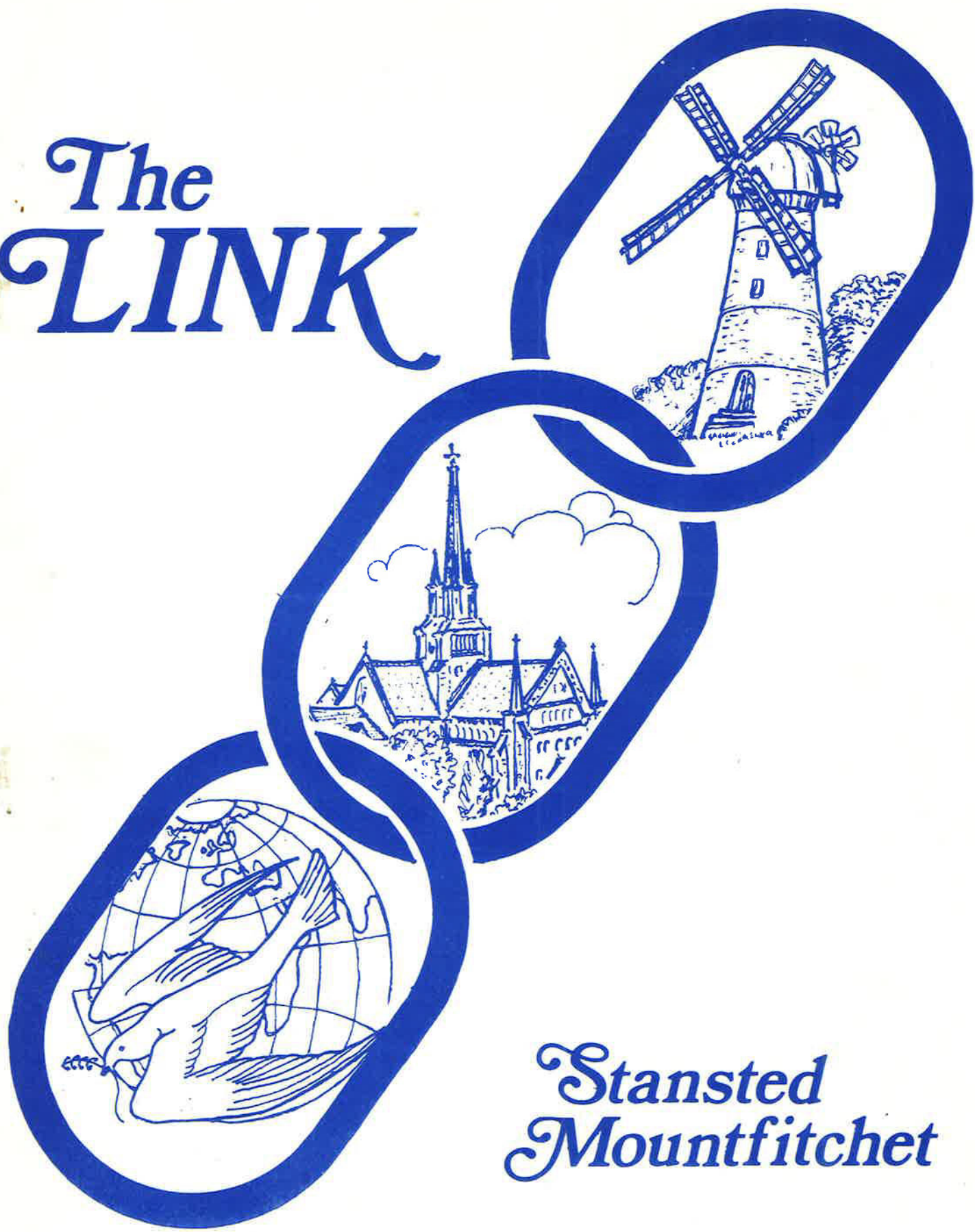


Jul 88

The *LINK*



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A CRY FOR HELP!

After eight years co-ordinating the collating of "The Link", Janet Townsend regretfully feels that she has to relinquish this job to someone else. She has done a fantastic job and we do thank her for all she has done to make everything go smoothly.

We need someone to take her place. It is not a hard job but someone to see that everything is ready for our team of collators and then to count and stack the magazines ready for the Distribution Manager. It involves one afternoon a month. If YOU feel that you could help please contact Margaret Booker, 812684.

We also need someone or even two people to "Paste-up". That is, to present the material ready for the printers. This really needs someone with artistic skills and practical sense, and again involves half a day a month. Please if YOU can help or are willing to learn then let Margaret Booker know - tel. 812684. Our present "Paste-up" person is transferring to the Advertising side.



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 Mrs Patricia Taylor, 38 Gilbey Crescent. Tel: 814823.

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

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

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
14th July for August issue
11th August for September issue

Shalom Group Meetings

- 4 July: Meditation on Creation and Conservation, using slides and tape on writings of American Indian Chief Seattle and other material.
18 July: Picnic Praise at Rectory Lakes, Little Easton.

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 time ago, prompted by the touching resemblance of a dogs' cemetery to a Quaker burial ground, I wrote for this space some thoughts on dogs. Goaded now perhaps by several felines who I know to hold prominent, even dominant, places in the households of Friends, I feel an urge to say something about cats. So Tabby, Maud, little ghosts of Moffy, Vicky, Susie and the rest, stop squeaking and attend!

