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Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

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16th June for July issue



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
(From The Director's Message)

'THE POOR haven't a share in the world'. You didn't go in for British Telecom, or British Gas. Stocks and shares are not your scene. You prefer to keep your savings in the bank or the building society, where the interest rates are lower but the risks are not so great. You may not, of course, approve such goings on - speculating on the market - money making; or you simply couldn't afford to apply.

If not shares, you're more likely to own a house than a few years ago, or at least to have a stake in one, if we're to believe what we're told about Mrs. Thatcher's ever expanding, property-owning democracy.

And even if we haven't got a house to call our own (I'm lucky enough to get one with my job) most of us accept that we get our share of what this world has to offer.

Deserve

We murmur from time to time about people who don't seem to get what they deserve, or don't deserve what they get; but here in our own country and huge numbers of people in the so-called Third World, spend remarkably little time grumbling about not getting what they deserve.

There are many sad stories to be told: of rich people in Brazil for example owning huge tracks of land, much of which they don't want to use, who, dog-in-the-manger like, drive off the poor rather than let them settle and grow their food; of hungry people in Africa still short of food in a world of surplus; of children without education.

There are ironic stories to be told. The Bangladesh floods may seem must a natural disaster but there are deep developmental problems which contributed to the emergency.

Bangladesh

Huge water schemes in India cause rivers in Bangladesh to silt up. That makes it difficult for the flood waters to move down to the sea. The same silt also makes it difficult for families who fish for a living to make ends meet.

The money we raise in Christian Aid Week would buy anyone into the latest share issue. It will help to tackle the real share issue. It will not be sent as a generous gift. It will go

to help the poor claim what is theirs as much as ours - a fair share in the world God has made for us all.

Michael Taylor

GOOD FRIDAY

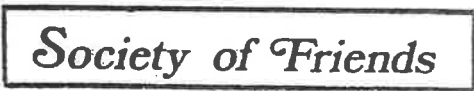
As in previous years, members and friends of the local churches came together on the evening of Good Friday in order to remember the events which took place on the first Good Friday nearly 2000 years ago. Re-visiting the Stations of the Cross is always a salutary experience, and is one of the many riches which St Theresa's has brought to the ecumenical scene in Stansted. This was followed by a procession to St John's for a time of prayer, meditation and hymn singing reminding us that the suffering we may experience in our lives is always shared by someone else. Jesus overcame death in three days. With his help we surely must have the strength to rise above our trials and tribulations in the same timescale!

Michael Dyer



HELPLINE

A plea for help - we desperately need a listener-in to man our telephone line between 2 and 4 pm on Wednesday afternoons. The line is switched through to your own 'phone so it just needs someone who is usually at home between those hours each Wednesday. If you think you can help please contact Yvonne Ayres 814706 or Francine Cope 814562.



Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk:

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

Friends have recently been endeavouring to find a form for our "Advices and Queries" which will make clear their meaning for today. There is nothing out of date in the truth of these paragraphs which ask us to make our actions consistent with our faith. Sometimes the language hides rather than illuminates and the examples are not appropriate. "All Desires Known" (Janet Morley, 1988, pub. "Movement for the Ordination of Women") is a similar effort within the Anglican tradition. It "speaks to the condition" of at least this Quaker; I have found it good to follow a new form of a traditional way.

Janet Morley has tried to integrate her faith and her feminism. Like Friends, she found that mere rewriting would not do. "More potentially creative is the writing of new texts in vigorous language"

I took up "All Desires Known" seeking inspiration and in the hope that it might help conquer my dislike of "feminist speak". I admit prejudice, I have tried! I now accept "M/s" and keep calm over "Chair", dehumanising term not much worse than 'hands' for work people. But there is further to go on the journey of understanding. "All Desires Known" enlarges our imagination; 'she' does not replace 'he' or 'mother', 'father' but the prayers draw on wider experience than is traditional and extend our feelings.

There are in this 'prayer book', long formal prayers; poems and psalms for special groups and occasions which need working at, and in the first section, short collects. These are designed to follow the Church's year and are accompanied by Biblical references. They appealed to me most. Quotations will show best the quality of the collection.

For Epiphany

"O God, the source of all insight
Whose coming was revealed to all nations
not among men of power
but on a woman's lap

How many beautiful pictures of the adoration that brings to our mind, and how vividly it is felt by all who have handled a baby.

For Maundy Thursday

Christ whose feet were caressed
With perfume and a woman's hair
You humbly took basin and towel
And washed the feet of your friends
Wash us also in your tenderness
As we touch one another

Easter (John 11. 17-27)

Give us the faith of Martha
to find in our anger and loss
a truthful place to proclaim you."

Though such a particular feeling for women is often expressed, especially in the later section which dwells on the Wisdom of God, it is not always the theme nor explicit. Janet Morley writes that she has "attempted to leave a 'space' within the words" for each one's needs. I think she has succeeded and hope that others will take up "All Desires Known".

Dorothy A. Stansfield

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.

GIVING THANKS FOR CREATION

This theme is taken from one of the sessions of our First Communion course. We relate this theme to the 'Offertory' part of the Mass when the gifts of bread and wine are offered back to God with praise and thanksgiving.

We perhaps not often enough look deeply at nature and the gifts of the earth. We take them for granted and are unaware of the dangers that threaten the environment today.

We are all connected: nature, the beasts and man. We need each other. St Francis of Assisi was such a person who fully appreciated and understood our mutual dependence and treated creation with dignity and respect. Indeed he felt so much at one with nature that he called the wind his brother, the air and water his sisters, as beautifully stated in his "Canticle".

"Taste and see that the Lord is good" says Psalm 33. Creation is God's gift to us and to praise him with thanksgiving and joy is to be aware of what he has given us. Rejoicing in and appreciating nature is our big 'thank-you' to God. It should then have a bearing on our system of values. It should have an effect on our attitude towards each other.

But we have abused and are abusing God's gift to us every time we turn a blind eye to the destruction that is going on in our planet and a deaf ear to the needs of our brothers, especially those in the Third World.

