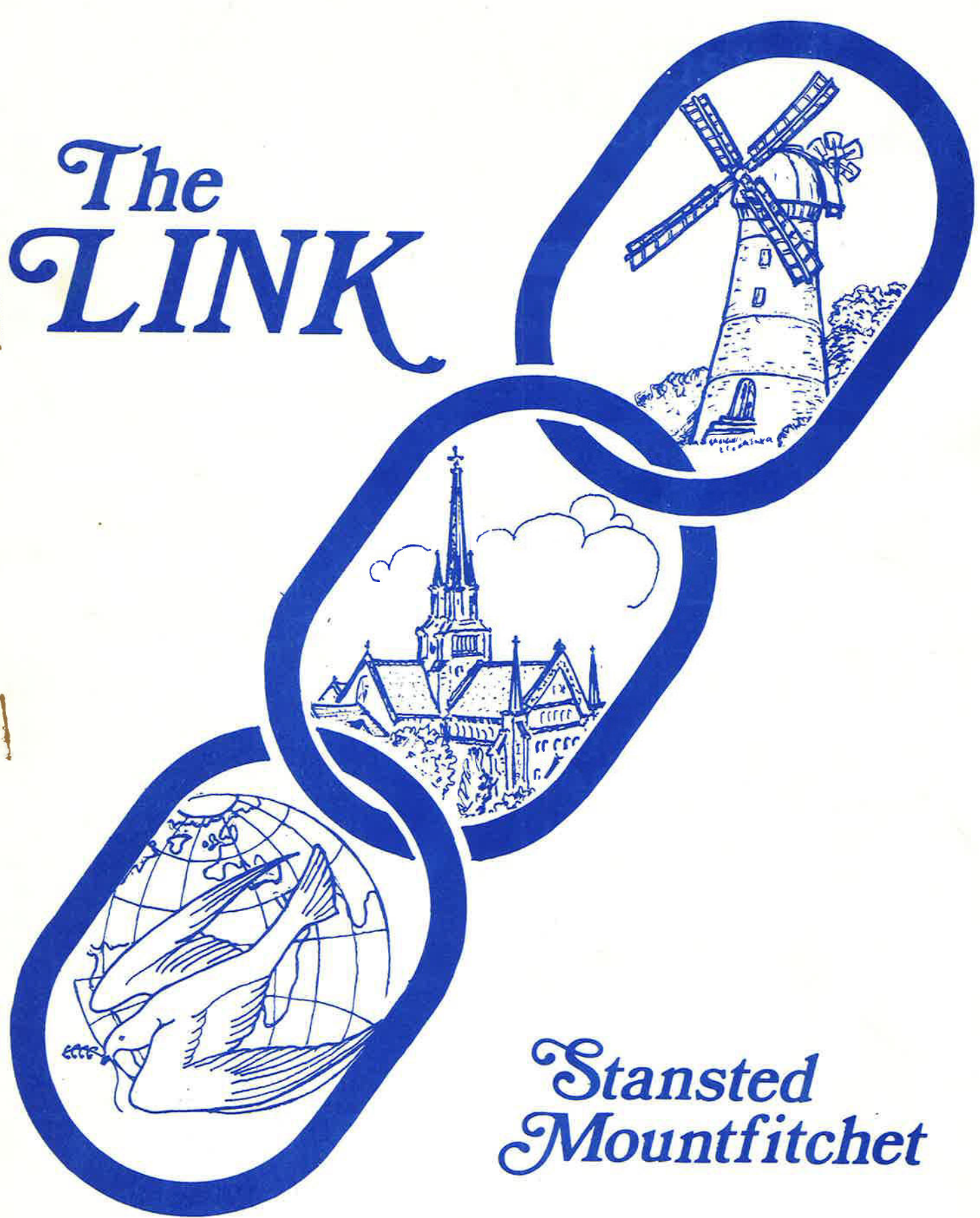


Jan 88

The LINK



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S . A . C . C .

UNITED SERVICE

Sunday January 17th 6.30 p.m.
Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill

ALL WELCOME



WINTER DAYS

How dark they dawn, these days;
How wet they walk, these ways;
How cold they fall, these nights;
How dim they glow, these lights
That pierce the husk
Of misty dusk.