As Kipling (I think) observed: the dog will come when he is called; the cat will walk away. In suggesting that this shows the nature of the cat to be rather more that of a Quaker, I don't propose to push the parallel very far! But whereas the dog, in the small hierarchy of its home, can be trained to obey authority, to enjoy being praised for so doing, and even to show signs of guilt when it breaks the prescribed rules, the cat will never submit to such imposition. It does, however, according to some modern studies of cat behaviour, get together with the other cats in its neighbourhood, and after some fairly strenuous argument they usually arrive at the feeling of the Meeting as to who has which territorial rights, and so on.

Friends whose courtesy lets them accept as Attenders people like me who do not enter into full membership, will also accept that the foregoing paragraphs are not offered for very serious consideration. But some further thoughts on cat and man together can perhaps bring us a little nearer to the Maker of both, in whom therefore their relationships must exist.

Dr. Samuel Johnson - most saintly of our mudgeons, who was willing to put down the mighty with a good hard slap, but was not known to turn from his door the old, the poor, the sick and the cantankerous - was very fond of cats. Writing of 'the real humanity and gentleness of his disposition', Boswell says: "Nor would it be just, under this head, to omit the fondness which he showed for animals which he had taken under his protection. I shall never forget the indulgence with which he treated Hodge, his cat: for whom he himself used to go out and buy oysters, lest the servants having that trouble should take a dislike to the poor creature I recollect him one day scrambling up Dr. Johnson's breast, apparently with much satisfaction, while my friend smiling and half-whistling, rubbed down his back, and pulled him by the tail; and when I observed he was a fine cat, saying 'Why yes, Sir, but I have had cats whom I liked better than this', and then as if perceiving Hodge to be out of countenance, adding, 'but he is a very fine cat, a very fine cat indeed.'"

Another possessor of an admired cat was the poet Christopher Smart, who for a time was confined in a madhouse. Dr. Johnson said of him: "Madness frequently shows itself by unnecessary deviation from the usual modes of the world. My poor friend Smart shewed the disturbance of his mind, by falling upon his knees and saying his prayers in the street, or in any other unusual place. Now although, rationally speaking, it is greater madness not to pray at all, than to pray as Smart did, I am afraid there are so many who do not pray, that their understanding is not called in question I did not think he ought to be shut up. His infirmities were not noxious to society. He insisted on people praying with him; and I'd as lief pray with Kit Smart as anyone else."

So let poor mad, prayerful, inspired Kit Smart have the last word on cats, with lines from his marvellous poem 'Rejoice in the Lamb'.

For I will consider my cat Jeffry ...
For he purrs in thankfulness when God tells him he's a good cat:
For he is an instrument for the children to learn benevolence upon.
For every house is incomplete without him, and a blessing is lacking in the spirit.

Amy Taylor

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priests: 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.

CHEVETOGNE 1988

Setting off in high spirits (despite the hour - 5 am!) we reached the top of Chapel Hill before discovering that 2 of our number were missing! - they were found patiently waiting in St John's car park wondering why everyone else was so late! Our crossing was calm and journey uneventful until we came to Namur. Our coach was directed off and on the motorway, back and across the river until finally finding the right exit for Chevetogne we arrived - only 2 hours late! Our hosts were still waiting for us, he hall had been decorated in anticipation of our arrival and very welcome cups of tea and coffee were served to the weary travellers.

The first evening was spent en famille with our hosts and some of us who had been before were able to renew old acquaintances and those for whom this was a first visit had their nervousness dispelled by the warmth of their welcome.

Saturday was an early start. We met for morning prayers in the tiny church at Ehnet, newly decorated with an unusually colourful ceiling. Although the day was grey and overcast our hearts were uplifted by the beautiful voice of the cantor who raised his voice in praise of the Lord. Though a light rain was still falling as we left the Church we were ready for anything as we joined our hosts on board the coach and set off for Dinard on the first visit of the day. It was to be a day in which our diver showed his skill! The road to Dinard is approached through a rough tunnel of rock; it looked so narrow that calculators were brought out and measurements converted. Deciding to take the coach through with only 1 1/2" to spare on either side we all held our breath as the coach eased through - cheers of relief echoed through the coach!

On arrival at the Chateau d'Anvoie we were given a guided tour of the grounds and an explanation of the workings of the fine waterfall system which worked naturally from a canal in the grounds. The waterfalls and fountains had been working for over 200 years without benefit of any machinery. A tour of the beautiful chateau followed and we were accompanied by Baroness Coffinet whose family home this was. After our tour a marvellous meal had been arranged for us at the restaurant there and we washed it down with many bottles of wine. We were by this time of course running late, and had to put a spurt on in order to get to our next stop which was Dinard for our boat trip on the River Heuse. Here we floated by some spectacular scenery, high rocks with climbers clinging like tiny dolls above us. Pascale joined the skipper of the boat to translate some of the passing sights of the river. (You really looked good at the helm with that hat on Pascale!). On coming ashore we had a short drive to the Abbey of Leffe where we were joined for Vespers by the joint choirs of Chevetogne and Conjou. A beautiful Abbey with a truly tranquil and peaceful spirit, although all the brothers there worked out in the community. The evening was spent by some in their hosts homes and others were taken to a concert put on by the children of the neighbouring villages. Our first day had been very full and eventful and we all looked forward to our beds that night!

