

Feb 89

The *LINK*



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STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
UNITED LENTEN SERVICES 1989



DATES FOR LENTEN MEETINGS
FEBRUARY AND MARCH

The Lent Ecumenical Services will be at

Sunday 12th February - Methodist Service
Friends Meeting House
Sunday 19th February - See Church
Bulletins
Sunday 26th February - Quaker Service
Friends Meeting House
Sunday 5th March - U.R.C. Service
U.R.C. Church
Sunday 12th March - Agape - St John's Hall

Lent Group Meetings

Wednesday Venue Dorothy Oswald
3 White Bear
Friday Venue Mr & Mrs Quinn
4 Greenfields

First meeting Wednesday 15th February -
Friday 17th February
Tuesday 14th February First Television
Programme

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

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

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

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

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily
represent those of the SACC, its member churches,
village organisations or advertisers.

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
9th February for March issue
9th March for April issue

SACC

Methodist

GREETINGS FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR UNITY

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill,

Received from Sister Manuella in Chevetogne:

Minister: The Rev'd Harold Fisher
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford.
Tel: 54475

UNITY is the free gift of grace. It is ahead of us because it is already realised in Jesus Christ. The church is upheld, in hope, toward this end. Thus, prayer is essential: thankfulness for the gift and unflinching supplication for its fulfilment.

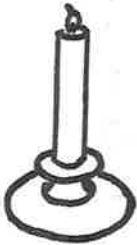
Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

A. Houssiau
Bishop of Liege

In the heart of this prayer and all through the Week of Prayer for Unity, I am in communication with each of you and all the Christians of Stansted.

We continue with "Christian", John Bunyan's pilgrim. He had found a new and filial relationship with God by trusting in God's love as we know His love in our crucified and risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. He goes on his way to the Celestial City, made sad by the apathy of Sloth, Simple and Presumption, but having peace and joy in his heart from the mercy and grace of God experienced by encountering Christ on the cross.

Sister Manuella



The collection for Crisis at Christmas taken during the Carol Singing in the Memorial Gardens on December 21st raised £43.00. Thankyou.

He has entered upon the divine way by trusting in the boundless and free love of Jesus as God's own grace to him. That was the true gate into the Christian Pilgrimage. But soon he encounters two men who "climb up some other way", who try to be rightly related to God by some other way than trusting in God's gracious love in Christ. Their names are Formalist and Hypocrisy, the one lacking in real, vital life and the other in true, genuine sincerity.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(Interdenominational)

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY"



3RD MARCH 1989

For Formalist just to go through the motions was sufficient to be safely and truly in the Christian Way. Going through the motions may be the mere routine observance of religious ceremonies. It may be mere formal, "top-of-the-head" recital of creeds and theologies. It may be a rather dead and dull round of involvement in church business and activities. Whatever outward expression it takes, the inner spirit is that of trusting in formal routines rather than in the amazing love of God our Father, as He has given that love to us in Jesus. This, at root, is trusting in ourselves. It is not a really living and loving relationship with God.

Time: 2.00 p.m.
Place: St. Theresa's, Millside
Creche: 5 Millside (Marcia Tailby)
Speaker: Sister Elizabeth, Bishop's Stortford
Collection: for Christian Literature Overseas

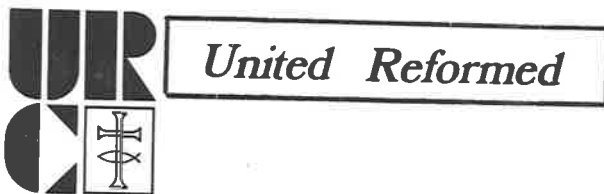
Bunyan's character Hypocrisy was in worse error. There is sincerity in Formalist's lifeless routine. But it is absent from Hypocrisy's way. His was the way of pretence, of play-acting, of trying to make things appear right when they were not. In the long run this will deceive very few. But it may deceive the one who practices it. And therein lies his great spiritual danger, that of becoming a

self-deceiving falsehood. Jesus says of those who parade their religion (praising, fasting, alms-giving) in hypocrisy, "Truly I tell you, they have their reward". The applause of some people is what they get and it is all they get. There is no real spiritual growth that way. It is a fool's world.

Of course dead formalism and foolish hypocrisy are dangers any of us may fall into and do at times. It is not the occasional lapse but the settled condition and trusting in those stances and pretences that are the real danger. God protect us from them.

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.

"You call me to follow you:
You wait for me at every turn of the road;
You add the spring to my step
and you pace me when the going is hard.
Bear with me when my dragging feet
betray, not that I am tired, but that my
heart is not in the journey and the
Kingdom is not my goal."

These words from a prayer in the 1989 U.R.C. Prayer Handbook speak directly to my condition, and I suspect to many other Christians aswell.

Lent offers us an opportunity to "pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and start all over again". Well, perhaps not exactly all over again, but to get the spring back in our step, the purpose back in our heart and a new sighting of the Kingdom in our eye.

We are fortunate in Stansted that we can share in the wider fellowship of all the churches during Lent, through the Sunday evening services and the House Groups (see separate announcement for the times and places), giving a wider meaning to "the people of God" and living the theme "Pilgrims not Strangers".