"To harm the earth is to heap abuse on the Creator". The words of a Red Indian, Chief Seattle. The Red Indian knew how to respect the earth and only took from it what he needed. He was perplexed when the White Man came to his land and killed animals for sport and not just for survival. He was also puzzled that the White Man wanted to 'buy' his land as the Red Indian saw all things as being held for the common good.

We are holding in trust our environment for future generations. In what condition will we hand it on to them? Efforts must be made, however small, to ensure a future that is more just, more prosperous and more secure for all. A feeling for the earth and its vulnerability is as important as our knowledge of the earth with its resources and its beauty.

Greenpeace is getting more interest and support from the public than ever. A sad fact really that it should be so needed.

Rita Yates

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.

SHALOM GROUP DATES AND VENUES

Friday 29th April (instead of Monday 25th) at 5 St John's Lane
Monday 9th May at 4 Greenfields
Monday 23rd May at 4 Greenfields
Monday 6th June at 23 Burnells Way

The 21st and 24th of May this year mark the life-changing experiences of the Love of God that came to Charles and John Wesley: the change in John, under god the founder of Methodism, coming three days later than it did to the younger brother Charles, whose resulting contributing was a vast number of very fine hymns.

What really happened to these Wesley brothers in the crucial week of May 250 years ago? John himself described it as a change from "The faith of a servant" to "The faith of a Son". In other words, his relationship with God had a vitally different foundation. Before the experience they thought that they could be rightly and happily related to God only by what they did for Him. Being right with God depended, they felt, on their efforts, on their disciplines, observances, good works and service. And they put all they had into these efforts. Only the finest saints have matched the religious zeal, high standards and moral, social and spiritual endeavours of these Wesley brothers in the years prior to their life-changing experience. Yet none of these great achievements brought them to feel right with God. They never felt they had done enough. They had their failures, made mistakes, ran into difficulties, dejection and despair and so continued to feel very unworthy and unacceptable to God.

Of course they strongly believed in God and did their utmost to please him, but never felt they had "arrived", as we might put it. It was bound to be so for they were on the wrong tack, having "The faith of a servant"; their religion was all struggling, striving, slaving to make themselves acceptable to God as an unremitting, demanding Master. There were many things and influences that brought about the change in them and this brief letter does not have space to consider them. It must suffice to say that they entered into "The faith of a son". They found that the way to be acceptable to God and in right and happy relationship to Him is to trust in His Fatherly Love. To trust Him utterly, with everything, for everything. This was their new Faith - to cast their whole life upon God in complete reliance on His love, the Love of God as it is incarnate for us, revealed to us, offered to us in Jesus Christ. They now had this faith in what God had done for them and what He was for in the incomparable grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

What did they find in this "Faith of a son" relationship? In the view of Dr. J. Ernest Rattenbury, "They found peace - they found the unification of their own personalities; they were assured of personal salvation; they soon found radiant, exuberant joy; they found God's love in Christ as an experience of their own, and gloried in their discovery of such "amazing love"; they found an impulse for evangelism which was never exhausted; they found liberty of spirit for themselves and called on all men to share in their emancipation." "Their principal discovery was the unlimited and unqualified love of God for everybody." They spent the rest of their lives exploring and proclaiming that love and working out its implications for meeting every kind of human need with appropriate thought, attitudes and actions. God be praised for what He did in them and through them.

My love 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.



We also saw a film made by Blue Peter for their programme. This showed his firm gilding part of the monument. This gilding will remain as it is now for many years.

Miss Whiffen, one of our members, came and gave us a talk and showed slides of her various trips in different parts of the country. The slides of Felixstowe reminded us of the outing we had there. We also saw lovely slides taken at Sheffield Park, the old houses at Lavenham and reminders of Stansted Carnival.

M. C. Johnson

The coffee morning held on April 13th for Bible Society fund raised £78. Grateful thanks to all who supported this event.

U.R.C. SERVICES FOR MAY

May 1	11.00	the Rev Eric McIlwain - Holy Communion
May 8	11.00	Mrs J Knight of Sawston Family Service
May 15	11.00 6.30	the Rev Eric McIlwain Christian Aid Service - St Theresa's
May 22	11.00	the Rev Lydia Rapkin
May 29	11.00	the Rev Eric McIlwain
June 5	11.00	the Rev Lydia Rapkin - Holy Communion

**REPORT FROM THE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD**

It was nice to have Mr Gibbs with us again. He gave us a most interesting and informative talk with slides about gold leaf. We saw it transformed from ingots to wafer like sheets. These had been beaten by hand with 14 lb hammers.

The LINK is "suffering from success".

So much material is contributed each month that our printing costs are soaring.

We have two alternatives. One is to increase the cost of the magazine. The other is for contributors to be more restrained with their copy. There is a third possibility: that of editing submissions but we are loath to ask our genial (so far) editor to do this.

In keeping with the need I recommend brevity to you by being brief.

God Bless.

Eric McIlwain

Church of England

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

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.

Dear Friends,

Janet and I have been overwhelmed by your love and friendship, your cards and flowers and your very generous leaving presents. To say 'thank you' is such an inadequate phrase to convey what we both feel and want to express.

Stansted and its people will always have a special place in our hearts and affections and of course you have all played an important part in our lives. We have met so many wonderful people and have been so impressed with the dedication and vision of so many Christian folk.

As Christians we know that the Church exists to serve God and His people wherever they live. To lie and bear witness to this truth is not always easy because being selfish beings we often want the Church to serve us. We thank God that so many people in the Stansted Churches understand what the Church is about and why God brought it into being. This makes such a difference to our life together.

No doubt Stansted will see changes over the next few years as it has seen many changes in the past. Although change is never easy to cope with or manage we should not be afraid of it. Our God is dynamic not static and so always calls us to new visions and new horizons. God is in the change which we experience.

We shall always remember you and we do hope we shall keep in touch. Halstead is not far so do come and see us.

What else can we say but Thank You and God Bless you.