On Sunday we again met in the Chapel at Elnet for Mass. Although only half of the group were Catholic, everybody joined in the celebration. Margaret Booker, deaconess of St John's joined Abbe Lucas on the altar during Mass and gave a wonderfully uplifting sermon on the Trinity. Pascale and Mary played their guitars and sang some of our favourite hymns and once again Bernard, their cantor, raised his beautiful voice in praise. We were welcomed most effusely by Abbe Lucas who pointed out the similarities in our traditions and although it was a great sadness that we could not all receive the Eucharist together we were certainly receiving our Lord in spirit.

As we left the Chapel the skies were lowering but we were in high spirits and looking forward to our 'bring and share' lunch at the Chateau of Reux. Some of you may remember Baron Coffinet and his wife who stayed last year with Alan and Catherine Dean in their home on the Recreation Ground. This year they returned the hospitality and Alan and family had a most splendid suite of rooms in the Chateau where the children made themselves thoroughly at home! The Baron showed us around the grounds, the maze was especially interesting - I had never seen one with sand pits and swings in the middle before, obvious signs of the grandchildren who lived nearby! Huge bushes of rhododendrons covered the fields and the wild flowers were a sight to be seen. We had our photos taken by the press and then returned to the house for our lunch - feast would be more appropriate! The table was groaning, and we all spread ourselves about the beautiful rooms to eat our lunch in comfort and splendour. It was with many a sigh that we left at 2.30 pm to continue with our next visits of the day.

Half of the party took the coach to the monastery for a grand tour and the others went by car to Beauraing to visit the shrine of our Lady, a place of pilgrimage for thousands since she appeared to 5 children there in 1932. We all met again for Vespers at the monastery. On our visit 2 years earlier the monks were only building their new Church for the Latin rite, now we saw their work completed. A beautifully vaulted church, totally plain and starkly white. A

complete contrast to the Byzantine church on the other side of the monastery which we had visited on our last visit where the walls and ceiling are completely covered with icons. The monks gentle plainsong chant also was in complete contrast to the deep sonorous voices of the orthodox monks. Though the two seemed so different they were living together in total harmony.

This was to be our last evening and we were to receive a tremendous farewell from our hosts. We were taken to the local hall where two long tables had been set. The ceiling was strung with garlands and the rhododendron flowers from the Chateau grounds made the tables look resplendent. We all sat with our hosts and were served a delicious flemish menu, washed down of course with lots of good wine! Entertainment had been arranged and the company of players turned out to be led by Bernard our cantor with the beautiful voice. Various guests were hauled up the front to take part in the games and revelry. We sang the songs we had practised on the coach going down but like all good things it came to an end too soon. Our hosts had been learning "My bonny lies over the ocean" which we all sang together with much gusto though perhaps some eyes were full of tears at times! We all then sang Auld Lang Syne before saying our goodbyes. We had again renewed our friendship and forged many new links.

As we headed for home in the early morning we all had our different memories but were unanimous in our praise of the hard work our hosts had put in to make our visit so successful. Next year we hope to return the hospitality and hope we will be able to continue with our association going from strength to strength and even more bonds of friendship being forged.

Eileen Quinn

Whilst in Chevatogne I asked my host if he would write the "Our Father" in French for me, as I do not know it. During the services we attended, everything was written down for us to follow except the "Our Father"! So, I thought it may be nice for everyone to have a copy of it in order to learn it for next time!:

Notre Pere, qui es aux cieux, que Ton Nom
soit sanctifie, que Ton Regne vienne; que Ta
Volonte soit faite sur la terre comme au
Ciel.

Donne - nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce
jour. Pardonne - nous nos offenses, comme
nous pardonnons aussi a ceux qui nous ont
offenses; mais ne nous soumetts pas a la
tentation, et delivre - nous du Mal.



Car c'est a Toi qu'appartiennent la Regne, la
Puissance et la Gloire pour les siecles des
siecles.

AMEN

from Pascale Fowell

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.

"Hell is other people", said a French cynic. No doubt he had his reasons for saying so. People can be utterly insufferable - irascible, arrogant, bitchy, cruel, greedy, self-centred, pompous, treacherous, irresponsible, disloyal, malicious, boring to the point of torture, etc. You name it, they can be it - in all its horror! Most wounding of all, we may be treated worst of all by those to whom we have shown the greatest thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity. "It was not my enemy that did this, else could I have borne it. But it was you, my companion and my familiar friend" cries out the anguished and betrayed writer of Psalm 55. Yes, other people may make our life a hell, if they are unbearable and we cannot escape them.

All that is easy to see. What is very difficult to see is that I may be hell to them. My faults may be very different from theirs, but just as hard for them to bear as their faults are for me. We all need to "take the beam out of our own eye", as our Lord told us.