How bare they stand, these trees;
How lank they lie, these leas;
How shrill they run, these streams;
How red they rise, these gleams
That climb like spires
From Hedgerow fires.

How dumb they sound, these birds;
How lean they look, these herds;
How dead they are, these flowers;
How slow they pass, these hours
That lag behind
A springward mind.

J.H.B. Peel

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
MAY WE ALL ENJOY SOME OF THE BEAUTIES OF
A COUNTRY WINTER



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.

SACC

"LENT '88 - HOUSE GROUPS"

This year there is a nationwide study programme. S.A.C.C. will again be taking part. Ash Wednesday is February 17th, and to enable groups to be organised, forms for joining will be in all the churches on Sunday January 3rd to be returned by Sunday January 17th.

The first meeting of the groups will take place during the week of February 21st. Each Sunday during Lent there will be a unity service, the theme being the subject for discussion in the following week.

The Agape will be held on Sunday 20th March at the U.R.C. Hall.

FROM TWO RECENT LETTERS RECEIVED FROM ABBE LUCAS OF CHEVETOGNE

Dear Friends,

Oct 12

The weeks pass, the months pass but the memory remains. I hope all goes well and wish you a thousand good things. Say 'hello' to our Stansted hosts and to all the friends

Nov 22

Next year it is hoped that you would come to Chevetogne. What would be the best time for you? We hold such a good memory of our visit to Stansted and Cambridge

Next month, the 29th of December, is the feast of St. Thomas Becket. We will bring together the group (which visited Stansted) for prayer and thanksgiving in order to relive one of the great historic times at Canterbury.

All good wishes
Guy

CHEVETOGNE VISIT

You will see from the Abbe's letter that we are invited back to Chevetogne in 1988. Perhaps a spring visit this year, as we went in October before. If it is agreed to visit it would be nice to have a mix of "old hands and new faces". Those who went before will be

keen to go again, if they can, while some who would have gone but were prevented will welcome another opportunity. So talk it up among your friends and neighbours and report back to S.A.C.C. We can take it over informally between now and the next S.A.C.C. executive meeting on February 8th, after which we can let the Abbe know what has been decided, and arrange dates.

Eric McIlwain

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.

From our foreign correspondent.

3 Dec
Torrevieja - Espana

When we decided to "get the bit between our teeth" and take advantage of retirement and winter in Spain after this year's dismal summer, we had no idea what it would entail. Advice poured in from many sources, often contradictory. Anyway, whatever we expected, we certainly didn't expect what we've experienced.

Our first stop, after we disembarked from the ferry at Santander in Northern Spain, was at my niece's home in Burgos. She teaches English there, as does her Spanish husband. We stayed in their apartment, with their little son and daughter for a few days, and really experienced Spain. Burgos is a beautiful historic city, and Stella took us round to see the magnificent cathedral and other sights without using a car at all, as they live in the centre of the city. We seemed to spend most of our time in bars, with the children, until the small hours of the morning - apparently it's normal, and the kiddies play outside with their peers. The night before we left we toured a monastery, and went on for a "speciality dish" at Serma - their roast lamb, which comprised two complete legs, so young and succulent, just served with salad; even then the meal was excessively filling.

After three days at Burgos we headed South East. What a fantastic drive across magnificent mountains in glorious sunshine. We'd been told "You'll never get lost in Spain, the signposting is so good". True. The only time we diverted from our route (not having registered one signpost!) we enjoyed the most spectacular scenery of all. I tried the car radio and there on the mountains of Spain we listened to Mass from Lancashire in perfect clarity.

We drove for twelve hours and were welcomed by our friend (sadly widowed a month previously) at 8 pm. We unpacked the car - that took over an hour, and Eileen could not believe how much we's brought. But what do you pack for five months. Everything except the proverbial kitchen sink.

We had worried about our "jinx" on weather; wherever we go we induce freak weather. We'd been in Spain for five days and then - catastrophe. The worst storms since 1853! Unbelievable! The disaster was on the scale of our hurricane. We were driving through foot deep floods for hundreds of feet at a time. Cars beside the roads were totally submerged - only campers' roofs showed that there were vehicles there. For days we drove round seeing the devastation the floods had caused. Erosion of retaining walls, then rivers of mud, denuding the orange groves of soil and leaving their roots totally exposed. Our Epping friends, who could not fly to Aucante, were due at Valencia, a couple of hundred miles away - but it was cut off for two days.