Barry and Janet Rose



PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO
ARE TO BE CONFIRMED
AT 10 AM ON
SUNDAY MAY 8TH
IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH



MOTHERS' UNION

We meet in the Hall on Wednesday May 25th at 2.30 pm. It will be a meeting in which we all take part - Carol Harris has made the new altar covers for the High Altar in St John's and the covers for the Lady Chapel are nearly completed. Thank you Carol - for your help in our project to provide the new covers.

I must mention Ethel Bateson - who was a M.U. member during her life time. We thank her for her witness to family life in this parish.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We are always pleased to welcome new members to this group which, it has been decided, will in future be meeting fortnightly. The dates for the next three meetings, all of which will start at 8.15, are as follows:

Wed. May 4	at Ragni's, 38 Bentfield Road
Tue. May 17	at Frances', 45 Sunnyside
Tue. June 7	at Frances', 45 Sunnyside

For more information please ring Fran on 815817 or Ragni on 816070.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Easter Day Christopher Ireland, 58 St John's Road
Charlene Halls, 18 Priory Drive
Lee Harrington, 11 Mount Drive

Departed

8th April Christine Patricia How, Hatfield Haven Hatfield Heath Age 76
11th April Ronald Joseph Hey, Station Road Great Dunmow Age 75
13th April Ethel Matilda Bateson, Spencer Close Age 89

CHURCH DIARY

MAY

- 3 Prayer Support Group 8.15 22 Bentfield Causeway
Holy Communion Mead Court 10 am
- 4 Bible Fellowship Group 8 pm 38 Bentfield Road
- 5 Holy Communion Norman Court 10 am
- 8 Confirmation by Bishop of Colchester 10 am St John's
- 10 Tuesday Club 10 Hargrave Close 2 pm
Tiny Tots St John's 2.15 pm
- 12 Ascension Day: St Mary's School Eucharist 9.15 St John's
Sung Eucharist St John's 8 pm
- 15 Rev'd R Wiggs, Preaching at 9.30 Eucharist on the Inner City Church
- 15 Deanery Evensong, 6.30 pm Clavering Church
Unity Service 7 pm St Theresa's
- 22 Whit Sunday: Eucharist 9.30 St Mary's
- 22 Holy Communion for intercession for the sick and suffering with hymns and
the laying-on of hands - 4 pm St John's

JUNE

- 2 Normans Court 10 am Eucharist
- 6 Education and Ministry Group : at Marion's House
- 7 Mead Court 10 am Eucharist
- 12 Parish Walk and Ploughman's after Sunday morning service. All very welcome!

CURATE'S LETTER

The Church should always be prayerfully looking for new ways to express God's love for His world. In St John's at 4 pm on Sunday May 22nd we will be seeking to do this by introducing a service of 'Holy Communion for intercession for the sick and suffering with hymns and the laying on of hands'. The care by the Church for those who suffer is of course not new. Since Christ we have been praying, visiting and anointing those in need. However, that part of our Christian ministry which involves the 'laying-on of hands' has often been either neglected or used to build up false expectations of miraculous healings.

The intention of the service in St John's is to pray for those who are sick and suffering and offer them to God's love through the Eucharist. After receiving communion there will be an opportunity for those who wish to go to the Lady Chapel where one of the clergy will lay hands on each person's head and say a quiet prayer over them. People can receive the laying-on of hands for themselves or on the behalf of somebody else. This will be done in a relaxed and calm fashion. Members of the Education and Ministry Group went to a similar service in Saffron Walden which they highly praised for its caring, peaceful atmosphere.

It is important to remember that to some extent we are all sick and suffering people because we all fall short of the image of God in which we are made. Through our prayer, the Eucharist and the laying on of hands, we believe that God will draw us closer to Him and gradually restore us to the sort of life that He wants for us.

Every Church service is partly an intercession for the sick and suffering. Our service in St John's on the afternoon of May 22nd will simply allow us to focus all our attention on those in need (which includes all of us) and offer them to God. This service will be held once a month and we would appreciate your feelings about it.

Wishing you every Blessing
Fr Tony

Hello, it's a tired but happy curate speaking to you after a marvellous week at the St Albans Youth Festival. Around 200 of us spent a week eating and sleeping at a school near the Cathedral and then during the day using the Cathedral itself for workshops and worship. We had a very good time indeed.

Below is our new programme. Please everybody try to attend our 'Children versus Parents' afternoon on 15th May. For further information phone:

Fr Tony King 814463
Paula Holmes 59068
Brenda Towle 813712

or see Richard Hart
Martin Corbishley
Gary West

YOUTH CLUB PROGRAMME

		Under 14	Over 14	
1st May	House Group	6.30	8.00 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent
8th May	Barbecue in Farnham	6.00	6.00 pm	St John's (depart)
15th May	Us versus Parents (Sports Afternoon)	2.30	2.30 pm	St Mary's School
22nd May	Give us a Clue/Quiz	6.30	8.00 pm	St John's
29th May	Mystery Tour Over 14 May Cups Game Under 14	6.30	8.00 pm	St John's St John's
5th June	House Group		8.00 pm	43 Gilbey Crescent

**Partners
in Mission**
*With the
Province of Central Africa*



ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - KASUPE

The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel ("U.S.P.G.") under the banner of "Partners in Mission", establishes and orchestrates links between Christian communities in the United Kingdom and overseas. It is the intention and hope that such links will be two way and that both parties to a link will grow and benefit from it in both spiritual and material terms.

The U.S.P.G. Group of St. John's Church recently considered various projects being supported by U.S.P.G. and decided to set up a link with St. Luke's Hospital at Kasupe in Southern Malawi. This project replaces the Parish's support of the children's hostels in Barrackpore in India which has been concluded.

Malawi is rated by the United Nations as one of the world's poorest countries which has no mineral resources and which relies almost wholly on agricultural products - tea, tobacco, sugar, cotton and groundnuts. In spite of substantial economic development in recent years, Malawi remains amongst the poorest countries in the world. There are serious health problems and, in some areas, 40% of all children die before they are five years old and many people suffer from endemic diseases.