Eric McIlwain

Mrs C G (Christie) Johnson.

Mrs Johnson, one of the longest serving members of the Stansted U.R.C., died suddenly on Monday, January 9th. The funeral took place from the church on Monday January 16th. Her cheerful presence will be greatly missed in the village but her steady faith will remain as an inspiration to all her family and friends.

U.R.C. Services for February

Mr McIlwain is on holiday through February, please contact Mrs Rapkin in case of need.

Feb 9	11.00	Holy Communion Rev'd L Rapkin
Feb 12	11.00 6.30	Junior Church SACC Lent Service - with Methodists
Feb 19	11.00 6.30	Mr Doggett SACC Lent Service - venue TBA
Feb 26	11.00 6.30	the Rev'd L Rapkin SACC Service - Society of Friends
Mar 5	11.00 6.30	Mothering Sunday, Family Service Mr McIlwain SACC Service - U.R.C.

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Church of England

Clergy: The Rev'd Bob Wallace
 The Rev'd Brenda Wallace
 The Vicarage, St John's Road.
 Tel: 812203

The Rev'd Tony King
 43 Gilbey Crescent.
 Tel: 814463

The Rev'd Margaret Booker
 Moorlands Cottage, Burton End.
 Tel: 812684

The Rev'd Christopher Kevill-Davies
 The Old Bakery, Berden.
 Tel: 78625

Services: Held in St John's, St John's Road
 and St Mary's, Church Road.

Holy Communion	-	8am
Family Communion	-	9.30am
Children's Church	-	9.30am
Creche	-	9.30am
Holy Communion (1662)	-	11.30am
(1st and 3rd Sundays)		
Evensong	-	6.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday	-	7.30pm
Wednesday	-	10am
Thursday	-	9.15am
Friday	-	8am

In summer months some of these services are held at St Mary's. See notice in church porches for further details or ring one of the clergy.

It seems a very long time since I was approached about coming to Stansted and Farnham and it is good to be here at last. I would like to take advantage of this first letter to introduce myself and my family.

I was born and brought up in Middlesex and, after school in Harrow (not at Harrow - mine was at the bottom of the hill!), I read chemistry at Sussex University. Three years at Lincoln Theological College were followed by 12½ years in the Diocese of Rochester. I served curacies at Bromley and Dartford followed by six years as Vicar of Borstal and Chaplain of Cookham Wood Women's Prison.

Dr. Brenda is coming back to Essex. She was born in the village of Rawreth and went to school in Rayleigh. She trained as a secretarial linguist before also going to Lincoln to train as a deaconess.

It was there that we met in 1973 and we married the following year. Brenda was made deaconess in 1980 and deacon in 1987. As well as her (non-stipendiary) ministry, she has had a variety of secretarial jobs including secretary to the General Director of the Bible Society and Copyright Secretary in the General Synod Office at Church House, Westminster.

We have three children: Richard (7) and Catherine (5 next month) are at St. Mary's School, Stansted, whilst Sarah (9 months) is, of course, still at home.

Over the past six years at Borstal we have pioneered a new form of shared ministry: husband and wife who are priest and deacon(ess), working together both in the prison and in the parish. We look forward to extending that here together with Fr. Tony and Dn. Margaret whom we must all thank for their extremely hard work during the 9 month interregnum.

Inevitably 3 young children place certain - albeit welcome - restrictions on what we can do together. We were greatly helped by many kind folk in our last parish who were prepared to babysit occasionally so that we could attend meetings and parish activities together. I know that Dn. Brenda would be delighted to hear from anyone who is able to help us in this way here.

Meanwhile we look forward to getting to know you. It will take time to find our way round two parishes and to put names to faces. Please bear with us - especially when we forget a name.

Finally there is a sense in which I hope that you will soon be seeing a lot less of us. The clergy intend to slim during Lent and you are invited to sponsor us in doing so. That will give us an incentive to persevere whilst also, we hope, raising a substantial part of the parishes' contributions to the Church Urban Fund.

Fr. Bob

Diary

February

- 2 10 am Normans Ct Holy Communion
- 7 10 am Mead Ct Holy Communion
- 7 Social Event in the evening -
St John's Hall
- 12 9.30 Eucharist - St John's -
Rev'd R Bray to preach
- 14 Tuesday Club 2 pm Doreen Newby's
Tiny Tots 2.15 St John's
- 15 Fellowship Group 8 pm 45 Sunnyside
- 19 9.30 Eucharist - St John's -
Mrs Doris Sardigi to preach
- 26 9.30 Eucharist - St John's -
Rev'd Charles Watson to preach
- 28 Tiny Tots 2.15 St John's

Registers

Baptisms

James Philip Abotson - born 13/10/87
James Henry Berry - born 25/2/88

Deaths

Herbert Eldred - Saffron Walden -
Age 66 yrs

Jennifer Harris would like to thank people for all their love, help and prayers during her stay in hospital.



Our New Year is now well under way and we are busy planning for our summer holiday in Mundesley. We have a very good programme for this term culminating in an 'evening of entertainment' on March 5th at 7 pm to which everyone is invited.

