all a challenge and one which we felt was right for us to accept.

Our last Sunday is Easter Day, April 3rd, and my induction in St. Andrew's, Halstead, on April 21st at 8 p.m. There is plenty of time later for more words. In the meantime I know we can count on your prayers and your support these coming two months.

We have all been saddened by the death of Elsie Corke. She was such a wonderful person and a staunch church person all her life. When we arrived in the parish she was one of the first to invite us as a family to tea and it has been a privilege and a joy to know her and share ministry with her. Our prayers are with Paul at this time.

God Bless.



ST. JOHN'S APPEAL

There has not been much fund raising lately so we thought we should let you know what is happening. We have had drawn up specifications for Phase 4 of the work which includes repairs to the west window, internal brick and floor repairs and work on the north porch. Cost is likely to be well over £30,000. We are applying for a grant from English Heritage and until we hear from them we cannot begin work. We will need to raise further money and we hope to receive your support.



THE CHURCH IN THE INNER CITY

Lecture by
CANON ERIC JAMES

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7th.
7 pm.



MONTH'S GOOD CAUSE

1987

January	Leprosy Mission	£67.19
February	Arthritis and Rheumatism Council	£68.10
March	Leukaemia Research	£68.87
April	Actionaid	£76.90
May	Cystic Fibrosis Research	£58.25
June	Shaftesbury Society	£60.91
July	Anglican Church in Dominica	£93.46
August	Fullers Almshouses	£75.61
September	Intermediate Technology	£60.40
October	Bangladesh Reconstruction Appeal	£65.60
November	Church Army	£79.42
December	Mozambique Appeal	£81.73
	Total	£856.44

The above totals include a contribution from the PCC of £50 a month.

Coffee Morning

WEDNESDAY

10th FEB

62, CHAPEL HILL

10.30am

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WORLD

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LENT 1988

Our Lent Programme has now been printed and copies are available from the back of St. John's Church.

CHURCH DIARY

February

- 2nd Consecration of new Bishop of Colchester in Westminster Abbey
- 3rd USPG Group 8.15 pm The Vicarage
- 6th Confirmation candidates outing to Chelmsford
- 7th Lecture by Canon Eric James 7 pm St John's 'Faith in the City'
- 9th PCC Meeting 8 pm The Vicarage
- 10th Coffee Morning, 62 Chapel Hill 10.30 am In aid of USPG
- 16th Shrove Tuesday Social 8 pm Church Hall
- 17th Ash Wednesday Holy Communion 10 am Sung Eucharist 8 pm
- 19th St Joseph. Holy Communion 7.45 am
- 24th St Matthias. Holy Communion 10 am
- 25th The Annunciation of our Lord to BVM Holy Communion 9.15 am

March

- 1st St David. Holy Communion 10 am
- 6th Lent 3. Preacher at Unity Service in St John's Rev'd M McAdam

Confirmation at Waltham Abbey 6th December

Julia Phillips 57 Bentfield Gardens
 Susan Skingle 29 Park Road
 Lynda Timms 5 Coltsfield



Departed

22nd Dec Queenie Elizabeth Kempton, 57 Manor Road Aged 76 years
 23rd Dec Christina Elizabeth Tucker, High Clouds, St John's Lane Aged 74 yrs
 24th Dec Daphne Snelling, 34 Coltsfield Aged 66 years
 11th Jan Alec Edwin Robinson, Sawston Aged 81 years
 14th Jan Samuel Arthur Moule, 6 Priory Drive Aged 70 years
 15th Jan Elsie Phoebe Corke, 40 Wethersfield Aged 84 years
 15th Jan Shane Gill, f3 Manor Road Aged 2 months
 15th Jan Eleanor Daisy Warwick, 96 Cambridge Road Aged 96 years



MOTHERS' UNION

Elsie Corke was one of our faithful Mothers' Union members - we shall miss her - even when she was unable to attend meetings because of ill health, she was always interested in what we were doing here and in the worldwide Mothers' Union life.

The February meeting is on Wednesday 24th at 2.30 p.m. in the Hall. Holy Communion followed by a speaker.