In the southern of the country's two Dioceses there are two Church Hospitals, one of them St. Luke's, and eight health centres. Each hospital has one doctor. The health centres are run by medical assistants, mid-wives and a few junior staff. The Malawian Government shoulders the burden of salaries, whilst the Church meets the cost of drugs, equipment, transport, building materials, repairs and general running expenses.

There are many shortages within the hospitals but the Malawian Government, which cannot fully support its own hospitals, will not take over the mission hospitals. The hospitals provide a good standard of health care and patients travel enormous distances for treatment.

St. Luke's Hospital in particular serves a population of over 143,000 within a 20 km radius of the hospital (based on 1977 population figures). Annually the hospital treats some 33,000 out-patients and almost 4,900 admissions. Antenatal advice is given to nearly 6,000 mothers and over 1,200 babies are delivered. In excess of one million laboratory tests are carried out annually and approaching 6,000 vaccinations are given. The need is demonstrably large and the demands on the hospital are great. Its work deserves financial support.

In February the U.S.P.G. Group held a Coffee Morning which raised £52 for St. Luke's and it is intended that the proceeds from the Lent collection boxes should also go to St. Luke's. Later in the year further specific fund raising projects are planned and it is hoped that a speaker with knowledge of St. Luke's will visit the parish to preach.

During May 1988 some fact sheets regard to the St. Luke's project will be posted at the back of St. John's and further items will be included in the Link as we learn more about the project. Further information can be obtained from Alastair Richardson (0279 815518).

Alastair Richardson

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

What a lovely time we had on Good Friday. In spite of the weather forecast the day was fine and we all managed to eat our lunch picnic fashion in the playground. The children all behaved beautifully and were full of enthusiasm and ideas. I'm sure this feeling of joy was apparent during the service in St. John's Church.

It is impossible to mention all the names of the fifty-plus adults who gave so generously of their time and energy and I know they would not wish me to do so, however I will write a little about four of them. First of all, Tim Richards. Thankyou Tim for giving the children the true story of Good Friday and Easter in such an interesting way. Many of the children and adults came to me and said how much they enjoyed their thirty minutes with you. Several said that they could have listened to you all day. Next, Ann Conroy! How would we ever keep sixty infants happy without her original ideas and superb organisation? Thankyou Ann for so many years' dedication. Of course Good Friday would not be Good Friday without Peter Harris. He is always the first to remind me that we must get started on the Project, usually in January. If we ask for a submarine, a ship or a snake he never turns a hair. He quietly organises his helpers and is always ready on time with plans for the children to follow on the day. Last of all, Father Tony. How lucky we have been to have a Curate who can write such good plays for the children to perform! Although the final production is the work of many helpers, the original story comes from Tony and we say thankyou to him for this years "Rock Salvation".

To you all - Activity Leaders, Escorts and Infant Assistants - thank you all. I am sure God will bless you all for your loyalty and enthusiasm.

Marion Johnson

THE GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT 1988

This was the best Good Friday Project ever. It was very co-ordinated and everyone knew what they were doing. I enjoyed being there because the atmosphere was one of love and happiness. As I type I am thinking of the chorus of "When I needed a neighbour" ("... and the creed and the colour and the name wont matter") because I think that is the best way of conveying the scene to anyone who was not there.

Through words, music and drama, "Rock Salvation" told how Rockman broke away from the restricted life of his people, was overpowered by a very evil looking snake, but overcame death with the LOVE shown to him by Rockgirl and the animals. I think (and hope) that the message was conveyed from the microphone to the audience, who really went along with the singing.

Many thanks are due to Mrs. Johnson (I dread to think what the project would be like without her). Thankyou also to Father Tony and all the others who nobly gave up so much time and energy in acting as cogs and wheels, turning an idea into a play. Last, but not least, thank you to the children who made the whole thing possible and the parents who made it all worthwhile.

Printed below is the full text of a statement made by the Parochial Church Council at the Annual Church Meeting on Tuesday 19th April 1988.

The Parish of Stansted Mountfitchet

"Over the past few years the Parochial Church Council has been conscious of the difficulties of running two churches, both from the pastoral and the financial points of view.

The PCC believes strongly that the mission of the Church is to worship God, to care for our neighbours, and to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. We are to be concerned for all men, women and children, whether they be members of our congregation or not. Our mission is to the living, and our eyes must be fixed on the future.

Church buildings are important to us as a means towards the ends of glorifying God and spreading the Gospel. For our common worship, we need a church that is big enough and reasonably comfortable. Many people are brought closer to God by beautiful buildings and by the feeling of worship that they can instil. But we must remember that "our God dwelleth not in the temples made with hands". Our worship and service must be directed to God, not to the place in which we worship Him.

All our regular Sunday and weekday services can be accommodated in St. John's, which is close to the main centres of population and of village life. Our pattern of services is such that St. Mary's is scarcely used at all between the end of September and Easter, that is for half the year. During the summer we use it for Evensong and some Communion services, none of which attracts a congregation of more than 30 or so. Even though considerable savings were achieved through closing St. Mary's for most of the winter, the net ordinary expenses still amount to some £1,000 per annum. It is of even greater concern that following the last quinquennial inspection of St. Mary's we are confronted with repairs costing possibly £40,000. We feel that we cannot in good conscience contemplate all the distractions and demands on the parish that would come with yet another appeal.

The PCC has, therefore, sought advice from the diocese and from the Council for the Care of Churches, and their advice has been that the best course would be to ensure that St. Mary's is looked after properly by vesting its care in the Redundant Churches Fund. The RCF is jointly funded by the Church and the State and takes over the ownership of churches of sufficient architectural merit that are no longer required for parochial purposes and for which a suitable alternative use cannot be found. Churches in the care of the Fund are put into good order and maintained to a good standard and they can be visited. Some services can still be held in them and in addition, a Church can be used for other events by other bodies, with permission. If in the future there is a pastoral need for a church in the care of the Fund, then it can be considered for return to parish use. The term "Redundant" is unfortunate since a church in the care of the Fund is being preserved for future generations and often looked after far better than could have been possible for a PCC with limited funds at its disposal.