There is, however, a worse hell than other people. And that is being without people, being utterly alone, being cut off from human kind with only myself for company. Such isolation may be forced on people by cruel persecution, or hard recrimination, or selfish thoughtlessness on the part of others. Both common humanity and Christian love require us to end such isolation with genuine compassion. But I suspect many more people suffer loneliness because they have chosen, for whatever reasons, to "keep themselves to themselves". Pride makes them want to avoid any dependance on others. Fear makes them unwilling to share with others. Insecurity at the core of their being makes them shrink chose contact with others lest they become vulnerable. But that is to choose solitary confinement for my soul, where I have none but myself to live with. It is to refuse to love or be loved by closing all doors to both God and man. Hell is not other people, it is being isolated from them.

My love and best wishes to you all.

Harold Fisher

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.

Report from the United Reformed Guild



Mrs Thomas, of our members came to talk with her slides of flowers in her lovely garden and at Chelsea flower show; also some outstanding slides of sunrise and sunset taken from her garden. One of these had been taken during the night with enough light from lightning to be able to take a picture.

Mrs Grosse came to show us her most interesting slides of village signs. These were mostly from Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Many of these had been given by the Women's Institutes and had the W.I. sign on them. They were most colourful and had connections with the village in question and it was very good to see how many signs there are.

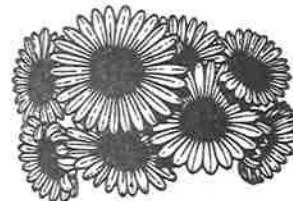
M. C. Johnson

SERVICES FOR JULY

July 3 11.00 - Holy Communion conducted by the Rev E McIlwain
 Guest Preacher: the Rev. Charles Martin
 July 10 11.00 - the Rev. Lydia Rapkin Family Service
 July 17 11.00 - the Rev. Eric McIlwain
 July 24 11.00 - the Rev. Lydia Rapkin
 July 31 11.00 - the Rev. Eric McIlwain

CONGRATULATIONS TO STANSTED'S METHODISTS

The United Reformed Church would like to congratulate our Methodist friends in Stansted on their centenary as an organised fellowship in this village. Coming as it does along with the 250th Wesley celebration we are reminded that Wesley had much in common with the "Puritans" who were the ancestors of the "reformed" churches. As we share, to some extent, a common heritage in the religious movements which stirred the nation in those far off days, may we express the hope that the next century will see us sharing more closely in meeting the spiritual needs of our own day.



Once in a while I like to dip into "Canon Ellacombe's Gloucestershire Garden". A recent "dip" reveals that in 1893 there was an 11-week long drought through April, May and June. Although this caused problems for the gardener it also brought unexpected joys, because of the early-flowering and longer-ripening season. And "to be out of doors (for 3 continuous months) in our gardens and fields under perfectly cloudless skies, with no fear of rain, with very little wind ... in the early mornings and late evenings ... enjoying the abundance of flowers, the rich scents of the pure air and the sounds of the birds and insects to whom the bright season seems to have brought a large addition of life and happiness."

It seems that Shakespeare called June "the FOISON of the year". I leapt upon this new-old word with delight. Foison means "fulness and plenty" and it comes from a Latin word, FUSIO, to pour out. June is indeed the month of pouring out as all around us nature lays on her bounty and her beauty. The modern songwriter had the same idea, if less elegantly when he wrote "June is bustin' out all o-over!"

Even so, there should never be any drought of love. Spiritually the month is always June as God FOISONS his love upon us.

I know it will be July by the calendar when you read this but can still be "the FOISON of the year" by the heart.

Eric McIlwain

Church of England

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

Clergy:

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

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.

CHURCH DIARY

- 3rd July - Children's Church Sermon Spot at 9.30 am Communion
5th July - Tiny Tots Picnic - Meet 12.30 at Harlow Park Car Park
Holy Communion, Mead Court - 10 am
Fellowship Group - 8.15 - 45 Sunnyside - Ring 815817 for details
7th July - Holy Communion, Normans Court - 10 am
10th July - Ecumenical Eucharist - St John's 10 am
12th July - Tuesday Group - Meet at Doreen's
Tiny Tots - 2.15 St John's
16th July - Children's Church Outing - contact Ann Conroy for details 812457
17th July - St Mary's Sermon Spot during 9.30 Communion
18th July - PCC
19th July - Fellowship Group - as above
26th July - Stewardship Committee - Meet at Dorrie Giles 8.15 pm
9th Aug - Fellowship Group - as above

PARISH REGISTERS

- Baptisms :** 5th June David Siracusa, Rainsford Road
Julie Ann Dukes, High Lane
David Stuart Ayres, Coltsfield
- Marriages :** John Miles Brierly and Nicola Orpin
Kevin Halrey and Maria Sawkins
Graham Reed and Pamela Morgan
- Deaths :** Sydney Wickens, Normans Court Age 92 years
Mrs Mary Hall, 46 Cambridge Road Age 77 years
John Rawlinson, Mont House, High Lane Age 51 years

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group meets to share. Simply, we share in the fellowship of meeting with other Christians. Isn't fellowship what Christianity is all about? We look forward to welcoming new members to share in the joy of singing, in Bible study, in prayer and in fellowship.

There are no restrictions to membership - a love of the Lord is all that's required.

Come and share with us on these dates:-

Tuesday June 21, July 5, July 19, August 9

All meetings are at Frances' house, 45 Sunnyside, at 8.15.
Please telephone Fran, 815817 or Ragni 816070 for further help.