On Friday we managed to get to them on the mountainous motorway - but were very glad to reach our daughter's "pied a terre" in Torrevieta safely, using the coast road. We didn't venture out again till Sunday.

Then, suddenly, brilliant SUMMER. It's been like that ever since. We're only wearing swimsuits or shorts. My friend from Epping arrived on our doorstep thirty-four years ago, a child asking if she could take my babies for a walk. Instead, I asked her in. Now, eleven children and twelve grandchildren between us, we've spent a holiday together. What fun it was! We've never had a car overseas before, but how we've enjoyed going where we want when we want.

We went looking for Mass last Sunday morning and decided crowds would indicate one. In a village we saw the crowds. And then we realised that everyone had turned out to watch a bride and groom walk out of a private house and parade to church for all to see (oh, her poor dress, through those mud-caked roads!) We tagged on to the procession and arrived at a beautiful church abundantly decorated with gorgeous floral arrangements. More conventionally, we went to Mass on Saturday evening this week in

Torrevieja. But it was a massive, full, ornate church, full of people and how they sang! Three priests and one extraordinary minister administered the Eucharist, and it was very spiritual, though I didn't understand a word. But we were greeted enthusiastically at the sign of peace, and Laurie could follow the sermon a bit.

Well, that's our first three weeks. If we enjoy the rest of our stay as much as we have this period, we shall certainly be glad we decided to winter in Spain, despite missing the community that is St. Theresa's.

Laurie and Paula Hall

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.

Alfred E. Witham was a very able and greatly loved minister of the Methodist Church in the first four decades of this century. He was distinguished both by the way he fulfilled his vocation and by the way he lived his faith and rejoiced in it. There was about him, it was said, a sense of wonder, a gaiety, an unflinching delight in everyday things. For the start of a new year I pass on some very helpful thoughts of his.

"If Christ is not the light of the world - of a world that has teased the philosophers since ever man reflected upon the mystery of being, of suffering, of tragic conflict, of death - then to whom must we turn?"

"Through hundreds of years before the birth of Christianity, the Greeks had pondered the meaning of life and reality. A galaxy of thinkers, unrivalled before or since, had put every question the human mind is capable of putting, and received, maybe, the only answers the unaided mind of man will ever get to these problems. A great student of the subject says that at the end of this incomparable period the Greek lost his nerve. When he reviewed his gains, it was all so little to satisfy his heart, to fortify and support him in his pilgrimage through the shadows of our mortal life."

"Then there was the cry of a child in a manger crib, a man working in a carpenter's shop, a voice like music heard over quiet waters at eventide, an awesome energy beyond the violence of the winds, more reasonable than the reasonings of men, older than primitive

frenzy, and fresher than the dawn, at once new and familiar; and men lifted up their heads as though redemption drew nigh. In the eyes of this Man they found the home of all their dreams. Enshrined in flesh and blood, in amazing actuality, they saw all they had ever wanted to be, and in the logic of life, of this Man's life, the answer to their questions."

"Strange paradox, this Man had to be silenced before He was heard, killed before he could live in the hearts of men, and by submissions that proved more powerful than man's rebellions He stood as Lord of life. Through the generations of two thousand years humanity has drawn from Him deepest belief in life, in its meanings and possibilities, and faced death with eyes unafraid. His gospel has filled the heart with the poetry of the grace of God, educated the heart in the courtesies born of humility, put the mirth of God into to the gloomy spirit, overcome every despairing philosophy, and provided the retort of the soul to enfeebling doubt."

May I commend these fine reflections on what Christ has been in the experience of millions to your prayerful consideration. May they give you great hope and encouragement as you enter 1988. Love to you all.

Harold Fisher

Shalom Group Dates:

4th and 18th January, 1st, 15th and 29th February.

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.

Because I have entered on a series of sermons based on the Psalms I read the other day that one of the (many!) stories about St. Patrick is that he recited all 150 psalms DAILY!

I could not help thinking that such an assignment would leave him precious little time for anything else, let alone the rest of the Bible or his mission to establish the Christian faith in Ireland.

This leads me to reflect that it is possible to be "over-religious" in the sense of repeating worthy and pious words and acts of worship. This I think is not where most of us err.