With all these considerations in mind, the PCC has advised the Diocesan Pastoral Committee that St. Mary's Church is surplus to the parish's present pastoral requirements, with a view to the building being considered for vesting in the Redundant Churches Fund.

What would this mean for us?

St. Mary's would be well maintained and available for future use if the village expanded enormously with the development of the airport. We would be able to hold a few services and events there - perhaps at Easter or on St. Mary's Day. Visitors would be able to see the church. Bell ringing would be able to

continue and arrangements can be made for people to play the organ. All our ordinary services would be at St. John's together with other church activities. The churchyard would remain open for burials, but funeral services would be held in St. John's. Similarly all weddings would be in St. John's.

We are conscious that many parishioners feel a strong sentimental attachment to St. Mary's - perhaps because of baptism, marriage, the funeral of a loved one, or other associations. Breaking with the past is never easy, and this has been an agonising decision-making process for the PCC. However, having carefully weighed all the issues, we are sure that the decision reached is right for this moment in the life of our church in Stansted.

The decision to commence what is now a consultative process, which may take up to two years, was a unanimous one - with every member of the PCC assenting. We believe it is the way forward and hope for the understanding and support of the parish.

19th April 1988"

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

UTTLESFORD CAMTAD

Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness

COMES TO STANSTED

If you have a hearing problem

**RING — HELP B.S.
9.00 am — 4.00 pm. LINE 816008.**



ASCENSION DAY

4

THURSDAY MAY 12TH

ST MARY'S SCHOOL EUCHARIST

9.15AM

SUNG EUCHARIST IN S. JOHN'S

8PM

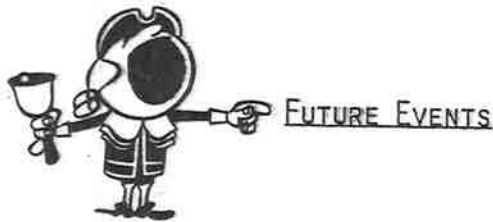


"OUR VILLAGE"

Our Parish has, as the planning for the 21st Century informs us, a population of about 5,400. Although these figures were drawn together in 1986, they would still provide a fair guide for 1988. Soon important decisions will be made as to the depth our village (now so often referred to as a town) is to be involved in future development. It may now therefore be of interest to look back a few years seeing how our population has increased. In 1931, a little over fifty years ago, the parish recorded 2,488. This figure would have included Bentfield End. 1911's population was said to have been 2,344. Of these 1,111 were males while females numbered 1,233. The Stansted Rural District census of 1901 showed a total population of 6,888. This involved ten parishes, Berden, Birchanger, Gt & Lt Hallingbury, Henham, Manuden, Stansted, Ugley, Elsenham and Farnham.

We will now turn back just one hundred years to 1888 and recall some of the services our village could provide for its community of around 2,000 inclusive of Bentfield End (than often referred to as "Benfield"). The Central Hall offered Post Office, Literary Institute, Reading Rooms, Lecture Hall. A newly opened Liberal Club (today's Social Club). Places of Worship found St. Mary's Church (St. John's or the Chapel of Ease was under construction) Congregational Chapel, Society of Friends and Primitive Methodists. A Church of England School with an average attendance of 220, along with the British School able to hold 120 children. The Great Eastern Railway Station with Mr. A. Harris as Station Master. Stansted Gas Company were lighting some streets with gas lights. Police under Sergeant D. Woodcock, Fire Engine, a Brewery with around six beer retailers and five Public Houses. Wind and Steam Mills. Bakers, butchers, builders, brick & drainpipe makers, blacksmiths, boot-shoe & basket makers, chimney sweep, coal & corn merchants, chemist, coach builders, drapers, land & estate agent, fishmonger, fly proprietor, farmers, grocers, ginger beer maker, hairdresser, ironmonger, insurance agent, maltsters, plumbers and glaziers, stationer, surgeons, tin plate worker and watchmaker, who bids us time to stop.

P. J. Brown



FUTURE EVENTS

May

- 5 8.00 Day Centre. Stansted
Local History Soc. AGM
(see notice)
- 6 2.30 Day Centre A.G.M.
- 7 2.00 Youth Centre, Lower St.
Guides & Scouts May Fayre
- 16-21 Christian Aid Week
(See front page)
- 18 8.00 7 Blythwood Gdns.
Justice & Peace Group
- 23 7.30 Conservatives Car
Treasure Hunt
- 25 11.00 Day Centre
Dr Barnardo's Morning
Market
- 29 Visit to Chevetogne
Parish. Belgium



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The first Annual General Meeting will be held at the Day Centre at 8 p.m. on Thursday 5th May 1988. After the business Jackie Worthington will talk on the Oakshott Chronicles (Mr. Oakshott was Vicar of Stansted from 1900-1903) and there will be a "presentation" based on the Parish Council Minutes of 1908-1913.

All those interested in any aspect of local history are welcome to this and the Society's other meetings. As well as hearing a speaker each month, groups are actively engaged in collecting reminiscences (particularly from the elderly), newspaper cuttings relating to Stansted, recording changes photographically and on maps, noting the whereabouts of documents and artifacts, in fact anything members care to follow up.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday in the month from September to May, inclusive, at the Day Centre at 8 p.m. Annual membership subscriptions are £5 for single membership, £7.50 for joint membership of two persons in one household and £2.00 for juniors and senior citizens. A charge of 75p is made for visitors for the evening. There is usually something of interest on display to look at when a break is taken for tea or coffee. Do come along!

Peggy Honour, Secretary
813160

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the joint branch was held at the Day Centre on Friday 11th March. The speaker was Alan Haselhurst our Member of Parliament.

A Conservative Parish Councillor's Surgery was held at the Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, on Saturday 26th March.