Margaret



THE WORK OF W D CAROE RStO FSA 1857-1938

We have received the text of a lecture given by Alban Caroe on the work of his father to a joint meeting of the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings and the Ecclesiastical Architects' and Surveyors' Association. The lecture covers in detail much of the work of this remarkable architect and in the section on New Churches we read: "I can only allow myself to mention so few out of the many scores which he designed that these cannot be fairly representative of his very variable styles, which changed considerably over the years. One early example is at Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex built in three stages between 1887 and 1894. The tower was the last section. Two reredoses and an ambrey were added by him in 1929". In the lecture only three other new churches are mentioned, St. David's, Exeter, St. Andrew's, Elveden and the parish church of St. Helens in Lancashire.

We read also that Caroe designed the hanging rood in St. David's Cathedral, (with work by Nathaniel Hitch who did so much of the carving in St. John's) the organ case in Southwell Minster, a screen and chapel in Durham Cathedral, a reredos in Brecon Cathedral, the high altar cross in Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral, a monument to Archbishop Temple in Canterbury Cathedral, a gravestone to J L Pearson in Westminster Abbey. He also redesigned work at Sherborne Abbey and, of course, the Christ Church gateway at Canterbury. He worked therefore on the finest churches and cathedrals of our land. All this goes to support what our own architect, John Burton, wrote in his survey of St. John's in 1986: "Caroe's work is now being greatly appreciated and St. John's Stansted features as one of his outstanding pieces of work."

If anyone would like to read the whole lecture please give the Vicar a ring.

YOUTH FOCUS

YOUTH NEWS

How quickly time passes. It seems hardly anytime since our last programme was printed. As ever we have a varied programme which will hopefully cater for all tastes. If you are interested in joining please give me a ring around 6 pm or contact one of the other youth leaders (Paula 59068 - Brenda 813712).

love Fr Tony

11 - 13 Group

Feb 7th	Prayers at the Family Eucharist	9.30 am	St. John's Church
Feb 7th	'An Evening at 43'	6.30 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent
Feb 13th	Valentine's Party (SATURDAY)	7-9 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent
Feb 21st	Indoor Olympics	6.30 pm	St. John's Hall
Feb 28th	Outing (to be decided)		
Mar 6th	Prayers at the Family Eucharist	9.30 am	St. John's Church
Mar 13th	'DARE'	6.30 pm	St. John's Hall

Over 13 Group

Feb 7th	Prayers at the Family Eucharist	9.30 am	St. John's Church
Feb 7th	'Faith in the City'	6.55 pm	St. John's Church
Feb 7th	'An Evening at 43'	8.15 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent
Feb 13th	Valentine's Party (SATURDAY)	8 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent
Feb 21st	Indoor Olympics	8 pm	St. John's Hall
Feb 28th	Ten Pin Bowling	To be decided	
Mar 6th	Prayers at the Family Eucharist	9.30 am	St. John's Church
Mar 6th	'An Evening at 43'	8 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent
Mar 13th	'DARE'	8 pm	St. John's Hall

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

I have omitted the word 'Bible' from the Group's title because it tends to give the wrong impression, strangely. What the Fellowship is not is a heavy Bible study group. What it is is a collection of members of the congregation (both male and female) who want to know more about Jesus, who want to follow him and try to live by his teaching. Of course, this involves reading the Bible, and fortunately one or two of the group actually know their way around it quite well, which is very helpful for the rest of us who don't!

The key word in the group's title is Fellowship. We sing a bit, to praise God and get the Spirit moving. We talk and discuss various aspects of the Church and of the Bible. We laugh together and we pray together.

If you would like to join us in what should perhaps more properly be called God's Fellowship Group, then either turn up at one of our monthly meetings, which are on Wednesdays at 8.15, or get an introduction to one or more of the group by asking at St. John's, or telephone one of the numbers given. You can be sure of a welcome.

Feb 10 at Katy's, The Snuff Box, Bentfield Road 812997
 Mar 9 at Fran's, 22 Longcroft 815817
 Apr 13 at Ragni's, 38 Bentfield Road 816070
 May 4 at Ragni's





Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk:

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



Meeting for worship: 11am.

Some ten years ago when we were setting up home we decided for reasons of economy and principle that we would do without a television. Today we still do not have one and I can't say that we feel particularly deprived. However, each Christmas we make the trek north to our roots and spend the season with my mother who does have a television. I normally sit down and attempt to be rational in what I watch but inevitably I miss a great many of the programmes I wanted to see and see a great many I wish I hadn't watched!