Fellowship Group is growing steadily and having a smashing time. Do come along.
See dates under Church Diary.

Younger Youth Group

Date	Activity	Time/Place
3/7/88	Hall Group	6.30 St John's
10/7/88	Hatfield Forest *	-
17/7/88	Games Evening	6.30 St John's
24/7/88	Clue Quest	6.30 St John's
31/7/88	Mystery Walk	3 pm St John's
7/8/88	Hall Group	6.30 St John's

* Would you please arrange among parents to be at Hatfield Forest Car Park by 3 pm and to be picked up at 7 pm.

Older Youth Group

Date	Activity	Time/Place
3/7/88	'Evening at 43'	8 pm Tony's House
10/7/88	See above for Hatfield Forest	
17/7/88	A Relaxed Evening	8 pm St John's Hall
24/7/88	Clue Quest	8 pm St John's Hall
31/7/88	Mystery Walk	3 pm St John's Hall
7/8/88	House Group	At Brenda's



YOUTH FOCUS : (As Usual)

Above are the timetables for our Youth Groups. Please contact Brenda Towle if you'd like to join. We've had an enjoyable last few weeks and had an excellent time at Richard Hart's farm. Thankyou Richard! Many thanks also to parents who help with transport. Further enquiries:

Ring Fr Tony 814463 Paula Holmes 59068 Brenda Towle 813712
or contact Martin Corbishley Gary West or Richard Hart

Overseas Links

As you may already know links have been made with St Lukes Hospital, Kasupe in Malawi, and "Midvale Parish" in Madison Wisconsin which is the parish where the Pinkert family live. The link with "Midvale" has recently been strengthened by the visit of the Johnson family to Madison. Tom and Marion were given a very friendly welcome and returned laden with letters frm the Midvale Sunday School with requests for penfriends from St John's Junior Church. Very shortly the replies will be on their way to America. Meanwhile the teachers here are studying copies of the books used by the Midvale Sunday School and the scheme of work followed by St John's Junior Church will be sent to Madison. Plans are already being made to broaden our

contacts with Midvale and details will be announced as soon as they are ready.

M. G. Johnson



MOTHERS' UNION

Our annual lunch will be on Wednesday July 27th at 1 pm. Venue will be announced later.

The Deanery Lunch is at Widdington on July 13th - please let me know if you want transport. Also - any 2nd hand books for our bookstall - we have only about a dozen so far!

Margaret

The Curate's Letter

Not long now and I'll be a 'married man'. People say married man as if the 'married' bit could easily be substituted with 'condemned'. Still, August 6th is the 'Big Day' and it's a day we share with the 'Feast of the Transfiguration' when Our Lord displayed his divine status, and the anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. In many ways they are rather suitable companions to share a wedding day with. Many married couples I have spoken to seem to be either in the 'transfiguration camp' and speak of marriage as something which has transformed their lives, or in the 'Hiroshima camp' and describe marriage as the thing which has devastated their lives.

Marriage is undoubtedly an enormous step. My dad, who in spite of thinking my fiancée is the best thing that could have happened to me, says to me in grave tones "Son, if you're not sure, pull out now because pulling out afterwards is twice as painful." This is undoubtedly true. Even though people often comment how easy it is to get divorced, I have yet to meet somebody who has been through the divorce process who has not found it deeply painful and hurtful. For the average human being divorce is no easy option. When a couple are married they are joined together in ways that are more profound than they sometimes realise.

The advice I give to those preparing for marriage concerns the absolute importance of honest sharing and listening, even when it hurts. The need to pray for and even with one another. To pray with the person you love may seem very embarrassing at first, and yet it can lead to a greater closeness and intimacy if you persevere a little. And finally the importance of making your partner realise their importance and value. We all need to be made to feel special. At least I do anyway!

So Helene and I are to be married. We are very excited and are grateful for all your prayers and encouragement. In July I will have the pleasure of reading my own banns! We are looking forward to being married, and I am very sure that we will be in the 'transfiguration camp'.

Wishing you Every Blessing. Fr Tony

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Ruth Rawlinson and her children, Edward and Isobel, on the loss of John, husband and father. He was a very loving and kind man who will be dearly missed.

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

How kind the weather has been to us recently! In May we had a lovely day for a picnic at Mole Hall and all the children enjoyed themselves immensely, then on 6th June we had our trip by train to Broxbourne Lido and this turned out to be the only dry and sunny day of that week. Everybody was very impressed with the Lido and its wave machine so I'm sure we will be arranging another trip soon.

EVENTS FOR JULY

Wed 6th 8.30 pm	Talk on Womens Health by Jenny Cobb CPN at Jackie Weston's, 6 The High St, Elsenham Tel 816282 75p non members welcome.
Tue 12th 8.15 pm	Committee Meeting at Marcia Tailby's, 5 Millside, Stansted Tel 813295.
Thu 14th 2.30 pm	Cream Teas at Jackie Weston's, 6 The High St. Elsenham Tel 816282 75p non members welcome.
Fri 15th 10 am	A local Childrens Librarian will be at the Toddler Group to discuss childrens books at Maggie Garrett's, 42 Bentfield Causeway, Stansted Tel 813541.
Wed 20th 2.30 pm	Treasure Hunt around Stansted - meet in the Recreation Ground For more information please ring Francis Martin on 814170.
MONDAYS	EXERCISE CLUB at the Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted 9.45-10.45 or 11-11.45 am PE ASSOC Instructor. NCT run Creche £1.50 per session. Refreshments.
COMING IN AUGUST	PICNIC at Audley End Miniature Railway. See posters for details.