The opposite error is to do so many "good works" that we neglect or don't make time for the psalms (i.e. the devotional life) or worship at all.

And I don't think many of us err on this side either.

In fact most of us, and I include myself, float around in the great middle of muddle, without much real devotional life or our own and without much in the good works department either.

Perhaps a good New Year's Resolution would be to work a bit harder at getting the balance right.

Then our worship and devotion can be the "balance wheel" which regulates and keeps consistent our expression of love for others.

With best wishes for a good New Year.

Eric McIlwain

SERVICES FOR JANUARY

3rd	11.00 am	Holy Communion - Rev. E. McIlwain
10th	11.00 am	Family Sunday - Rev. L. Rapkin
17th	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Unity Service - SACC - Friends Meeting House
24th	11.00 am	Rev. L. Rapkin
31st	11.00 am	

And a short PS

We do thank all our friends in Stansted and Newport who helped to make both autumn bazaars so successful. Together they raised very nearly £600.

The United Reformed Church 'family' and the whole community have been deeply shocked by the tragic accident in which Nicola Smith was killed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her parents, Colin and Valerie, to Mr & Mrs Little her grandparents, and to all the family.

Any donations of money given in memory of Nicola will be used to purchase a tree and the balance given to the Saffron Walden Accident Group (SWAG).



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 Kevin 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.

Parish Registers

Baptism

29th Nov Julia Frances Phillips
57 Bentfield Gardens

Departed

18th Nov Levi Arthur Peachey
Aged 77 years

CHURCH DIARY

January

1st Holy Communion 7.30 pm

6th The Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Communion 10 am Sung Eucharist 8 pm

11th PCC at the Rowans, Bentfield Causeway 8 pm

12th Stewardship Committee

17th Rev'd Chris Bishop to preach at 9.30 Parish Communion

26th Pastoral Care Group 8.15 pm
62 Chapel Hill

25th Conversion of St Paul
Holy Communion 8.30 am

18th - 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

812684

February

2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Holy Communion 7.30 pm
New Bishop of Colchester consecrated in Westminster Abbey

3rd Overseas Link Group - the Vicarage 8.15 pm

7th Canon Eric James to give lecture on Inner City 7 pm St John's

10th USPG Coffee Morning at 62 Chapel Hill

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Every year from 18th - 25th January our prayers are focussed around Christian Unity. All weekday communions will be offered for unity and they are as follows:

Monday 18th	8.30 pm
Tuesday 19th	7.30 pm
Wednesday 20th	10 am
Thursday 21st	9.15 am
Friday 22nd	7.45 am

Try and come to one of these.



THE CHURCH IN THE INNER CITY

Lecture by
CANON ERIC JAMES

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



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

WED. JANUARY 6th.
HOLY COMMUNION 10 am.
SUNG EUCHARIST 8pm.





CHANGE OF WEEKDAY COMMUNION

We have decided that for an experimental period of 3 months we will have the Thursday morning communion at 9.15 am and not 7.45 am. This time we hope will be suitable for those who deliver children to school or playschool. We would welcome small children and babies at this service too. Give it a try.

CONFIRMATION 1988

Classes will be starting in January for a Confirmation to take place in St John's on May 8th. Please give one of the clergy a ring if you require any details.



LINKS WITH WISCONSIN

When the Pinkert family returned home to Wisconsin, U.S.A. it was decided that we should try and forge links with their church in Madison. Their church has responded warmly to the suggestion and Alistair Richardson, who is in that part of the world from time to time, has been helping us to get together. Recently he took with him a set of slides with a tape commentary on Stansted and church life. We understand the church in Midvale is trying to get together a video. When it arrives we will have an 'American Link Evening' when both sides and video can be shown - and American food served. More details later.



Our thanks to Ted and Edna Laird who have given two visitors' books to be used in St John's and St Mary's. They have been given in memory of their parents Edward and Lillian Laird and Frank and Edna Ward.

SOUND REINFORCEMENT IN THANKSGIVING FOR SARAH

The Church Council has decided to install a sound reinforcement system in St. John's. This will have several uses. It will help the hard of hearing; make it easier for children to read and take part in the service; we can record services for the housebound and the choir will be heard at the back of the church. It has also been decided to install this system in thanksgiving for the life of Sarah Scarr whose work was with helping

people communicate after head injuries. The cost, without loop, is £1,700 and we have already been promised just over £1,000. If you want to help then please let us know.