The speaker at the meeting at the "Three Colts" on Monday 28th March was P.C. James, Crime Prevention Officer, Harlow Police. His subject was "Home Security".

A Ladies Lunch was held at the Day Centre on 30th March. A delicious lunch was served by the Committee and then Pam Birse demonstrated the art of making sugar flowers for the cake decorations. She works at the Cake Icing Centre who are Sugar Craft Specialists in Sworders Yard, North Street, Bishop's Stortford.

On 23rd May (Monday) there will be a car treasure hunt starting at 7.30.

A coach trip has been arranged for Tuesday 5th July to Clendon Park, West Clendon, Guildford, Surrey. The coach will leave Stansted at 9.30 and return about 6 p.m. The cost will be £5.50 for National Trust Members and £7 for others. Anybody is welcome to come and should contact Betty Waterman, B/S 813150.

Clendon Park was built in the early 1730s for the 2nd Lord Onslow by Venetian architect, Giacomo Leoni; two storeyed marble hall; Onslow family pictures and furniture and Gubbay collection of porcelain, furniture and needlework; old kitchens; Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum; garden with parterre, grotto and Maori House. National Trust Shop. Licensed restaurant in house. Lunches 12.30-2. Teas 3.15-5.30. Prior booking for lunch advisable (Guildford (0483) 222502). There is a picnic area.

All other enquiries to:-
Bridget Gott 814440 or
Pat Bickerton 812411.

CREATURES OF THE EARTH

Two swans sitting together on a bank, their beautiful white bodies resplendent in feathers. Their long necks so thin, and yet so graceful, twist and turn. They nuzzle against each other for the warmth of the other's body. When swimming on the water they seem almost regal, with their heads held high and their long necks straight. When sleeping on the bank they seem like a clump of white shining plumage, with their black and orange beaks tucked into their bodies.

The two swans must not be disturbed when they have their grey downy babies, for it is then that they show their aggressive side and hiss at the predators. They would not hesitate to attack another creature to protect their offspring, such strong, powerful birds. When dealing with swans, think of them as beautiful creatures, and let them live their lives as Creatures of the Earth.

Anna Skingle



STANSTED SOCIAL AND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

The committee of the Liberals and the SDP have now combined following the decision to launch the Democrats. We quickly got down to business producing a programme of events for the year. As Link goes to press the first constituency supper party was due to take place in Stansted Day Centre with guest speaker Shirley Williams, joint president of the Democrats.

Social and fund raising events in the near future will be:

15 May. Bring and share picnic in Hatfield Forest, weather permitting. Details from Catherine Dean, tel. 813579.

6 June. Market Stall in Bishop's Stortford. Details from Judy Goddard, tel. 812498.

25 June. Stansted Carnival stall. Details from Alan Dean, tel. 813579.

Later in the year we have planned a car boot sale, pet show, jumble sale, bonfire party and a theatre trip.

The Democrats' more political activities have been distributed to all homes in Stansted in the April edition of Stansted Spotlight.

For further details of our group and about membership contact Frances Spalding, tel. 813432 or Tim Richards, tel. 812748.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

As recently published in the 'Link', there will be a meeting to discuss the aims and objectives of setting up a Justice & Peace Group in Stansted. This will be held on Wednesday 18th May 1988 at the home of Mike Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Anyone interested is most welcome to attend.



DR. BARNARDO'S MORNING MARKET

Wednesday 25th May at 11.00 a.m.
Keep it free for the Dr. Barnardo's Morning Market! We're holding it at the Day Centre this year. Everyone is welcome.

There's the usual marvellous raffle with lots of prizes, 'bring and buy', cakes, delicatessen, plants, flowers, 'guess the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc. Bring your friends and enjoy yourself in a good cause. Entrance 50p, inc. coffee.

P. Garnell 813124



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The tennis club Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 29th March at Little Fosters, Cambridge Road, Stansted.

Afternoon tennis for senior members started on Easter Sunday and will continue until 23rd October when we change to playing in the mornings. Teas are served on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer.

The first tournament of the season was played on Sunday 10th April. Jack and Diana Pearce, who moved to Somerset last year, presented a cup to the club which will be competed for annually on the second Sunday in April. It is called the Pearce/Frodo Cup. Frodo is their Labrador, who was a regular visitor to the club for many years. Twenty-two people entered the Tournament and the cup was won by Jack Pearce and Janet Hollis who beat Tristan Girling and Paul Bristow by 6 games to 3 in the final. The tournament was organised by Chris Hollis and tea was served by the committee. Diana Pearce presented the cup. Richard Mott then presented a Shield to John Eyre who was the winner of the Winter League.

Anybody interested in senior or junior coaching should contact Janet Hollis, 812073.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME and should contact Janet Hollis for all details.

NATIONAL WOMENS'S REGISTER

An unexpected change in our programme last month led to the cancellation of our evening on the Sikh religion and culture (this will now be held in June).

National Headquarters had asked each group to hold a meeting to debate the position of N.W.R. today; whether it was continuing to meet or whether we were all self-sufficient enough to do without N.W.R. The consensus of opinion in our small group appeared to be a resounding vote of confidence in N.W.R. We thought we would really miss the opportunity for thoughtful and informed discussion that we get through belonging to our group; even those who disagreed would miss the companionship that had been built up by the membership over the past years.

None of us are experts in any field but it can be worthwhile researching a new subject and everyone can contribute as an individual as much or as little as she feels able to. Some subjects bring out the humorous side of our natures and others the more thoughtful side but we all gain from hearing what others have to say. Our meetings are informal and often very funny but we do feel we would all gain from an influx of new members:- Why not try coming along to one of our meetings - our next one might well be a good introduction for you. We are having a speaker - Ann English - who is a local Marriage Guidance Counsellor and will be speaking to us about her career - no consultations on the night please! Our hostess is Lynn on 27th April and our venue Squire's Cottage, Bentfield Causeway. If you would like to come why not ring Julie on 59129 or Katy on 812997. If you would like to be picked up transport can be arranged.