JULY COFFEE MORNINGS

TODDLERS

FRIDAYS 10 - 11.30

8th	Amanda's, 3 Bentfield Rd Stansted Tel 815192
15th	Maggie's, 42 Bentfield Causeway, Stansted Tel 813541
	**** see events above ****
22nd	Jackie's, 6 The High St Elsenham Tel 816282
29th	Christine's, 45 Bentfield Causeway Stansted Tel 815239

BABIES & CRAWLERS

TUESDAYS 10 - 11.30

5th	Katie's, Mill Cottage, 10 Millside Stansted Tel 813841
12th	Jackie's, "Crodwents", Stansted Rd, Elsenham Tel 813206
19th	Amanda's, 3 Bentfield Rd Stansted Tel 815192
26th	Claire's, 47 Gilbey Crescent Stansted Tel 816772

UNDER ONE'S

THURSDAYS 10 - 11.30

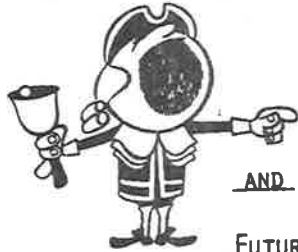
7th	Maddy's, 21 Rochford Cottages, Stoney Common, Stansted Tel 816108
14th	CREAM TEASsee events
21st	Liz's, Home Farmhouse, Hall Rd, Elsenham Tel 816724
28th	Pascale's, 57 Woodfields, Stansted Tel 812500

Christine



The National Childbirth
Education for Parenthood

Village News



AND

FUTURE
EVENTS



"OUR VILLAGE"

On July 25th 1988 Stansted Social Club celebrates its Centenary Birthday. It had been built by the local builder Mr A Sanders at a cost said to have been upwards of £1,500 as a Liberal Club House. An imposing building that stands today much as when first built (although some small external and many internal alterations have been made). It was to contain an entrance hall with staircase, billiard room, youth reading room, refreshment bar, library, with an adjoining house for a caretaker. Towards the end of 1887 a raising reast and treat for the men employed in the building work took place in this large assembly room. Some 230 persons attended. Mr & Mrs Mumford had by now taken the duties of caretakers. A full sized Burroughs & Watts billiards table had also been presented and erected. On Wednesday 25th July 1888 the village was to see a most important political gathering for on this day the formal opening of the Liberal Club took place.

Ceremonies began with a conference in the central hall, Mr Herbert Gardner MP for Saffron Walden Division taking the chair. The Right Honourable Lord Rosebery arrived at Bishop's Stortford by train, from where he drove to the village, firstly visiting Stansted Hall, home of Mr William Fuller Maitland, passing on his way beneath a triumphal arch made from evergreens with "Welcome" in bold Liberal colours on a red background erected over the Railway Bridge (Church Road). At 6 p.m. a dinner was held in the Club, morning dress being obligatory; tickets were 3/6d. Mr Charles Gold presided over the gathering and read a telegram from Mrs Gladstone. Grace was said by the Reverend D Davies, Mr Freelove welcomed the Earl of Rosebery (Prime Minister 1894) who at 7.30 p.m. formally opened the Club and presented a key on behalf of the Club to Mrs Gilbey. At 7.45 a public meeting was held in a marquee some 125' long and 85' wide (erected by Messrs Piggot Bros of London). A second marquee was to accommodate the refreshments of tea/coffee with alcohol provided by Mr Chaplin from the King's Arms. Gas had been especially laid on for the illuminations. Saffron Walden Excelsior Band played throughout the day and despite the weather, which was dull and wet, well over 1,000 people attended the day's festivities (several of whom held political office).

We may later tell further changing fortunes of the Club. Any memory or information I would be pleased to hear.

P. J. Brown

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

Local Organisers: Eileen Quinn 812109 Stephanie McDowall 812137

NWR aims to provide lively and stimulating meetings for women on a variety of subjects. Meetings are held in member's own homes and are organised by the members themselves with an occasional speaker. The Stansted group meet fortnightly but the evening chosen varies throughout the programme.

Subscriptions are £4.50 per annum, of which £3.50 goes to National Headquarters and £1.00 to local funds.

Evening Meetings begin at 8 pm. Please telephone the hostess in advance so that she can make appropriate arrangements for seats and coffee. We pay 40p per evening. 50p for speaker evenings.

Transport for those without cars can be arranged through one of the Local Organisers.

Meetings for July

- Monday** Book Group Meeting
4th July Discussions on:- The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier; Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry like Christmas by Maya Angelou and Return of the Soldier by Rebecca West - Meeting to be held at Lyn Inston's, Squires Cottage, Bentfield Causeway, tel. 814051.
- Tuesday** AN EVENING OF RADIO COMEDY - Are you nostalgic for the great radio
19th July comics of the past? Would they still make you laugh? Here's your chance to find out and re-live some of your earliest memories! Hancock, The Goons and many more. Bring along your own recordings if you have any - meeting to be held at Stephanie McDowalls, Abbotts House, Park Road, tel. 812137.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

If we cancel Thursday night club the members don't usually mind because they guess it means an outing has been arranged for the following Saturday. This was the case when we were off to Walton on Naze.