MOTHERS' UNION

Meeting on Wednesday January 27th at 2.30 pm in the hall for our annual tea party.
May I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Margaret



YOUTH NEWS

Just a few words to say 'Happy New Year' to everyone from our Youth Group. We intend to make 1988 a busy year with our usual mixture of events. As ever, we extend a warm welcome to any who would like to join us. Our programmes will be available shortly before Christmas and details can be found out by ringing the numbers below.

Happy New Year
love
Fr Tony

Tony 814463
Paula 59068
Brenda 813712

VICAR'S NOTES

This month I shall be bold! I rarely, if ever, mention money - and for three reasons. Firstly, as a young and think curate I had to stand at the top of the steps in Upton Park Tube Station and beg money from commuters for the parish church. I stood nervously next to man collecting for disabled RAF servicemen.

Totally embarrassing - and I have never been the same. I wanted to shout "The Church is here to share the love of God not to ask for pennies!" Secondly, I think that if the Church keeps asking for money, the impression is gained we are more interested in finance than people. Thirdly, and more importantly, I do passionately believe that if we preach and live the love of God then there will be a response of generous love which understands we have a need to give. The message is "Look at the Cross and see the sacrifice of love". From the gazing comes a desire to open our hearts and pockets and money is never a problem. Indeed the Church can then move into giving out to the poor and needy and no longer has to rely on gift days with thin curates. So, my thinking goes, we shall never have to mention such things as budgets or books. Preach the Word in and out of season and all will be well. Now comes the confession!

It doesn't always work like that. The motivation for giving is so often the need of the Church rather than our need to give in response to God's love. And obviously if we think the Church has more than enough money there is no motivation to give. So let me publish a figure.

This year the Church Council has expenditure of £28,000 which is £538 per week. That is not the total cost of running the parish, for part of clergy stipends come from Church Commissioners. Is £28,000 extravagant? Not at all, for our Finance Committee trims and prunes all the time. Where does the money come from?

The great proportion comes from direct giving from members of the congregation, many of whom covenant. Thank God, I say, that many realise that their Christian faith is so valuable that they want to share it with others through generous and sacrificial giving. I think this needs to be made known and understood. The Church is not a department of the State - receives no State money as in France - and therefore relies on its members. That, in my view, is how it should be. But let everyone see that when they require the ministrations of the Church and a building these things are available because of the generosity of the few.

The whole question of Church finance is becoming very difficult. Yes the Church Commissioners have money but nearly every penny of that goes on clergy stipends and pensions. For the first time the Church of England is having to face financial realities and can no longer rely on past benefactors. Perhaps it is God's way of reforming the Church. We shall see. By the way, it looks as if we have a budget deficit - but please don't ask me to stand at the station with a begging bowl. In any case I have put on weight.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

'Judge not, that ye be not judged' Reflections of a Street Collector

Judging others is something that goes against the grain for most present-day Quakers. One of our 'Advices' contains the sentence "Think it possible that you may be wrong"; a nice wry humour in the phraseology. I work at the Citizens Advice Bureau, one of whose tenets is that advisers must not be judgmental whatever the views, attitudes and actions of their clients; and I do not have too many problems with that. But STREET COLLECTING; that is a very different matter. I do not like street collecting; not because I mind standing for an hour or so in a draughty doorway perhaps, but because it brings out the judgmental characteristics that I do not want to know that I have got!

'Why should that affluent-looking woman loaded with Christmas parcels pass the poster of starving children without putting something in my tin?' 'Why should that mean parent give its child 1p in order to get a sticker? (I hope it falls off)'. 'Why does that acquaintance cross the street to avoid contributing?' 'Why does that other acquaintance bring out a handful of change from a pocket and search through for the smallest coin?' 'How dare that couple peer over my shoulder at the shop window, pretending I and my tin do not exist?' All these and other nasty, unfair thoughts go whirling round my head, and I finish my stint with - I hope - a heavy tin, because OXFAM needs and deserves every penny it can get, but - I know - with a heavy heart and a guilty conscience.

A few days after my last collecting stint I went Christmas shopping and, to my dismay, realised that I had walked briskly past a street collector: mainly because I dislike canned carols and collectors dressed up as Father Christmas. Oh dear: I know what may well be in the mind of one Father Christmas!