Eileen Quinn

The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood



A big thankyou to everyone who helped and/or contributed to our Nearly New Sale in March which once again proved to be very successful. In April there was another chance to buy some handmade wooden toys or pretty patchwork at the Craft Party - but for those of you who could not come we will be holding another one in the autumn (just in time for Christmas presents)!

Spring has at last arrived and we have arranged some more interesting events for this month:-

- May 11th - CHEESE & WINE EVENING at the Crafton Green Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. 8.30 - 11 p.m.
Do you have a new baby or young children? Have you just moved into the area? Why don't you come along for a glass of wine and a chat, all mums and dads are very welcome (members or non-members). Tickets are £1 per person available from committee members or pay at the door.
- May 25th - PICNIC LUNCH at MOLEHALL WILDLIFE PARK, Widdington. Meet in the car park at 12.30.
- May 26th - COOL KIDS CLOTHES PARTY at Christine's, 45 Bentfield Causeway, Stansted, 8.30 p.m.

Cour coffee mornings are as follows:-

TODDLERS

- Fri May 6th Anette's, 2 Washington Meads, Maitland Rd Stansted. Tel. 816409
Fri May 13th Penny's, 3 Sunnyside, Stansted. Tel. 814763
Fri May 20th Jackie's, 6 High Street, Elsenham. Tel. 816282
Fri May 27th Amanda's, 3 Bentfield Rd, Stansted. Tel. 815192

UNDER 1's

- Thur May 5th Claire's, 47 Gilbey Cres. Stansted. Tel. 816772
Thur May 12th Jane's, 52 Bentfield Rd, Stansted. Tel. 813138
Thur May 19th Marcia's, 5 Millside, Stansted. Tel. 813295
Thur May 26th Pascale's, 57 Woodfields, Stansted. Tel. 812500

BABIES & CRAWLERS

- Tue May 3rd Jackie's, 'Crodwents', Stansted Rd, Elsenham. Tel. 813206
Tue May 10th Pascale's, 57 Woodfields, Stansted. Tel. 812500
Tue May 17th Christine's, 45 Bentfield Causeway, Stansted. Tel. 815239
Tue May 24th Katie's, Mill Cottage, 10 Millside, Stansted. Tel. 813841
Tue May 31st Viv's, 2 Croasdaile Rd, Stansted. Tel. 813981

Hope you can make it to some of the above. See you all soon. Christine

**STANSTED GUIDES AND SUPPORTERS
COMMITTEE**

As re-elected chairman for a final year of office, I would like, on behalf of the committee, to thank the Guiders and helpers most sincerely. They do a wonderful job for our daughters, in a completely voluntary capacity, and are unstinting in their efforts. So much so that, compared with the national picture which shows waning interest, Stansted is thriving and expanding to such an extent that we need a new Brownie pack and a new Guide company. This can only show how lucky we are to have such enthusiastic and dedicated Leaders. Thank you all.

If anyone would like to become a Guider please contact Jan King on 850 469 or any Guider.

Fran Panrucker



GUIDES & SCOUTS

MAY FAYRE

Saturday 7th May


2.00 p.m.

Youth & Adult Centre
Lower Street



All the usual attractions
Very good raffle
Bouncy Castle
Running Auction - please ring
Fran Panrucker 815817
if you have items
to auction





**EXTENSIONS
GENERAL
BUILDING
RENOVATIONS**



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

MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

A three course luncheon, tastefully served by Mrs Pearl Wellings and her helpers was enjoyed by the Mountfitchet Seniors at their meeting on the first Wednesday in April. Guests of honour were Miss K Kidner O.B.E., former County Organiser for Age Concern Essex and her successor Mrs Janette McCulloch.

Mrs McCulloch spoke of her work for Age Concern in the county and she and Miss Kidner spent some time chatting

individually to members. The afternoon ended with a television quiz, both lighthearted and otherwise, which was won by Miss Berry.

We are very grateful to our friends in Stansted who have volunteered to provide transport to the meetings for members unable to walk the distance or use a service bus, and also to Mrs Janet Hollis for organising the rota.

DRIVERS

If you could offer to drive once every six weeks for either meals on wheels or the Seniors Club please contact:-
Janet Hollis
B/S 812073

A petrol allowance is made



STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

Mrs Calver, the president, welcomed members to the April meeting and gave a special welcome to a new member and a visitor. The lovely sunny afternoon was a pleasant change to the snow which fell on the previous Saturday for the coffee morning, held at the Day Centre. This event was well attended and the several stalls did a brisk trade. A vote of thanks was given to all who helped and attended a happy and successful morning. Members were reminded of the Spring Group meeting to be held at Elsenham this year, on 28th April.

The speaker for the afternoon was Mr Eric Mapel who gave an amusing talk on Haunted Essex, talking especially about the coastal marshes and the forests.

A collage of a Bird of Prey was this month's competition, the winning entry to go forward as our contribution to the Group meeting competition. Mrs B Lockwood, with an entry of a Golden Eagle was judged winner, with Mrs P Little second. Raffle winners were Mrs C French and Mrs L Bowman.

P. Cianciola
814487



DAY CENTRE

It is good to see that the number of people using the Day Centre still continues to increase. Anyone over 60 can be assured of a warm welcome, whether you come for a rest after shopping, just a chat or that cup that cheers. Twenty six members enjoyed an afternoon in March of quizzes and games, including Give us a Clue. Small prizes were given to the winners. Tuesday April 12th forty six members enjoyed an afternoon at Bury St Edmunds. All enjoyed the Abbey Gardens, and those who visited the Cathedral would have noticed the kneelers. There are 1,088 of these, given by all the parishes in the diocese. On a dark blue background to represent the Suffolk Wood Trade, and light blue for the skies around us, there is an emblem of the saint or locality of each church, and each has the name of the village. They were made by men, women and children between 1952 and 1966. Another eye-catching work: the nine banners used in the pageant at the 1,100th anniversary of St Edmund's death. These were made by nine schools and show the history of King Edmund. We look forward now to our trip in May to Windsor and visit to The Royal and Empire Exhibition. Hoping that you will all endeavour to attend the A.G.M. on May 6th.