I was very sad to learn over Christmas that Paula Homes, a longstanding member of our youth team, had decided to resign. We will miss her energy and enthusiasm enormously. We are all extremely grateful for her very substantial contribution to our work with young people over many years. Thankyou Paula.

So 1989 is here and we hope to see many of you at Youth Club. If you'd like to join or want more information ring one of our Youth Leaders below.

Fr Tony 814463 Richard Hart 84 3705
Martin Corbishley 813040
Ian Lauder 813239 Brenda Towle 813712

love Fr Tony



A super afternoon is promised on February 22nd at 2.30 pm in St John's Hall when we will meet for Holy Communion followed by entertainment from Fr. Tony.

Lent Programme

The Education and Ministry Group have decided upon a Lent Programme which will really help us to realise the varied Religious World in which we live. We have three speakers talking about our Christian response to other world faiths.

In doing so we will learn both about other religions as well as realising the importance of our own. Living in a multi-faith society as we do makes it important that we reach out to brothers and sisters of all backgrounds. Knowledge is a key to such reaching out. Please support the services below.

12th February: 9.30 Eucharist :
Rev'd Richard Bray
"Understanding our
Jewish Past"

19th February: 9.30 Eucharist :
Doris Sardigi
"Christianity and Islam"

26th February: 9.30 Eucharist :
Rev'd Charles Watson
"Christianity and
Hinduism"

NOW YOU SEE THEM - NOW YOU DON'T

The C of E clergy have decided to 'slim for Lent'. How can such slim trim figures lose even more weight I hear you ask? Well, we are going to try, and we would like you to sponsor us for every pound we jointly lose. Money raised will go to the Church Urban Fund as part of our parish contribution.

We are going to be 'weighed in' at the Shrove Tuesday Party and again on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). This is a superb chance to raise money and to watch your clergy disappear before your very eyes! Everyone will be receiving a sponsor sheet. Let's make it a success.

Fr Tony



SHROVE TUESDAY SOCIAL EVENING

The Shrove Tuesday Social is on 7th February beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are £1 for adults and 75p for children and OAPs. It is going to be a super evening with pancakes, a 'free' can of lager, games and a 'guess the weight of the clergy' competition. Please contact Fr Tony, Derek Honour, Ragni Whitlock or any of the clergy for tickets. We would like to know how many are coming in advance.

OVERSEAS LINKS COMMITTEE

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, KASUPE

The Parish "Good Cause" in November was St. Luke's Hospital, Kasupe in Malawi. A donation of £75 has been made to The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel towards the Hospital's work and towards the protection of medical staff treating AIDS patients.

In support of the "Good Cause", Margaret Whitelaw, who spent some years working in Malawi and is familiar with the Church's work there, spoke to the congregation on Sunday 20th November. Few were not transported from a dull November day to the warmth, beauty and life of Malawi. Margaret's portrayal of Malawi and the countryside round Kasupe, created a powerful atmosphere in which one almost heard the sounds of insects and birds in an African setting. We are most grateful to her for sparing the time to share her experience and perceptions with us.

Margaret's talk, coincided with the arrival of a second newsletter from St. Luke's, part of which is reproduced in these columns. Copies of the newsletter can be obtained from me.

Alastair Richardson
(0279) 815518

AN ORDINARY DAY IN ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

from Dr. A. Van der Maas

My first stop is the nursery - premature babies, caesarian section babies, etc. We use home-made incubators and I find the water container which regulates the humidity empty; feeding lists aren't filled in properly and dirty nappies are on the floor. The student nurse on night duty is called back to account for this and I explain again why it is important to do things properly.

In the labour ward all is quiet and there are no problems. I'll come back later.

Daily chat with the matron. Are there any problems? Usually little, but today quite a lot. The mother and child health co-ordinator has not delivered the promised vaccines and today is under fives day. The matron has telephone three times. I phone again and get a very upset MCH co-ordinator who passes me on to his clinical officer in charge, because at their hospital ALL the transport has been out of action for a month. I feel sympathetic, but also irritated because they could have found other ways of sending the vaccine.

To the medical administrator to discuss some problems. He is "temporarily out".

Since I'm almost on the doorstep, I go into the drugstore. The drugstore keeper is always very friendly, but tells me in passing that we have only two bottles of streptomycin left. "But you know you have to order when we're down to 50." "Yes doctor, but I forgot. I'm sorry."

I'd better telephone to find out if someone from the mission is going to town so that they can borrow some from the government hospital. Bad luck - a car has just left. We'll find an alternative solution.

Finally I can start my ward rounds. First the paediatric ward with 40 beds and 80 patients in, under and next to the beds. I can't see them like that so we get them to file past me.

Many things are missing from the charts - weights, vaccinations, laboratory results. I try to be patient and explain again how important these things are. The students agree with everything I say. "Yes doctor" even when I say "And the doctor is crazy!" When they realise what they've said, they all collapse with laughter.

The matron calls me. The ambulance should have left hours ago for one of our mobile clinics, but is still here. The driver came late, all the equipment still had to be packed and the car was out of petrol. The driver is the recipient of a lecture. He is very sorry, but tomorrow he'll be late again.