Katharine Hurford

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY AND FUTURE EVENTS

January

- 7 8.00 Day Centre Local History Society
- 9 8.00 Stansted Hall Conservatives New Year Dance
- 14 8.00 Day Centre B.S. Recorded Music Society
- 17 6.30 United Service. Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 23 Stansted Hall Alliance (SDP & Liberals) Dinner Dance
- 28 8.00 Day Centre. B.S. Recorded Music Society

February

- 6 2.15 Conservatives Jumble Sale St John's Hall
- 7 7.00 "The Church in the Inner City" Canon Eric James. St John's Church

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

I have been asked if I can find someone who will be the local organiser for the Cancer Research Campaign. The task is to organise one fund raising event during the year such as a coffee morning, jumble sale, disco, lunch, etc. etc. Cancer touches the lives of so many of us that I feel sure someone will respond to this appeal and if several volunteer perhaps a small working committee can be set up. I have a booklet on Cancer Research Campaign for anyone who is interested.

Barry Rose
The Vicarage
812203



BENTFIELD SCHOOL P.T.A.

Once again a wonderful evening was had by all at our quiz night which raised £189.25.

On Tuesday 24 November we held a flower arranging demonstration which seemed to inspire people. This event raised £123.86.

Our Christmas Fair was a superb success. Father Christmas and Mother Christmas were very popular. Our tombola reached record donations. Many thanks to parents for all their contributions towards the Christmas fair and many thanks to everyone who helped this event to raise £750.00.

Well done.



CHAPEL HILL PLAYGROUP

Quaker Meeting House, Stansted
Tel. 812624

January is always an anti-climax after the happy preparations of Christmas, but memories linger and serve to brighten the dull days of winter. The children performing the Nativity never cease to surprise us and leave us in no doubt that they are 'little angels'.

Father Christmas found time in his busy schedule to visit our Christmas Party and I hope made a lot of dreams come true.

We say a sad farewell to the children who are leaving us for school and Jack and his family who are moving to Devon. We will miss them all very much.

We extend a warm welcome to the children who are joining us and wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

November was a very busy month for fund raising and we would like to thank everyone who put so much effort into it. Our stall on Bishop's Stortford market raised a generous amount despite being the wettest day of the month. Everything and everyone was dripping wet, but it did not discourage the buyers and we thank them very much. Our Christmas bazaar was quite profitable too, although it had been more successful last year but our 50/50 Toy Sale raised a satisfactory amount and has been enjoyed by all. Thank you to all participants and helpers.

As for every Christmas, the children were very busy preparing for it and it was a very joyful time for them. They made their usual calendars and cards, but there were extra crafts planned for them. They made candles and mini-Christmas cakes and went home very proud of their work. The term ended with the Nativity Play and Concert which was enjoyed by all parents and spectators.

All the children from Rainbow Playgroup join our leaders and committee to wish you all a Happy New Year.

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

A.G.M.

Many thanks to Mrs. Whiteley and Mrs. Wood for coming to talk to us. We hope all who managed to attend enjoyed the evening and came away a little better informed about nursery school and reception class education.

Fund Raising

Sideways continues to rely upon fund raising events and the generosity of its staff to maintain high standards and affordable low fees.

The sponsored swim raised over £200. Many thanks to all who turned out for and helped support this event. The Usborne book sale raised £15. The Trivia Quiz night was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks especially to "Quizmaster" Helen Pawsey.

Vacancies

Some vacancies will arise after Christmas. Please pop into St. John's Church Hall any morning and talk to staff or phone any committee member (e.g. Chairman - Barbie Welch - 815935) if you would like to know more about the advantages of joining us.

Juliana Pocklington

MOUNTFITCHET GARDENING CLUB

How about all you gardening enthusiasts making a New Year's Resolution to join us once a month at the Mountfitchet Gardening Club! Topics featured in the early months of the new year include vegetable growing, hardy perennials - not forgetting our challenging yet thoroughly enjoyable Quiz.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of the Mountfitchet Gardening Club a fruitful New Year.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 pm in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Sue Wilkinson



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

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BISHOP'S STORTFORD
RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meeting in the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

Jan 14th

Schumann - Symphonic Etudes Op.13
 Martinu - Les Fresques de Piero Della
 Francesca
 Faure - Songs
 Scriabin - Symphony No. 3 in C minor
 Op.43 (The Divine Poem)

Jan 28th

Mendelssohn - Symphony No. 2 (Hymn
 of Praise) Op. 43
 R. Strauss - Four Last Songs

Mary Scholes
 813155

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Ron Davies, Headmaster of the Mountfitchet High School was the guest speaker at the meeting held at "The Three Colts" Cambridge Road on Monday 23rd November. He gave a most interesting talk on the new Education Act and then answered questions from the audience. We all felt considerably enlightened about all aspects of this act by the end of the evening.