This Christmas two programmes stand out in my memory. One was "The Snowman" by Raymond Briggs and quite different, so it would seem, was the film "The Killing Fields". This is the third year that "The Snowman" has been shown and not once in those three showings has it failed to move me to tears, so good is the story-line and characterisation. The story is quite simple. A boy builds a snowman who magically comes to life in the middle of the night. After the boy has helped him explore the world of us humans he flies to the North Pole to meet a veritable party of snowmen and Father Xmas who presents him with a scarf. The snowman and the boy fly back home but when the boy awakes in the morning the snowman has melted and only the scarf remains as a reminder of that eventful night.

"The Killing Fields" appears entirely different being located in Cambodia at the time of the American withdrawal from Phnan Penh and its invasion by the Khmer Rouge. An American journalist stays on assisted by his Cambodian interpreter. The Khmer Rouge were strongly anti-Western and in one sequence a group of the journalists look certain to be executed but are saved by the interpreter, Pran. Forced to ground in the French Embassy, Pran has to be handed over to the Khmer

Rouge whilst the journalist returns to America with an uneasy conscience. Forced to toil in the fields Pran eventually makes his escape over the border and is reunited with the journalist and his family. It is not a pleasant film to watch as it pulls no punches about the sheer brutality and human wastage involved in war. Its ability to shock makes it one of the most potent anti-war films I have experienced. It is well worth seeing if you have the stomach for it.

Afterwards I began to see the common strand in both programmes. It is love given freely from which stems forgiveness. It is the strength of the love between the boy and the snowman and the breaking of it that can move a grown man to cry. It is love that drives Pran to save his friends and love again that can allow him to forgive the journalist even though through him his life has been risked time and time again.

As the Bible tells us - "let us love one another because love is from God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God but the unloving know nothing of God. For God is love" 1 John 4 v. 7-9.

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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.



SAINTE THERESE OF LISIEUX

The Catholic Church in Stansted is dedicated to the patron saint of France, the remarkable young woman Therese Martin who has had a profound influence on the spiritual life of many Catholics since her death.

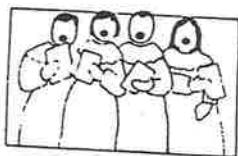
What is particularly significant about the influence of Therese's spirituality is the fact that, in historical terms, she is a very modern saint. She was born just over a hundred years ago and was canonised a mere twenty-five years after her death, unprecedented in the Catholic Church. throughout Europe, Africa and America the canonisation was greeted with what the Pope called "a hurricane of glory" and this for a very ordinary provincial girl who had said: "God's glory that is my only ambition. My own I abandon to him".

From a very early age, Therese revealed a fixity of purpose, namely to serve God as a nun. She chose the Carmel in Lisieux, her home town, for the growth of her spiritual life. The regime of a Carmelite nun is extremely uncomfortable and austere, but it was one that Therese craved as a way of bonding her life to that of a suffering Christ. At fifteen she obtained special permission to begin her time as a Carmelite. At first there appeared to be nothing remarkable about the youthful entrant. However, her spirituality impressed her superiors so greatly that she was ordered, through her vow of obedience, to write her childhood memoirs and guidance for a way to perfection. At the core of her existence was a complete and loving abandonment to Christ. Every small detail of her daily routine, however unpleasant, annoying, or humdrum, became her "little way" of expressing her love for Christ and humanity. Her biggest physical trial was the intense cold of the unheated convent which led to her early death. She realised she was nothing without the love of Christ and this was the essence of her greatness. Her total spiritual abandonment is an inspiration to all and has led to her being esteemed as one of the greatest of Catholic saints.

There is still a great interest in the life of Therese. With the increasing popularity of Normandy as a holiday region, many thousands of people visit Lisieux. A paperback has just been written by Monica Furlong and there is a new

"Life of St. Therese" in the Ladybird children's series. Her life story is very interesting and of great value to any practising Christian.

Diane Deane-Bowers



MANUDEN SINGERS

'MANUDEN SINGERS welcome additional singers, especially tenors and basses. A basic knowledge of music is sufficient. Rehearsals every Monday night. Please contact Charles Eve on 813802 (evenings and weekends).'