Time for coffee? No way. As I walk past maternity someone calls me. "Please doctor the patient is breeding", as indeed she is. We manage to stop it but she has lost much blood and so we must try to grab a relative for a pint.

Since I am here anyway I may as well look at the post-natal women. There are two caesarian section patients. Why are the dressings not changed? There are no "dressing packs". They are still in the autoclave.

Finally I can eat. It's a bit dehydrated from being kept in the oven, but it tastes good. Then coffee, newspaper, legs up forget it. A medical assistant from one of our out-stations comes in. He has a few problems and needs drugs and bandages. We chat a bit, I hear some gossip and write a note to the drugstore to supply him with the items.

Frustrations

Back to the wards to the frustrations of incomplete charts, missing laboratory results and X-rays, medicine charts with essential drugs "out of stock". Nobody told me that the drugs were out of stock. Yet it helps if I continue to complain and explain because it will be better tomorrow. At the same time, I know there is no other place in the world where the staff will thank me for my grumbles and is prepared to work 12 hours non-stop without complaining. Yesterday we did 23 procedures in the theatre, from 8 am to 6 pm, and they were still singing when cleaning up.

After having once again threatened that I will personally catch, kill and eat all the chickens that walk in and around the hospital, I go back to the paediatric ward to check on the new patients and any serious cases.

The dustbins are overflowing again; there is litter everywhere. The male ward toilet stinks - must do something about it tomorrow.

I walk home in the dark. Nice starry night and there's a full moon. That attracts the babies they tell me in maternity, but if I'm lucky it will be quiet tonight.

I've missed the World Service news, but my world is here and tomorrow we start all over again.

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: STANSTED

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Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for
worship: 11am.

The following are excerpts from the section 'Reaching each other' in the Quaker booklet 'Questions and Counsel'.

"Never forget your experience of God, in whatever way it has come to you. When you leave the meeting for worship, what do you carry with you into your daily life? Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be the same as great business.

We each have different gifts and different needs. Try to discover your own, and those of other people. Choices will arise, in work or relationships or education: choose the way that offers the fullest opportunity for you to develop your abilities and to contribute to the community. Live adventurously.

Cherish your friendships so that they grow in understanding and mutual respect. When we love, we risk both hurt and overwhelming joy. When we experience great happiness or great pain, the doors of our spirit are open.

Each individual's journey through life is unique. Some will make this journey alone. Some will share it in loving friendships. Some will make the life-long commitment of marriage. Ponder your own choices, and try to understand the choices of others. Every relationship brings responsibility: be careful not to exploit or belittle the other person through insensitivity to their needs. Enter imaginatively into other people's experience.

Try to live simply, sharing what you have."

*There are
mountaintop
experiences
of praise
there are also
quiet valley
experiences*

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd John Meehan
12 Millside (flat above Church).
Tel: 814349

Services: Sunday Masses - 8am and 10.30am
and at Henham - 9.15am.

Holy Days - 9.15am and 8pm
and at Henham - 7pm.

LIVING WITH CHALLENGE

On our way through life we are sent many many challenges, illness, loss of loved ones, rejection, change within our lives and circumstances, financial disaster, the list is endless, but it is how we deal with such challenges that makes us the kind of person fit to enter God's Kingdom. Of course some people are destined to suffer both physically and mentally more than others, but at the end of the day it is how we measure up to the challenge however large or small (after all, all things are relative), and however much we fail and have to start again, which makes us the person we really are, the person that God intended us to be when we were conceived in the womb. However impoverished we feel both spiritually, physically or mentally, all is never lost as long as we consciously place ourselves in the hands of our Redeemer.

Living in the truth is sometimes too painful to admit to. God sometimes sends blessings on the one hand to fill our lives with love and then seems to snatch them back with the other, but this is not so - we must learn to trust God and adjust ourselves to circumstances over which we have no control - otherwise we become self-centred and miserable and desperately unhappy. God does not want us as Christians to live a miserable existence, he wants us to shine with his love.

There is no point in just existing, we must refuse to be bowed by human emotions to such an extent that our lives are sad and we are merely puppets. We do have to stand up and be counted. We are the people God originally made us - free - it is on the way through our lives that we become damaged by convention, parents, religion, friends and most of all ourselves. We really do have to be born again in order to see God's face, to feel his healing presence, his love, his protection.

Mary Warnett

One Year Wiser!?

Some thoughts from Annabelle Quinn and Yasmin Kapadia

Moving away from home and starting higher education is a very exciting and challenging time in ones life; for the first time being responsible for oneself - unfortunately that also includes washing and cooking! The more enjoyable aspect of independence is organising your own life and finding yourself both spiritually and intellectually with all the opportunities for learning and broadening your horizons - not just through the course-work but also through the many societies available. Both of us chose a city rather than a Campus in which to continue our studies - obviously there were marked differences from living in a village.

Yasmin: "London was quite a shock for a number of reasons. To begin with one of our first lectures was not on the expected disciplines of the course but on "Living Safely in London" - emphasising the potential dangers of living in a city. London, I have learnt, has so much to offer that I doubt even in my 5 years that I will find everything of interest. One can go to the usual night clubs or pubs and choose from any number of shows on Shaftesbury Avenue - or for a complete change go for a quiet picnic in Hyde Park - the opportunities are endless."