The New Year Supper Dance will be held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 9th January at 8 p.m.

The next meeting at "The Three Colts" will be on Monday 25th January at 8 p.m. The speaker will be John Keyworth on The History of the Bank of England.

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

JUMBLE SALE

At St. John's Church Hall on Saturday 6th February at 2.15 p.m.

All enquiries to:

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

"Another Place"

When sitting on a train
 and staring at the rain,
 I was thinking of another place,
 a faraway place,
 with no evil.

I thought to myself,
 I wonder what it's like there,
 where the air is fresh and clean,
 where no one has to dream,
 and everyone gets 'the cream'.

The people know not of evil,
 and never have done,
 or so they think.
 They did once though,
 when they were in another place.

When sitting on this train,
 and staring at the empty seats,
 I think of all the people who will die
 today,
 through man's evil, greed and hatred,
 then they will go to another place.

As another train rushes past,
 and the windows rattle,
 I think of my faraway place,
 without speed or high technology,
 a peaceful place.

Then the sun comes out,
 and I think of the beautiful things,
 the trees, the birds, and the plants,
 the stars at night,
 and the sun itself.

And I think to myself,
 when you think of those ifts,
 you could almost be in another place.
 If you remove the noise, the bustle,
 and the evil,
 from this earth.

The people at my faraway place
 don't argue as they have nothing to
 argue about,
 they laugh with each other,
 eat and drink with each other,
 and thank him for everything.

I want everyone to know of Another
 Place,
 as it's a happy and cheerful place,
 where all are free,
 and all belong.
 So, please think of Another Place.

Anna Skingle



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As we enter another new year it is perhaps appropriate to take time to reflect. The new year follows quickly upon Remembrance Sunday and the Poppy Appeal.

Next November 11th will be the 70th anniversary of the cessation of the 1914-1918 Great War. In the Exhortation we say "Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn". The survivors of that conflict still with us today will be around 90 years old - at least. Mrs. Stevens, our Branch Secretary and also Chairman of the Service Committee, is anxious to ensure that her record of 1914-18 veterans is complete. We wish especially to secure that their years are comfortable - and do not 'condemn'. Information please to Mrs. Stevens, tel: 813562.

The subject of age reminds us that the 1939-45 servicemen and women are now 'senior citizens', and need more and more support as the years go by. So, it is very gratifying to be able to report that the 1987 Poppy collection in Stansted and district looks like being a record year. 1987 was a record year, too, for the amount of money disbursed by the Service Committee. The need expands!

A final tit-bit. The branch was lucky enough to be allotted two tickets for the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Mr & Mrs Bob Stoddart attended - and were thrilled.

A Happy New Year to everyone.



"I'm so terribly sorry. We've had nothing but trouble since we bought a computer."

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Everyone looks forward to a trip to somewhere new and we are no exception. All of us were excited at the prospect of a trip to Saffron Walden Youth Centre as we set off in a mini-bus driven by Valerie.

We were all eager to get there to look around. There was plenty to see and do. The boys played a few games of billiards and many used the table tennis even if a proper game was not played.

A disco with many flashing lights was a continuous attraction. While dancing, each member drank a non-alcoholic cocktail. These are a joy, just to look at, with all the different colours; it's a work of art keeping the colours separate.

Those of us who wanted to sit quietly for a few minutes, not too many you understand, went into the coffee bar. Later, after Ken had kindly set them up most of us tried our hand on the computers.