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

February

3	7.30	Day Centre WEA Course, "The English Parish Church" starts
4	8.00	Day Centre. Stansted Local History Society (See notice)
6	2.15	St. John's Hall. Conservatives Jumble Sale
7	7.00	St. John's. Lecture by Canon Eric James - 'Faith in the City'
10	10.30	62 Chapel Hill. Coffee morning for U.S.P.G.
20	2.00	St. John's Hall. SDP Jumble sale
27	8.00	Bentfield School Disco

March

11	8.00	Day Centre. Conservatives Joint Branch A.G.M.
12	8.00	St. Mary's School - Association of Parents, Teachers and Friends. Quiz Evening. Tickets £1.50. Tel: 812212.

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.



GREAT ORMOND ST. HOSPITAL APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who
supported the Great Ormond Street
Hospital Appeal Coffee Morning.

We raised a total of
£161.30.

Sue Brierley

P.T.A. Bentfield School

DISCO AT Bentfield School

Saturday 27th February 1988
8 pm to 11.30

Tickets £2.00

COME ALONG and support Bentfield School.
Tickets on sale at school or phone 812646.

I know I speak for everybody when I say how enjoyable the Christmas concerts were.

The teachers and children worked very hard and the end result was very well worth it.

MOUNTFITCHET GARDENING CLUB

Those of you familiar with the much acclaimed television series "The Victorian Kitchen Garden" may find that the subject of our next meeting is of special interest. One of its presenters, Ms Alison McKenzie, has agreed to come along and answer questions arising from these programmes. By the way, if you missed the series first time around, BBC2 are currently showing repeats.

So why not come along and enjoy this special evening on Wednesday February 3rd at 8 pm, The Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Guests 50p.

S. Wilkinson.



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

A few weeks ago we were invited to The Cock public house to receive a cheque for £243 which the regulars had raised by taking part in a sponsored pluckathon on an army style assault course set up at the Bury Lodge restaurant. This came in handy as a trip to Harlow Playhouse to see "Mother Goose" had been arranged.

On our way along the M11 we practised cheering, hissing and booing ready for when we saw the Goodies and Baddies. We forgot to practise our Ah's and we needed those for Priscilla the goose who laid golden eggs (I could do with her at my house for a while). The children were only too pleased to Buzz Buzz Buzz to summon Fairy Bumbleweed to help deal with Rapsallion the Bad Black Prince. The theatre range with laughter at Bertie Botchup and Basil Blockhead's slapstick scene when they were dupposed to be decorating; as James said, they could not get anything right. James was als rather worried when Jill the Goose, Girl and Thomas the prince announced they were to marry: you see, as James pointed out, they were both GIRLS!

A good time was had by all, so a big thank you to Ron, Noel, Richard, Robin, Roger, Dave - John, Jerry, Jim, Dave, Philip and Pete, the two teams from The Cock who helped raise the money. As you probably know, without these generous donations some of our super trips would not be possible. Also thank you to Women's Own for a kind donation, and United Reformed Church for the big bag of sweets which the children enjoyed during the Mother Goose performance. A big Thank You to you all.

Our A.G.M. promises to be very interesting again this year. Our speaker is Carol Watts from Pyfleet Lodge, a Residential Hostel for the handicapped. Some of our older members are now at Pyfleet so we hope 1 or 2 of them may come along. Why don't you join us, you'll be most welcome. It's at the Day Centre on WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY at 7.45 until 9.45. Hope to see you there.

Jean Stone



STANSTED WEA

The WEA spring course will be "The English Parish Church", comprising nine lectures plus an outing to visit selected churches. The tutor will be Ms D. Priddy, B.A., who will use slides to illustrate her lectures. She will show how to study the architecture, how to recognise styles and use dating techniques for both the church buildings and furnishings, decorations and glass; how to "read" the history of the church. Reference will be made to eary beliefs and the development of Christianity in Britain. There will also be a section on the archaeology of churchyards, other buildings associated with the church and chapels and meeting houses.

This course promises to be a subject to please historians and those interested in the visual arts. The meetings are, as usual, on Monday evenings at the Day Centre. Starting 1st February, doors open at 7.30 pm to allow for enrolment, lectures at 8 pm. If you would like further details please ring B/S 812214. New members are always welcome.

Essex Victims Support Scheme

The main aim of the Essex Victims Support Scheme is to provide emotional and practical advice to victims of crime, such as burglary, theft and assault, and also to those bereaved by sudden death, such as in a road traffic accident. Volunteers are needed in Stansted at the present time. They usually make one or two visits, making referrals to other agencies if this is appropriate and where longer-term support is required. The scheme receives all referrals direct from the Police Harlow Division. Volunteers attend an initial Induction Course of six evenings on a weekly basis and these courses are held in Harlow. They need to be on the telephone and those who travel by car can claim mileage expenses.