The sun didn't shine until we were on our way home, but at least it didn't rain. A few of us got our feet wet. How could we be at the seaside and not go for a paddle? Kathryn was very brave and put her costume on. Some took off their socks and shoes but kept on their coats. Although it was quite windy the water was not too cold. Yes, you guessed right - someone did get his clothes wet. He didn't fall in but Andrew didn't realise that waves splash and he got soaked up to his thighs. Ken came to the rescue and took Andrew's trousers to the laundrette to dry them.

We collected lots of lovely shells to use at club on a later date. Marion says she has a little bit of an idea how Jesus must have felt about washing 12 pairs of feet after she finished washing and drying sandy feet when the children had finished playing on the beach. I was the water carrier getting buckets of sea water when needed.

After a quick look in the shops for something to take home (mostly sticks of rock) it was time for a fish and chip lunch. A short walk was needed before going on to the pier. Most of the children couldn't wait to go on the rides. John just loved the dodgem cars; Ken and Julie took it in turns driving for him. Some of the adults didn't seem too keen to go on anything. I wonder why? The ghost train was very popular with lots of screams coming from the tunnels.

Rebecca, Kathryn and James liked all the fast and furious rides. I wasn't quite so sure myself when I said I would take them on the twister (as they had to be with an adult). Twist we did, in and out, this way and that; my insides will never be the same again. The youngsters loved it. Kathryn said that was the best ride of all for her - the faster the better.

You would never think anyone could want anything to eat after all that but they ate their picnic tea and really enjoyed it. So some very full, happy and tired people climbed aboard the coach for the journey home.

It was agreed it had been a lovely day out and lots of fun. I have already been asked when we are going to go again. Our special thanks to William Heard for paying for the hire of the coach. Thank you William it was very kind of you.

Jean Stone

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

present

A Flower Arranging
Demonstration

by Jean Crane

St John's Hall
July 21st 8 pm

Tickets £2.50 incl. refreshments

available from Mrs Lock
14 Gilbey Crescent and
Mrs Ryan 36 Wetherfield





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MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS

The Saffron Walden Rural over 60's Association's Handicraft Exhibition was held recently and in spite of a late entry our club won 24 awards, plus 3 gold stars and was in fourth place.

The group entry subject was "Conservation". Thanks to the ingenuity and imagination of Mrs Irwin plus her immaculate eye for detail we retained the shield for the best entry. After being engraved with our club name for the second time it will soon be back in its usual position - fast becoming part of the furniture and fittings!

Some of our enthusiastic members are already planning for the next exhibition in two years time.

Our Outing

On 24th May we had our annual outing. This year, instead of going to Clacton we went on the river! It was different! We got away to a good start; no-one was left behind and no-one was late at any of the pick-up points. Even the weather was kind.



Our first stop was at Felixstowe for lunch and our next stop was to be the river, the River Deben to be exact. Now the river trips start at Waldringfield where the cruiser "M.V. Jahan" awaited our arrival. However, we went to Woodbridge. We did find a quay and an office but no boat. The office sported a telephone so our driver got the cruiser to wait for us at Waldringfield. It was when we tried to extricate ourselves that the fun really started. As there was no room to turn we had to back out.

First we got stuck on a level crossing (but it was noticed that the railway lines were a bit rusty and overrun with weeds!), then, Woodbridge having very narrow streets, some being one way only ones, we nearly landed up in church complete with street standard light! After that we went down a one way street the wrong way! By now the poor driver was under attack from the members who were having a good laugh at his expense. In spite of all these excitements we arrived quite safely and in good order at Waldringfield.

Our trip on the river was a great success and much appreciated by all, especially as tea, ice creams, etc. were served on board.

On our way home we had a "comfort stop" at the (if I remember correctly) "Slice of Beef", where the lads and ladies had drinks including that inevitable "cup of tea".

It was agreed that we had had a "Real Grand Outing" and who knows, perhaps we will do it again one day!



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Mrs Janet Buttery, Clerk, 813214
Council Offices, Crafton Green House,
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - reminder that the village has again been entered. Thanks to all those who have put out hanging baskets etc. Also a big thank you to those people who cut grass verges and corners outside their boundaries - it all goes to show what a caring parish we live in.

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL PLAY AREA - anyone for tennis? Don't forget that the hard play area is available for hire evenings, weekends and all school holidays. Contact the Clerk for details.

CALLING ALL SANFORDS - A Mr Willis Sanford has written from Halcottsville, New York, seeking information about his ancestors. Richard and Elizabeth Sanford were buried in St Mary's Churchyard in 1591 and 1600 respectively. If anyone would like to see the complete text of Mr Sanford's letter in the hope that they might be able to help, please contact the Clerk.

SKIP - next date in Crafton Green
Mon 18th - Thursday 21st July
Mon 15th - Thursday 18th August

DAY CENTRE

The weather wasn't very promising as the coach left Stansted for our day trip to Windsor, but by the time we arrived typical "Day Centre Outing Weather" greeted us and the sun shone for the rest of our stay there.