Annabelle: "The thing that struck me most about Manchester - apart from the strange accent! - was its vitality. The impression we gain of the north tends to be rather negative and I was therefore surprised at the amount of activity in the city. As Manchester has such a large student population there are societies for every conceivable interest, including all the religions and political beliefs; some of the largest groups are the Amnesty International and the 'Green' Societies, which are indicative of the increased awareness of other people's lives and environment among students.

Being away from home entails living with people from various backgrounds, with different beliefs and attitudes even nationality and language. It's a time when one learns that as well as being responsible for yourself you also have some responsibility towards other members of your house, this can include tolerance and compromise - if you are to live in relative harmony!"

We both found it an enriching and challenging experience - but by the end of the year were greatly looking forward to coming home!! (Just for the holidays of course!).



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

February

- 6-9 Skip at Crafton Green
- 11 2.15 St John's Hall. Conservatives Jumble Sale
- 16 7.45 Day Centre. British Legion Womens Section "Flowers in Heraldry"
- 18 2.00 Stansted Democraft Jumble Sale St John's Hall
- 18 Mountfitchet School Valentine's Dance (see notice)
- 25 8.00 Football Club Quiz Evening (see notice)

March

- 2 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society Jane Freeman "Particular Places"
- 3 8.00 Day Centre. Conservatives' AGM
- 4 2.00 Peter Kirk School, Chapel Hill Grand Jumble Sale
- 4-5) Skip at
- 13-16) Crafton Green
- 14 8.00 Day Centre. Stansted Millers. Talk on Essex Mills

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel. 813214

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

A special thankyou to: Mr Tom Johnson and Mr Sid Stringer for brightening up Christmas and New Year in the parish - Mr Johnson organises the floodlighting of the War Memorial and Mr Stringer arranges the Christmas Tree lights. Both give their time voluntarily to the Parish and I am sure all parishioners join the Parish Council in saying "Thankyou".

SKIP DATES - Next Dates in Crafton Green

Monday 6 February, Thursday 9 February
Saturday 4 March, Sunday 5 March

PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVE:

A reminder that Mrs Ann Calver of 17 Cannons Mead, tel. 812971, is the Parish Public Transport Representative for Stansted. Please feel free to contact her with any comments on public transport.



BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

The Parish Council is setting up a working party to pool ideas to improve the appearance of Stansted. If you are interested or have any suggestions to make, please contact the Clerk.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our meetings are held on the 1st Thursday in the month at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre, Stansted. New members are welcome. If, however, you do not wish to join but a particular subject is of interest to you, non-members can come along for 75p for the evening.

- 2nd February Enjoying Local History - Kenneth Neale
- 2nd March Particular Places - Jane Freeman
- 6th April The History of the River Stort - John Boyes
- 4th May A.G.M. - Stansted at War

Peggy Honour
Secretary
B/S 813160



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

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Stansted, Essex
Telephone: 0279 812897



Football Association Challenge Vase
Winners 1983/84

President: J. Jennings Esq.

IF ANY LOCAL VILLAGE CLUB/ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A TEAM?

We are proposing to hold a general knowledge quiz evening on Saturday 25th February commencing at 8 o'clock. The format will be, teams of four members with approx 100 questions. A buffet will be laid on and the cost will be £2 per head. Numbers will be limited to 25 teams. Bookings in advance to

Mr. A. Law, B. Stortford 813573
or
Mr. T. Shoebridge, S. Walden 27937

"OUR VILLAGE"

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve, bore witness to a visit by Santa Claus to the village. Apart from his obvious seasonal duties he had been called out to spread the Christmas wish and promote a collection for local charities.

His first call happened to be the fire station from whence he enlisted willing assistance, issued them with various collecting receptacles and signed the men on as Santa's Fire Brigade. Soon his reindeer assisted sleigh went "Mobile Available" S.O.I.C. accompanied by carols and occasional airs from a road horn (more practice needed on post-horn gallop).

Inclement weather did nothing to dampen spirits and visits were made along Cambridge Road and the Lower Street area.

Response from the village was fantastic, walkers, bystanders, shoppers, shopkeepers, public houses, passing motorists, a cap was even passed round by a coach party, all did their part to swell the fund to an unbelievable total of £1,300. So to everyone that was able to help please accept our grateful thanks knowing that a wide range of local organisations will benefit from your generosity.

Happy New Year.

P. J. Brown

Owing to a slight misprint please add two lines into last month's letter after (transformed into a cricket pitch) add - for use of Bentfield End Cricket Club who in the later 1930's had 27 playing members. Then after (modest 39 runs) add - leaving the visitors fairly confident of victory but the Bentfield Bowlers had different ideas.

STANSTED MILLERS

A.G.M.