If you want to consider helping in this way please ring Denise Steele on Epping 72606/72859.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Clerk: Mrs. J. Buttery, 813214

SKIP 1988 dates for the skip at Crafton Green House are as follows:-

Saturday, 5th and Sunday 6th March 1988
Monday, 18th April - Thursday 21st April 1988
Saturday, 11th and Sunday 12th June 1988
Saturday, 10th and Sunday 11th September 1988
Monday, 17th October - Thursday, 20th October 1988
Saturday, 3rd and Sunday 4th December 1988

Please note that the area around the Bottle Bank at Crafton Green is not to be used for rubbish - it is amazing how many boxes of rubbish are left beside the Bottle Bank, including empty cans of pet food!

Crafton Green Centre: a reminder of the facilities available at Crafton Green.

1. County Library, opening hours:

Tuesdays	9.30 - 12.30	Thursdays	2.30 - 8.00
Wednesdays	2.00 - 5.00	Saturdays	9.30 - 4.30

2. Day Centre open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. where snacks and meals may be obtained. All over 60s and handicapped people of any age welcome. Transport can be arranged for disabled people. Also a Chiropodist is in attendance on Mondays by appointment.

3. Stansted Baby Clinic, Crafton Green House, open weekdays.

4. Social Worker available without appointment on Tuesday mornings from 9.00 - 11.00 a.m. in Crafton Green House.

5. Last, but not least, the Parish Council Offices, first floor, Crafton Green House - where a friendly welcome always awaits you - even if the information you want is not available - we shall do our best to help.

Village Trail - if you have not walked the "Stansted Village Trail" then pick up a copy - 20p - from the Parish Council Offices, library, Deamers, Family News or SD Electrical.

Saunters Round Stansted - help keep a footpath open by walking one of the Saunters in this 20p booklet. Available from the Parish Council Offices, library, Deamers and Family News.

Floodlit Hard Play Area - Mountfitchet High School, available for hire for football, tennis, netball, roller skating, etc. evenings, weekends and all school holidays. Apply to the Clerk, 813214, for details.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members of the Stansted and District Branch send New Year greetings to all their friends to wish them a healthy and happy year.

Members of the Committee held their first meeting of the year on Tuesday 5 January and discussed the programme for 1988. It is hoped to announce details and provisional dates in February and all members will be sent particulars.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION



Pat Hughes gave us a fascinating talk, with slides, at our November meeting, showing the continuing work done by OXFAM in the third world.

Sixty seven members from eight villages attended the Group Meeting at Clavering on 26th November; and after the business of the evening we were treated to an enjoyable comedy "The Flesh Game" by members of Clavering and Wicken Women's Institute.

Our Christmas branch meeting welcomed Mr. McKay with songs at the piano and a "Name that Tune" competition.

We had no meeting in January, but at our branch meeting on Thursday 18th February Doris Wiffen will show her holiday slides - always an enjoyable occasion.

Area Conference will be on 3rd February at Cambridge.

Pat Clower
815220



STANSTED ART AND CRAFT MARKET

Over 50 people attended the presentation of cheques to charities or good causes at the home of the Chairman, Greg Snow on Sunday 13 December. The opportunity was also taken to say 'thank you' to many of the people in the village who had, over the years, taken part in the organisation of what has become a village event.

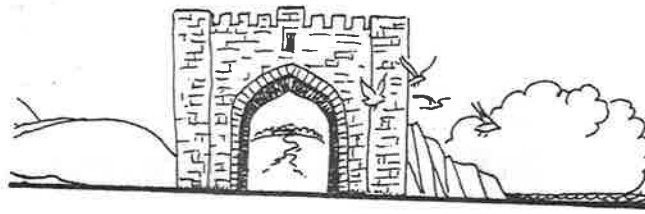
Cheques were presented to 10 beneficiaries, including these main ones:

£200 Stansted Carnival Trust for Needy Children
£200 Stansted Trust
£200 Princess Alexandra Hospital Scanner Appeal
£180 Stansted Adult and Youth Centre
£200 for new trees on the Recreation Ground
£100 Mountfitchet High School

At the conclusion a presentation was made to Martin Cowan, now moved out of the immediate district. Martin was a founder of the market and former Chairman and fittingly the presentation was a picture of his home in the village circa 1900.