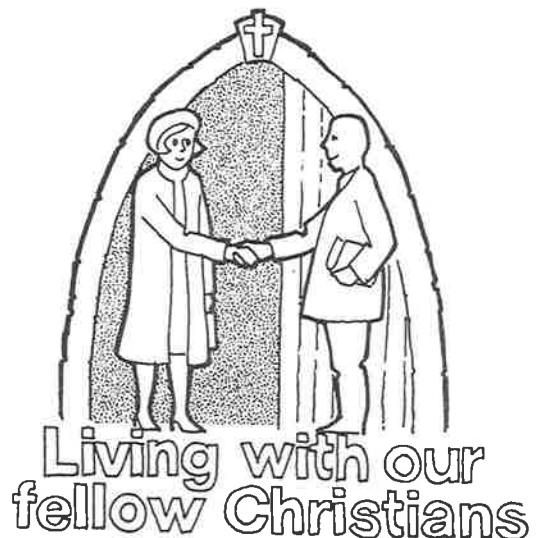
Marion and I were going to look to see if they would be suitable for club members to use; we needn't have bothered as they eventually showed us what to do.

Everyone was enjoying themselves so much they did not want to leave for home.

Our thanks to Valerie for driving us there and back, and Thank You to all the helpers at the centre: they made us very welcome.

We will be seeing them again in the New Year as another trip is being arranged by popular demand.

Jean Stone





Friday 16th October will be remembered as being the day on which such violent storm winds swept across Southern England, our village being one of which stood within its path. Wind gusts of 65 mph were reported and in all probability going far beyond this reading. So many trees being still heavy with leaf fell victim, so much so that the village was virtually cut off for some considerable time as huge uprooted trees blocked off the roads. Daylight revealed the full devastation. Telephone and electricity services were cut, public and private transport were severely restricted, trains were not able to run, schools were closed, the emergency services along with many willing helpers set about the clear-up operations equipped with chain saws, hand saws, axes, shovels, brooms, barrows, etc. local builders recovering and making dangerous roof tiles safe.

A small unit of army personnel were made available to the village and rendered valuable assistance within and around the area, clearing fallen trees or making safe those left in precarious positions. Mention must also be made

of those ladies who made countless cups of tea (in some cases from well improvised water heating arrangements) that always signal a welcome break before a fresh start. There were few of us who did not in some way suffer from damage, be it to roof, aerials, chimney, greenhouse, fence, car, etc. It has been suggested that a collective catalogue of events of this day be recorded. The best way to accomplish this is for as many of us to write down our recollections. These may then if you so wish be collected and kept together for future reading, for this is what village history is all about.

P. J. Brown

As we enter into the New Year, work on the new rail link into Stansted Airport will be well underway. Planning, surveying and pegging the route had been taking place during 1987, but it was probably not before early November that we could begin to see the actual workings taking place.

Adjacent to Stansted Hall a small trackway that once served fields and the red-bricked cottage in Durrell's Wood, has now been transformed into a wide stone and chipping rolled works access road leading down to a contractor's site unit. From this point (although it has not yet been undercut) the exact position where a bridge will eventually take our railway under the M11 can clearly be seen. The new access road then narrows into a brick and rubble raised way sweeping below Hopground Spring, skirting the once well known Blackcurrant Spring and Cuckoo's Parlour. Onwards then towards Stansted Brook where heavy earth-moving equipment is busily at work, huge Catterpillar tractors cutting tracks where a short time ago only farm implements drove and cattle grazed; this area well known for its winter flooding must have no doubt and will still cause many problems. Hopefully we can watch this massive project progress and occasionally report for those interested, but unable to see first hand. Associated work within the motorway area caused our section of the M11 to be shut on two November Sundays with diverted traffic routed through the village which caused havoc. Who can imagine what it would be like on a weekday in summer? A motorway contraflow system is also in operation.

The following is an extract reported by the Department of Transport to inform us of its workings:-

"While traffic is prohibited on the northbound carriageway, northbound vehicles will be diverted to the offside lane, and a section of the nearside lane adjacent to the offside lane of the southbound carriageway. Southbound vehicles will use the hardshoulder and a section of the nearside lane adjacent to the hardshoulder of the southbound carriageway. While traffic is prohibited on the southbound carriageway, southbound vehicles will be diverted to the offside lane, and a section of the nearside lane adjacent to the offside lane, of the northbound carriageway northbound vehicles will use the hardshoulder, and a section of the nearside lane adjacent to the hardshoulder of the northbound carriageway."

Follow that!

P. J. Brown

Peace
on Earth

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