Tuesday 14 March

8.00 p.m. Day Centre

Talk on "Essex Mills"
by Vincent Pargeter (Millwright)

EVERYONE WELCOME



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



Coffee Mornings 10 am - 11.30 am

FEBRUARY

- 3rd Fri TODDLERS at Julie Lunn's,
69 Brook Road, Stansted
- 7th Tue UNDER 1's at Louise Storey's
'The Laurels' Hailes Wood Close
Elsenham
- 10th Fri TODDLERS at Penny Brooks,
42 Bentfield Gdns, Stansted
- 14th Tue UNDER 1's at Pascale Fowell's,
57 Woodfields, Stansted
- 17th Fri TODDLERS at Judy Bettley-Smith's
Harleigh House, High St.
Elsenham
- 21st Tue UNDER 1's at Rachel Smith's,
25 Bedwell Road, Ugley Green
- 24th Fri TODDLERS at Jackie Weston's
6 The High Street, Elsenham
- 28th Tue UNDER 1's at Jackie Feehan's
'Cordwents' Stansted Road,
Elsenham

EXERCISE CLUB - MONDAYS 9.45 am Quaker
Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted. £1.50 per
session with creche and refreshments.

EVENTS

- Sat 4th Feb QUIZ EVENING 8 pm for 8.30
pm Crafton Green Centre,
Stansted. Tickets £1 for
Members, £1.20 non-members,
available in advance from
committee members. Price
includes a glass of wine
and snacks.
- Tue 14th Feb CHILDRENS VALENTINES PARTY
2.30-4 pm Quaker Hall,
Chapel Hill, Stansted.
See posters for more
details.

NEARLY NEW SALE - Planned for early March
Sort out all your unwanted toys, nursery
equipment, childrens clothing and
maternity wear. Ring Christine on 815239
for more details and date of sale.



To The Editor of Link.

Dear Editor,

May I through your pages thank all the
parishioners who are contributing to our
waste paper collection.

Half of the monies earned are sent to
Christian Aid and although this has not
been much in 1988 it nevertheless helped.
The remainder is used to purchase
mathematics equipment for the school.

This year we are hoping to raise much
more and welcome contributions from
anybody. Provided it is tightly boxed,
bagged or bundles you can leave the paper
under the veranda at the back door of the
school.

Thank you all for your help.

Yours sincerely

D R Johnson
Head of Mathematics

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Our first event of the new school year
was our annual quiz night. This year we
managed to accommodate over 30 teams in
the school hall and the evening was
a great success with St Mary's Primary
School PTA the winners. Our congratu-
lations to them for coming out on top and
we look forward to them defending their
'title' in November. All proceeds from
this evening were put towards purchasing
the school a much needed replacement
video camera.

In December we held our Santa's Disco, an
event for all the family. Over two
hundred attended and it was a really
great fun evening with a disco, games,
prizes, etc. The children's faces were a
picture when about 300 balloons came
cascading down from the ceiling - it
really was a rip-roaring success, with
our lovely Mother Christmas turning a lot
of the men's heads as she organised a
variety of games.

We hope to continue our run of successful
events with a Valentine's Dance on
Saturday 18th February. Do come along
and dance to a live band. The admission
price of £3.50 includes a light supper
and we would love to see you on the
night. It promises to be a good evening
out.

Richard Pollard



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

This term the children are being visited by a lollipop lady, a policeman and a fireman, who will talk about their jobs.

In February they are going for a morning to the soft playroom at the Peter Kirk School. This is a room full of various shaped large soft blocks and mattresses for the children to jump off and roll over and slide down without hurting themselves.

At the end of February we are borrowing the 'hospital box' from the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital. This contains doctors and nurses uniforms and hospital toys. The idea is to make the children a little familiar with what hospitals are like, so that if they have to go in themselves it is less likely to be frightening.

Rainbow Playgroup is at Youth and Adult Centre, Lower Street, Stansted.

Over 4 Mon. Wed and Friday mornings
3-4 Tues and Thurs mornings

Phone Auntie Ann 813319 (am)
812457 (pm)

or call in.

Also at the Youth and Adult Centre Wednesdays 1.30 - 3.30 Mum & Co for mums (or dads) and children under 3(ish).

Pat Duncan
Tel. 814939

DO YOU LIKE LINK?

"I would like to express my appreciation of the interesting articles you publish about the village."

Winifred Christophers

Thank you, Mrs Christophers, for these kind words. All words of appreciation OR criticism are welcome!



STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

Stansted Afternoon Womens Institute met at the Day Centre for the first meeting of 1989. Five members with birthdays in January were presented with posies by Mrs Ann Calver, our President, who also welcomed three new members and one visitor.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Mr Keith Gibbs, who gave a most interesting talk, and presented coloured slides of the interiors of various churches and stately homes, with ornate decor. Some very elaborate, some more simple, but all very, very beautiful, painted and gold-leaved by hand. Mr Gibbs also judged the monthly competition which was for a piece of cameo jewellery. This was won by Mrs D Johnson with Mrs Parslew second. Our visitor Mrs D Woolner was the lucky winner of our raffle.

We will be holding a coffee morning at the Day Centre on 8th April in aid of the MacMillan Fund.

Pauline Cianciola
Tel. 814487

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING W.I.

We welcomed Mrs Janet Kinna from the Wood Green Animal Shelters to our January meeting, who told us about their work.

The first shelter started in Wood Green in 1924 and expanded to another at Heydon in 1953 and then to a purpose built one at Godmanchester.