It was announced that next year the event will be held on 15 and 16 October.

Gwen Hopkins
Hon. Secretary
B/S 813714



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Stansted Hall's furnishings, history and the building itself provided a fascinating setting for the Christmas social meeting, with conducted tours by Charles Sherratt, refreshments and an attendance by about 50 members.

Also in December, 30 members (the maximum we were allowed to take) went to the Essex County Record Office at Chelmsford. We learned how we could do some research for ourselves and it was interesting to see where and how so many of the County's historical records are stored.

The speaker booked for January was unable to attend but had arranged for William Ward to talk to us on the archeological excavations at Stansted Airport. Although the sites at first investigated proved disappointing, by walking over many acres pieces of pottery turned up by ploughing were found, which led to the discovery of more productive sites. As well as traces of buildings, brooches, coins and an intaglio were found.

The next meeting will be held in the Day Centre at 8 p.m. on Thursday 4th February when Terry Seafle will tell us something of the history of Newport.

Peggy Honour
B/S 813160

CAROL SINGING CHRISTMAS 1987

What a great year it was! There were plenty of singers, kind weather (no fig, snow or rain and not too cold) and varied musicians - Anna Skingle with her trombone, Marion Dyer with her flute and the Kirkwood girls with their recorders. Musical accompaniment is so helpful.

Thank you to typist, duplicator, poster writers, leaflet deliverers, singers, musicians, the hosts who provided us with warmth and refreshment at the end of each evening and, not least, to all who donated so generously and encouraged us by listening in their doorways.

These were joyful evenings and we raised £242.26 with a generous donation making it up to £250, so £125 will be sent to each of S.W.A.G. and the Samaritans.

Thank you everyone - see you at Christmas 1988.

Judy Goddard, Derek Honour, Peter Jones



BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meeting in the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

February 11th Karl Goldmark (1830-1915)
Symphony No. 2 in E flat Op. 35
Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor Op. 28
Symphony No. 1 in E flat "Rustic Wedding"

February 25th Granados - piano pieces
Bizet - Suite: L'Arlesienne
Arias by Mozart, Lortzing and Wagner
sung by Fritz Wunderlich
Brahms - Violin Concerto in D Op. 77



Mary Schyles



"OUR VILLAGE"

A short while ago (you may even recall) we spoke briefly of Green's Stores, since when an old Bill of Account of Joshua Green dated 1906 was kindly shown to me. This, of course, proved of great interest, which in turn spurred on further thoughts to tell a little more of this Company - of the items and perhaps some prices of a few other wares that were once available at this grand old store.

First, however, we should make time for a second look towards the Clock. It was fitted in 1897 for Joshua Green and Company by Mr. Joseph S. Francis who was by trade a watch and clock maker with his premises in Silver Street. The clock was known as the "New Diamond Jubilee Clock" and erected as a permanent memorial of the Record Reign of Queen Victoria (ascended to the throne 1837). Also to their own Record Country Business by then established 210 years. The clock said to be accurate to Greenwich Time, was illuminated by gas light every night so passers by could tell the time by day or night.

Now without further delay, make your way into the store or else bargains galore will be missed in the Monster Drapery Sale, where special and unique inducements are being made for customers to buy. For the customer who produces the largest receipted bill during the sale will be presented with a "Jones" Five-Guinea Sewing Machine. For the second largest amount spent, a good useful Two-Guinea Machine. To the next five customers a Half-Guinea (52½p) Jacket or Mantle (A Cloak or loose outer garment). A pair of good Cashmere hose was to go to the next lucky twenty five. Sorry to say we stood outside far too long and have missed the sale by something like 90 years.

Dressmaking, of course, was under skilled management. New cotton crepons in choice designs at 6½d per yard, fashionable "Roubaix" cloth 42 inches wide 1/6d per yard. You could then choose wallpaper from a selection of several thousand at 1³/₄d per piece.

We will continue with looking back another time as mention of the last item has brought a (gentle) reminder of decorating to be finished. I would like to hear from anyone who may know more of Mr. J.S. Francis, or may have any old local trades or shop bills.