We had time to see the shops, sit by the river, go for a boat trip or visit the Castle and St George's Chapel before some of us went to see the Royalty and Empire Exhibition. This was something we will remember for a long time. Queen Victoria was there welcoming guests who had arrived on the Royal Train. The carriages, dignitaries, guards, were there as were also the sound of the orders and National Anthem.

In the theatre we saw pictures of progress during her reign, followed by a review of her Sixty Glorious Years with waxwork figures that appeared to move and speak. An outstanding day declared by all and a wish for a repeat in 1989.

Diary for July

Tues July 5th Bingo 2.00 pm
Fri July 9th Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p
Tues July 12th Outing to Luton 2.00pm
Fare £2.50p
Tues July 19th Bingo 2.00 pm
Tues July 26th Beetle Drive 2.00pm 25p
Fri July 29th Whist Drive 2.00pm 25p



COFFEE MORNING -

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

PLEASE COME TO A COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF RESEARCH INTO MUSCULAR
DYSTROPHY AND RELATED DISEASES

ON:

THURSDAY 21ST JULY
10.30 a.m. - 12 noon

AT:

THE HOME OF
MR & MRS J C WHEELER
2 ST JOHN'S CRESCENT

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE AND THE
OPPORTUNITY TO BUY PLANTS, CAKES
AND CRAFTS

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

POPPY APPEAL Our thanks are due to the Parish Council and the Day Centre for allowing us to use part of a small store for our stock of materials for Remembrance Week. We are still seeking a volunteer who will act as Poppy Organiser - the duties are not onerous and the organiser will have the support of the Committee.

WAR GRAVES The War Graves in the Cemetery at St Mary's have been tended recently by two of our members - Mr Stoddard and Mr Challis. Volunteers for this simple job during the summer months - it only takes an hour - would be welcome. Please phone 814015 with any offer of help.

WELFARE Former members of the Home Guard are entitled to help from the Legion if in need. Application should be made to our Secretary - Mrs Stevens on 813562.

WAR WIDOWS SPONSORED PILGRIMAGES In recent years War Widows have been able to visit the graves of their late husbands in no less than 30 countries. There are War Graves in some 130 cemeteries overseas and the visiting facility is still available to widows who have been unable to travel overseas before. The Government will pay 7/8ths of the cost of visits and the remainder can be obtained in certain circumstances through the Legion. Any interested widow should contact our Branch Secretary.

OPEN DAY AT BASSINGBOURN -
Saturday 2 July A notice is being sent to all members and it is hoped we shall have a good turnout on this special occasion.



About forty of our members saw our President, Mrs Margaret Gabb, present our Treasurer, Mrs Vera Levey, with a special Merit Award badge in recognition of her forty years outstanding service as Treasurer of Stansted and District Branch of the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

The meeting was then told of the role of the Women's Section in the handling and distribution of poppies for 1988. We were also asked to do our part in preparing Stansted for entry into the Best Kept Village Competition, our special project being to keep the vases on the War Memorial supplied with fresh flowers and the surrounding paving stones free of weeds and litter.

Mrs Yates from Bishop's Stortford then talked about embroidery on canvas and showed some of the beautiful work done by herself including tablecloths, cushions, waste paper baskets and pictures.

Our next branch meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday 21st July when we shall hear about Linton Zoo from Mr Simmons. All visitors will be very welcome.

Pat Clover
815220



RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Day Centre 8 pm

Thursday 14th July Beethoven Evening

- Piano Sonata in C Op 53
- Piano Sonata No 14 in C Sharp Minor Op 27 No 2
- Cello Sonata No 3 in A Op 69
- Symphony No 7 in A Op 68

Thursday 28th July Hector Berlioz

- Overture King Lear
- nuits d'ete
- Symphonie Fantastique Op 14



VILLAGE DIARY

FUTURE EVENTS

July

- 14 8.00 Day Centre. Recorded Music Society
- 18-21 Skip at Crafton Green
- 21 10.30 2 St John's Crescent - Muscular Dystrophy Coffee AM
- 21 8.00 St John's Hall. Flower Arranging Demonstration by WI
- Jean Crane (see notice)
- 21 Day Centre. Royal British Legion (Women) Talk on Linton Zoo
- 28 8.00 Day Centre. Recorded Music Society



STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

Mrs Ann Calver, President, welcomed three visitors to the May meeting at Stansted Day Centre. She then welcomed Mrs Sheila Allen, a voluntary county organiser who was to help members discuss the resolutions for the National A.G.M. in the Albert Hall in June. Mrs Allen made the afternoon very interesting with detailed information regarding each resolution before members voted. Discussions on each one were very lively and members had ample opportunity to have their comments made known. Takeley W.I. will provide the delegate this year on behalf of Stansted and Mrs Sylvia Sanderson was present to hear views and note the voting.

The competition for a head garland for the May Queen had only three entries, all very pretty. The garlands had to be made with fresh flowers and were judged by Mrs Sheila Allen. 1st Mrs Pauline Cianciola, joint 2nd place Mrs Betty Lockwood and Mrs Joan Rumney. The raffle was won by Mrs Joan Rumney and Mrs Sylvia Sanderson.

Mrs P Cianciola
814487

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