Stray or unwanted pets are cared for and about 80% are found new homes.

The talk ended with an excellent film showing the blessing of animals at Ely Cathedral.

A competition for a vegetable animal was won by Vera Ansell, 2nd Elsie Stoddart and 3rd Margaret Meadows.

We are having a Craft Evening in February. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

Vera Ansell
815949

**CAROL SINGING IN THE VILLAGE =
A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING EVENT**

May we take this opportunity to thank all who gave support in voice or in cash over the four nights of carol singing. The door-to-door collection and donations raised £281-52 which has been donated to Helpline.

May we particularly thank all those who supported us on the doorstep (it does raise the spirits) and the families who watered and fed us so well at the end of each evening.

We wish you a Happy New Year and dare we say it, look forward to an even more successful session of carol singing at Christmas 1989 - see you there!

Judy Goddard, Derek Honour
and Peter Jones

HELPLINE

A very big thankyou to everyone who responded so generously to our plea for financial assistance. As well as a number of personal donations, for which we are extremely grateful, I should like to thank Judy Goddard, Derek Honour and Peter Jones for organising this year's village carol singing on our behalf and thereby raising a magnificent sum of £280. Thank you to all who sang and to all who donated so generously. God bless and a happy 1989 to you all.

Francine Cope



MOUNTEITCHET SENIORS CLUB

The last meeting for 1988 was December 21st and a Christmas tea was given to all members. An entertainment was provided by Mrs Dani Hoy from Birchanger who came with her electric organ and played Christmas carols and popular songs the whole afternoon. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Members who had visited the Dutch bulb fields relived their experience through the beautiful slides and the talk given on January 4th by Mr J Ansell on his visits to Holland. Unfortunately, quite a few of our members were unable to attend this meeting due to illness. We all hope that they will recover quickly and be back to good health.

D. Wilson
Tel. 815934



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Huw Johnson Club celebrated Christmas in style! On 15th December the Christmas party festivities began with a traditional Christmas meal, which consisted of scrumptious helpings of turkey, vegetables and roast potatoes with a choice of puddings to follow. We all ate to our hearts' delight.

After we were as stuffed as the turkey we endeavoured to play some party games. These consisted of Pass the Parcel, dancing and dressing up game which left us all looking ridiculous. After we had all burnt off some energy (and those extra calories!) we were all surprised by

a visit from Father Christmas. He had presents for everyone! I think a very enjoyable time was had by all.

May I express our grateful thanks to Sandra and her helpers, who kindly provided and cooked the food. I would also like to thank especially Marion and Tom for making it all possible.

Julia Phillips



At our last Branch meeting of the old year our Treasurer told us that the door-to-door poppy collection for 1988 - done mainly by the Women's Section - amounted to £1,028. The whole poppy collection for Stansted totalled £2,697 - almost £1,000 up on 1987. Our thanks to everyone who helped and gave so generously.

We voted to send a delegate to the National Conference in Bournemouth to take part in the debate on computerisation of British Legion records.

As it was a social evening we played a few hilarious games of "Beetle" and then joined in some delightful old songs and carols with Mrs Millson, accompanied by Miss Coe on the piano.

We had no meeting in January, but our speaker on Thursday 16th February at 7.45 at the Day Centre will be Mrs Fotherby on "Flowers in Heraldry". All visitors will be warmly welcomed.

Pat Clower
815220

STANSTED DEMOCRATS

Our parish and district councillors are resuming Saturday morning surgeries. They will be held at the parish council offices in Chapel Hill. Councillors Tim Richards (P.C.) and Alan Dean (D.C.) will be in attendance in 11 February from 9.30 - 11.00 a.m. Surgeries will be on the second Saturday of the month in March and April. Bring your problems, gripes or even bouquets!

Attendance at our dinner dance at the end of January looked like beating previous records at time of writing, requiring a ticket reprint. Report next month on what happened on the night.

Forthcoming events are:

February 17th, 8 p.m. Policy discussion at the Day Centre with Duncan Brack, National Policy Director.

February 18th, 2 p.m. Jumble Sale at St John's Hall. (Please note it is not on the 11th as advertised last month). Ring 813579, 813432, 812748, 813912 with jumble.

If you would like to know about any event please contact Jane Sell, tel. 812408. Contact Frances Spalding, tel. 813432, about membership.

Alan Dean
813579

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL (N.A.W.C.H.)

is seeking an ORGANISER and
HELPERS for a PLAYGROUP to
be held at Saffron Walden
Hospital

for further information
please contact
Mrs Judy Evans on
Bishop's Stortford 725286

GIANT JUMBLE SALE

MARCH 4 2.00 p m

PETER KIRK SCHOOL

CHAPEL HILL



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

6th Annual New Year Supper Dance

A very successful dance was held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 7th January. An excellent 4 course meal was served and dancing was to The Ray Anderson Sound. 180 people attended, including a large contingent of young people.

The chief guests were Alan and Angela Haselhurst, our Member of Parliament and Mr. & Mrs. Dirk Vetterwinkel, the Saffron Walden Constituency agent and Miss Anne MacIntock our prospective European Member of Parliament. A popular raffle with many prizes was run during the evening.