P. J. Brown

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

STANSTED SCOUT GROUP

The 1st Stansted Group is going from strength to strength. We have two cub packs of 24 boys in each, a scout troop with 30 boys and a venture scout unit which has not been in existence very long but is very enthusiastic and is a mixed unit of teenage boys and girls.

In order to give these young people the best possible pleasure and satisfaction in what they can achieve we really do need more help. Could you consider helping on Monday evenings between 6.45 and 8.15 pm or Fridays 7.30 - 9 p.m.?

The Monday cub pack would welcome some help with boys between 8 years and 11 years. Fridays is for scouts, boys over 11 years. The work is voluntary and no experience is necessary. We would very much like to hear from you if you think you could be of assistance. Please help us to give these boys the best of scouting possible.

You can contact me any time, my telephone number is Bishop's Stortford 814487, or if you prefer, go along to H.Q. in Water Lane and visit at the times stated. We hope to hear from you.

Pauline Cianciola
Group Scout Leader



The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

For the next few months we are holding toddler groups on Fridays and Under Ones on Thursday mornings, both 10-11.30 am. Let us know if this is more convenient for you!

Also we are planning to start a new group in March - for babies and crawlers (and their mums) but no big brothers or sisters. This would benefit new mums who could put their babies down without fear of them being trampled on by the toddlers! Anyone who fancies hosting one of these coffee mornings on a Tuesday should contact Nikki, tel. 814438.

The get-togethers for Under 1s and expectant mums this month are as follows:-

Thurs 4th at Christine's, 45 Bentfield Causeway 10-11.30 am (Tel 815239)
*Thurs 11th no meeting - Valentine's "Party" in afternoon
Thurs 18th at Annie's, "Greenlands", Albury 10-11.30 am (Tel 74 692)
Thurs 25th at Christine's, 45 Bentfield Causeway 10-11.30 am (Tel 815239)

The coffee mornings for the toddler group will meet as follows:-

Friday 5th at Annie's, "Greenlands", Albury 10-11.30 am (Tel 74 692)
Fri 12th at Fran's, 22 Longcroft 10-11.30 (Tel 815817)
Fri 19th at Penny's, 3 Sunnyside 10-11.30 am (Tel 814763)
Fri 25th at Jane's, 52 Bentfield Road 10-11.30 am (Tel 813138)

The first event this month is a pub lunch on Monday 1st February at The Cricketers Arms, Rickling Green. Meet in the Family Room at 12.30.

* We are holding a Valentine's "Party" at the Quaker Hall on Thursday 11th, 2.30 - 4 p.m. Entrance will be 75p per family inc. refreshments. Fran and Pascale are going to entertain us, singing nursery rhymes and songs, so do come along!

On Wednesday 2nd March the Annual General Meeting will be held at Nikki's, 28 Rainsford Road, 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us in a glass of wine. Don't be put off - it will be more of a social evening!

See you soon.

Jacky
814424



N.W.R.
(National Womens Register)

Meetings begin at 8.00 pm and are held in members homes. We meet fortnightly and aim to provide a lively and stimulating evening of discussion on a variety of subjects. If you would like to know more or would like to come along to a group meeting please ring Julie Cooper 59129 or Katy Dockerill 812997.

We started off the new year with our Christmas Dinner (why not!) which was held at The Crown, Elsenham, and a very enjoyable evening of good food, good wine and good company was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be held at Stephanie's (tel. 812137) on 2nd February when Stephanie's husband has bravely (!) volunteered (!) to explain the pro's and con's of the new Poll Tax.

On 17th February we will be airing our views on the way women are portrayed on television. This is an opportunity for you to air your views on the best and worst representations of women today.

Future meetings will be held on such varied subjects as the Sikhs - their religion, influence and culture in the world today: a talk by a marriage guidance counsellor: the artist Lowry - his life and works: the role of parent governors: Queen Victoria's children - who were they and what became of them, and a light hearted evening of "Call my Bluff".

A programme of events is available from the Local Organiser Julie Cooper, Tel. 59129.

Why not come along? You will be made to feel very welcome!

Eileen Quinn



STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

Our December meeting was well attended and Mrs. Ann Calver, the newly elected President welcomed members to our annual Christmas Party. The business quickly dealt with, the afternoon took on a light hearted air, with a quiz between four teams, compered by Mr. David Cianciola.