Day Centre Diary for May

Tues May 3rd Bingo 2.00 pm
Thur May 5th Keep Fit 2.30 pm
Fri May 6th Annual General Meeting
2.30pm
Tues May 10th Beetle Drive 2.00 pm 25p
Wed May 11th Day Trip to Windsor and
Royal & Empire Exhibition
Leave Day Centre 9.30 am
Fare £4 Exhibition £1.95
Thur May 12th Keep Fit 2.30 pm

Fri May 13th Whist Drive 2.00 pm
25p
Tue May 17th Bingo 2.00 pm
Thur May 19th Keep Fit 2.30 pm
Thur May 26th Keep Fit 2.30 pm
Fri May 27th Whist Drive 2.00 pm
25p

MAY CAROL

We have been rambling half the night
And almost all the day,
And now, returned back again
We've brought you a bunch of May.

A branch of May we've brought to you
And at your door it stands
It is but a sprout, but it's well
branched out
By the work of our Lord's hands.

O, we were up as soon as day
To fetch the summer home;
The summer is a-coming-on
And winter is a-gone.

And now my song is nearly done
I can no longer stay;
So God bless you all, both great
and small
And I wish you a joyful May!



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

After completion of business, members at the March meeting heard a splendid talk by Brenda Fuller, from Clavering, on her nursing experiences in the Second World War. She told how as a young sister in Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Service, she went across to Normandy with the Second Front. For a time she served on the Resuscitation Unit reviving and cleaning up seriously injured soldiers suffering from shock. She was transferred to a head and facial injury section and told of the horrific disfigurements she saw and the patient skill of the army surgeons in rebuilding faces.

Our next meeting will be in Stansted Day Centre on Thursday 19th May, when Mrs. Yates will tell us about embroidery on canvas.

Extra donations have brought the total for our coffee morning on 16th March to over £120.

Pat Clower
815220

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Group 'C' meeting held at the Day Centre, Stansted, on Friday 18 March was well attended by representatives of many of the branches in the Group. Mr Bob Stoddard gave the report on behalf of Stansted Branch. The Women's Section kindly provided refreshments.

The next Group 'C' meeting is on Saturday 21 May at 7.30 pm at Newport Village Hall and it is hoped that as many members from our branch as possible will attend.

POPPY APPEAL

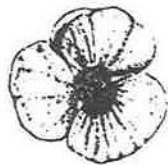
We have just heard that the 1987 National total reached over £8 million. A wonderful result which was again a record and we just hope that records will be broken every year.

In Stansted we are still in need of a Poppy Organiser for our area and the need is getting urgent so that plans can be made in advance for this year. Anyone willing to help should please speak to a committee member.

SPRINGTIME SUPPER

This was held on Friday 25 March at the Day Centre and there was a record attendance happily including Mrs Gabb, President of the Women's Section and Mrs Pearl Wellings, Chairman of the Parish Council. The committee is most grateful to all the friends who supported this excellent and happy function but it was a pity that more of our local members were unable to come along with their wives. Apart from a good addition to our funds we had two more applications from people wishing to join our branch.

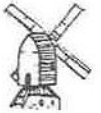
Seven members of our branch attended the farewell party for the Rev Barry Rose our Hon. Chaplain, held at St John's Church on Easter Monday. We are sorry that he is leaving but we all wish him well at Halstead.



POPPY APPEAL

ORGANISER FOR STANSTED NEEDED
URGENTLY

Please phone offers to 813314



STANSTED MILLERS

What's that? We are a voluntary group formed to support the preservation of Stansted Windmill. There are regular open days during the year (see advertisement inside back cover) and fund-raising is done in various ways. If you would like more information or are interested in helping in any way, please contact me.

A.G.M. Photographs of some of the windmills and watermills owned by the National Trust were among the slides shown by Mr. Aubrey Levey at the recent Annual General Meeting. It was reported that in the past year approximately 3,500 had visited Stansted Windmill, which is probably a record. Proceeds from the sale of goods had risen and the Millers would be able to donate £1,000 towards the next stage of restoration of the Mill, leaving sufficient funds to re-invest in more items for sale.

Goods for Sale Tile teapot stands @ £2.75; Tile wall plaques @ £2.50; Tea towels @ £1.75, all depicting Stansted Windmill, also notebooks, badges, pens, postcards and other books, on sale when the mill is open or from 59 Blythwood Gardens.

Future Events It is hoped to hold a coffee evening where the video of last years 200th anniversary celebrations will be shown; a mini-fete around the mill is planned for 29th August Bank Holiday Monday and a Barn Dance is booked for Saturday 1st October at the Mountfitchet School. Look out for further details on the noticeboards.

Peggy Honour
813160

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

V	I	C	A	R	A	G	E		G
I	A	A	O	A	S	T	S		H
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X				S	P	L	E	N	D

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& STANSTED CHAMBER OF TRADE
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If you have a
PROBLEM
or need
ASSISTANCE
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HELPLINE

816008

Monday~Friday
9.00 am-4.00 pm

Stansted's voluntary
community care service

JUDY GODDARD

GOING AWAY?
(for a week or a year)

But who will - cut the lawn - water the plants - house and garden
keep the weeds down - feed and exercise the dog
feed the cat, budgie or fish - forward the mail

JUDY GODDARD will willingly do all these tasks,
and others of which she may not have thought.

Please telephone Bishop's Stortford 812498 to discuss your needs.

If out, messages may be left at Bishop's Stortford 813160.

party? WHERE? dance?

**UGLEY
VILLAGE HALL**

Phone - 813102

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

OPEN 2.30- 6.30 pm
1st Sunday April to October

ALSO
Sunday & Monday of Bank Holidays
ALSO every Sunday in August
ADMISSION

Adults 50p Accompanied Children 25p
PARTIES catered for by appointment
Phone B S 812096

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