Future Events:

Saturday 11th February 2.15. Jumble Sale, St. John's Church Hall

Wednesday 1st March, 10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ladies A.G.M. at The Day Centre

Friday 3rd March, 8 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. A.G.M. at The Day Centre

Thursday 4th May, Essex County Council Elections

Thursday 15th June, European Elections

Tuesday 11th July, Coach Outing to Burghley House near Stamford. Contact Pam Sutton, B/S 815070 for details. All welcome to come

Surgeries

These are held at the Parish Council Offices from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. and are attended by Conservative Parish Councillors on a rota system.

Dates (Saturdays) 28th January, 25th February, 25th March, 22nd April and 20th May.

Any queries to:- Bridget Gott B/S 814440 or Pat Bickerton B/S 812411.



U.C.V.S.
Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service

UCVS Office
c/o Saffron Walden Hospital
Radwinter Road
Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 3HY
Tel. Saffron Walden 513626

It is essential that the Voluntary groups in Uttlesford work in partnership with the Social Services if the community's needs are to be met in future. This was the message from Mr Leo Bishop, Area Organiser for Social Services when he spoke at the UCVS General Meeting in Thaxted.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, Parish Councils, District Nurses, Subscribing Members and Guests of the UCVS.

MIND

The Inaugural meeting of Uttlesford MIND took place on Wednesday 18 January 1989 in the Court Room at Saffron Walden Town Hall.

A full branch of MIND will provide information for carers and people with mental health problems in the form of a Helpline. It will also run a Befriending Service with trained volunteers, educate the public and establish a Day Centre based on the existing Dunmow Tuesday Group.

RESEARCH INTO AGEING

Dr Michael Weller, OBE, a former Thaxted GP and now Hon Director in Essex for the Research into Ageing Support Groups, also spoke at the meeting and gave a brief outline of the work of this relatively new charity in supporting research into areas such as dementia (and Alzheimer's disease), Immobility (and osteoporosis *) incontinence and nutrition in order, as he said, "to add life to years and not years to life". Effective research into the ageing process will enable the population to 'age well and not age ill'.

Dr Weller is looking for volunteers to form Support Groups in Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Stansted and, eventually, throughout Uttlesford for this charity - Research into Ageing, whose work will ultimately help us all.

* brittleness of the bones

If you would like to help, Dr Weller can be contacted on Thaxted 830780.

The UCVS Office, now firmly on the ground, has been 'doing business' for over four months now and as well as the administrative work there are several new projects in the pipeline.

VOLUNTEER BUREAU

We hope to open the Volunteer Bureau in January when funding through the Training Commission should become available for the UCVS Organiser to work for some afternoons as the V.B. Organiser. This will allow us to fulfill a very important part of our role which is to locate volunteers and place them where they are needed most.

WILLING HANDS SERVICE

W H Smith are printing volunteer handouts for us through their Willing Hands Service. The literature sets out the ways in which volunteers can help in the community and how they register with the Volunteer Bureau. Both the Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford branches of W H Smith will carry these leaflets.

AGE CONCERN is seeking
TWO D.I.Y VOLUNTEERS to
fix picture hooks and
change washers on taps for
the elderly in the
Saffron Walden Area

If you can help please contact
Mrs Joy Turnbull S. Walden 23150

LIGHT RELIEF

What kind of lights did Noah have on the Ark?

Floodlights.

What is yellow and flickers?

A lemon with a loose connection.

What did the big candle say to the little candle?

You're too little to go out.

This match won't light.

That's funny, it did a moment ago when I tried it.

Why did the idiot have his sundial floodlight?

So that he could tell the time at night.

What happened when the glow-worm got trampled on?

He was de-lighted.

C-QUIZ

CANDLEMAS February 2nd

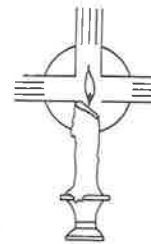
CANDLEMAS marks the end of the season of Christmas and the beginning of Easter.

It is the traditional time for a good clean up. All Christmas decorations had to be taken down by this day — can you imagine how scruffy and dusty they would have been by now?

Churches had to be cleaned too for Candlemas, which is also known as the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It celebrates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple 40 days after he was born.

It is called Candlemas because candles are lit to remind us that, when Jesus was presented at the Temple in Jerusalem, Simeon said that Jesus was the Light that God had sent to the Gentiles (Gentiles means people who are not Jews: we are Gentiles). You can read about this in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2.

1. Cain 2. Covenant 3. Cephu
4. Caesarea 5. Crete 6. Calaphas
the High Priest 7. Cannan 8. Cana
9. Centurion 10. Corinthians
1. Eldest son of Adam and Eve.
 2. A promise between God and man.
 3. Another name for Peter, a rock.
 4. Where Paul was imprisoned.
 5. Where Titus founded a church among liars.
 6. Jesus was arrested and taken to his house.
 7. Grandson of Noah, son of Ham.
 8. Where Jesus turned water into wine.
 9. A Roman soldier (his servant was cured by Jesus).
 10. Paul wrote to them about Faith, Hope and Love.





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