Tea prepared and served by the Committee was a welcome break, before members were invited to "build a snowman". Mrs. Calver wished everyone a Happy Christmas and members left the party with the sound of traditional music being played. A very happy and enjoyable afternoon.

The January meeting, the first of the year was held on a very wet afternoon, and for those who ventured out, proved to be most interesting. Mrs. Batten gave a vivid talk on African Tribal Beads and Customs. Many different beads were on display, made from varied materials, including coffee beans, porcupine quills, different seeds and grasses. Mrs. Batten told of various ways to read the messages told by the beads and the way they are worn, and talked of the headwear and dresses of both men and women. Members found the whole subject very fascinating.

This months competition for a string of beads was won by Mrs. Thomason.

Our next speaker is Mr. Hammerstone who will talk about wild flowers and show us coloured slides. We welcome visitors to our meetings which are held at the Day Centre on the second Wednesday of the month.

Pauline Cianciola



STANSTED EVENING W.I.

The end of the year for our Institute always brings a new committee and very often a new President. December was the first meeting for our new one, Mrs. Pat Lock, last year's secretary. Mrs. Brenda Ryan is secretary this year and Mrs. Sue Holland the new treasurer.

We all look forward to an interesting programme, which will include the History of Anglia T.V., Beadwork, Embroidery and Rose Breeding. Something to suit all tastes we hope.

'Five's Company' gave us a lovely seasonal entertainment of poetry, prose and songs.

The January meeting got off to a good start, with some lovely slides of village signs in East Anglia. Most villages in Norfolk have them now and they all reflect points of interest historically and were photographed by Mrs. Joan Gross. She was thanked by Mrs. Pearl Wellings. The competition for a local photograph was won by Mrs. Sally Smith, with a lovely picture of Stansted Windmill taken at night. Mrs. Marion Pretty and Mrs. Jean Fuller were second and third.

Last year's fund-raising efforts were very successful, but next month new ideas for this year will be discussed by members.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the second Thursday in the month at 7.45 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Stansted Conservatives met the newly appointed prospective Conservative European Parliamentary candidate for the Saffron Walden constituency, Miss Anne McIntosh, at their annual Supper Dance, held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 9th January.

Miss McIntosh (33) was introduced on her first official engagement in the constituency by David Curry, our current Member of the European Parliament. He has represented the constituency for some years and does not intend to stand at the European elections in 1989. He wants to devote more time to his work at Westminster as M.P. for Skipton and Ripon in Yorkshire.

Nearly 200 people attended this function and it is the main fund-raising event of the year for Stansted Conservative Association. Other guests at the Dance were David Curry's wife Anne, Frank Brooks, Saffron Walden constituency Committee Chairman and his wife Virginia and Dirk Vettewinkel, Conservative constituency agent and his wife Doreen.

* A navy blue sequin and bead decoration, in the shape of a bunch of grapes was lost from somebody's dress during the evening. If anyone has found it, please contact Pam Sutton, B/S 815070.*

A Conservative Parish Councillor's Surgery was held on Saturday 28th November 1987 at the Parish Council Office, Crafton Green.

A very successful Early Christmas Drinks Party was held at "Savages" in Lower Street, the home of Peter and Kay Jones on Sunday 29th November.

There will be a Jumble Sale at St. John's Hall on Saturday 6th February at 2.15 p.m.

The speaker at the meeting at the "Three Colts" Cambridge Road on Monday 22nd February will be Gerry Wade on the M11 Corridor and the possible effect on Stansted.

The next Conservative Parish Councillor's Surgery at Crafton Green will be on Saturday 27th February at 10 a.m.

AGM of Women's Committee at the Day Centre, Wednesday 2nd March, 10.30.
AGM of the Joint Branch at the Day Centre, Friday 11th March at 8 pm.

All enquiries to:-

Bridget Gott - B/S 814440 or
Pam Sutton - B/S 815070.



STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

The group got into the Christmas spirit early in December with a well-attended and excellent dinner at the Day Centre; and we rounded off the celebrations on 9 January with an outing to see "Aladdin" at the Theatre Royal in Norwich. Still to come, as this is being written, is the social highlight of the winter months, the annual Alliance 'do' at Stansted Hall. This year it will be a dinner dance on 23 January.

A date for diaries; there will be an SDP jumble sale on 20 February at 2 p.m. in St. John's Hall. For jumble collection ring 814084 or 813579.



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