

Mar 89

The LINK



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Mountfitchet*

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•



LENT ECUMENICAL SERVICES at 6.30 p.m.

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

LENT HOUSE GROUP MEETINGS

Wednesdays at 3 White Bear (Dorothy Oswald)
Fridays at 4 Greenfields (Eileen & Brian Quinn)

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.

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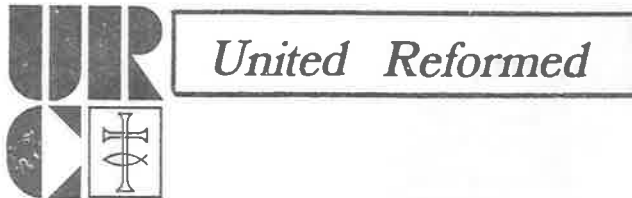
WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(Interdenominational)

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY"



3RD MARCH 1989

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



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.

U.R.C. Services for March

Mar 5 11 am Mothering Sunday
Special Family Service
Rev E McIlwain
6.30 S.A.C.C. Lent Service URC
Mar 12 11 am Rev Lydia Rapkin
7 pm SACC Agape St John's Hall
Mar 19 11 am Palm Sunday Rev E McIlwain
Mar 23 7.30 Group Maunday Thursday
Communion Rev E McIlwain &
Rev L Rapkin
Mar 24 11 am Group Good Friday Service
at Clavering
Rev E McIlwain/Rev L Rapkin

Mar 26 10.30 Group Easter Day Communion
Rev E McIlwain/Rev L Rapkin
Followed by coffee - hot
cross bun

Apr 2 11 am Rev L Rapkin Communion

I'm told that at the time of writing this article, February 4th, the hours of daylight have increased by about ninety minutes since December 21st, the shortest day. This is good news for everyone, but particularly for those who, according to a recent article in the press, are sufferers from seasonal Affective Disorder or S.A.D., a condition peculiar to the winter months, and thought by some researchers to be directly attributable to the lack of sunlight at this time of the year.

Life for sufferers of this condition is described as being 'sort of off-white, with tiredness, depression, and a feeling of inadequacy pervading their lives'.

In an attempt to alleviate their suffering light-starved volunteers in the U.S.A. are being subjected to ultra-violet rays with the same spectrum as the sun, thus reproducing the conditions of a bright summer day. Two American researchers are currently engaged on further tests which it is hoped will give greater relief to sufferers in the future.

'Winter blues' are no doubt distressing, but there is a far deeper darkness which affects everyone at some time of life which no amount of artificial sunlight can dispel. This is the darkness of pain, bereavement, loneliness and despair which can be so overwhelming that it seems as though the sun will never shine again.

'Thou canst illumine even our darkest night'. These are words from a poem by the German pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed during the second world war for his denouncement of Hitler and the Nazi regime.

The poem, written for the New Year of 1945, four months before his death, expresses Bonhoeffer's deep conviction that faith in Jesus Christ, who came to be the light of the world, can illumine the whole of life, bringing contentment and peace in times of joy and sorrow.

Let his prayer be ours. 'May God keep the light of faith burning in our souls'.

Lydia Rapkin

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.

At the end of this month we will celebrate again the resurrection of Jesus from the dead at Easter. But we cannot celebrate that joyful event without remembering that to rise again Jesus first had to die. And so in the last weeks before Easter - in Passiontide, and Holy Week leading up to Good Friday - our thoughts, our prayers and our worship are focussed on the cross.

Wherever you look in church you will see the cross. It has remained the central symbol of our Christian faith. We are marked with the sign of the cross at our Baptism; we mark ourselves with the sign of the cross as a reminder that through our Baptism we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Frequently, however, the crosses in our churches, or the crosses that many wear, are made of precious metal and ornately decorated. There is a story being told of someone going into a jeweller's shop to buy a cross and chain. "Do you want a plain one or one with a little man on it?" the shop assistant asked. Beautiful though many of our crosses are, that beauty can easily mask the reality of the cross. The cross on which Jesus died would have been rough and heavy. His death was very slow and very, very painful. The cross for us must not become simply a pretty piece of jewellery with a little man on it, but a constant reminder of God's inexhaustible love for us.

The cross is a reminder of death. It is also a sign of life. We know that Jesus rose again from the dead, and thus the cross becomes a sign of triumph and hope for each of us. The hope which the resurrection offers assures us that at our own death, we too may come into the presence of the risen Christ. So we pray that each of us, through being ready to share in Jesus's suffering on the cross, may share more fully in the hope and joy of the resurrection at Easter.

May God bless you this Holy Week and Easter.

Brenda Wallace

From the Vicarage

Moving to a new house, a new job and a new area is not easy, but we have been greatly helped by the tremendous welcome we have received from people in Stansted, and by the kindness and friendship shown to us and our family. We were particularly grateful to everyone who supported us at the Institution and Licensing service on 13 January, and were pleased that so many people from the other churches in Stansted and from the local community were able to join the congregations of Stansted and Farnham at that service. We would also like to extend our thanks to all who helped to arrange the splendid refreshments after the service.

Bob and Brenda Wallace



Diary

March

- 1 Fellowship Group 8.15 pm at Ragni's
- 2 Normans Ct 10 am Eucharist
- 5 Mothering Sunday 9.30 Family Eucharist
- 7 Mead Ct 10 am Eucharist
- 7 Prayer Group 8.15 pm at Rosemary Minshulls
- 12 Ecumenical Service 7 pm St John's Hall
- 14 Tiny Tots 2.15 pm St John's
- 14 Tuesday Club Doreen Newby's
- 15 Fellowship Group: Venue to be decided Ring 815817
- 18 Children's Church Outing: Contact Ann Conroy
- 24 Good Friday Project - see letter
- 28 Tiny Tots 2.15 St John's

Registers

Deaths

Pamela Pavitt of 6 Gilbey Crescent
Died on January 26th

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

- 8 am Holy Communion St John's
- 9.20 am Blessing of Palms, Procession and Parish Communion - St John's
- 11.30 Holy Communion St John's
- 6.30 Hymns, Lessons and Anthems St John's

Maundy Thursday

- 10 am Holy Communion St John's
- 8 pm Sung Eucharist St John's
- 9 pm - Midnight Chain of Prayer St John's

Good Friday

- 12 noon Holy Hour St John's
- 2 pm Good Friday Project Service St John's

Easter Eve

- 8 pm Easter Vigil Service of Light St John's

Easter Day

- 8 am Holy Communion St Mary's
- 9.30 Parish Communion St John's
- 11.30 Holy Communion St John's
- 6.30 Evensong St Mary's



EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY



Once again we will be holding the Children's Good Friday Project at St Mary's School at 9.15 a.m. All children over the age of 5 years are welcome and this year the children are asked to wear clothes in one of the following four colours: Red, blue, green or yellow. There will be the usual creative activities and parents are invited to join the children in St John's Church at 2 p.m.

Details will be circulated amongst the children after Sunday March 5th. If any adult would like to help with the Project please contact Marion Johnson on 812284 or call at 62 Chapel Hill.



It is sad to have to write this month of the death of two of our Branch members. Pam Pavitt had been Treasurer of the Branch for many years and we shall miss her quiet wisdom and understanding and her commitment to the Mothers' Union and all it stands for. Although Pam was housebound for the last 2 years and in poor health, yet she was always interested in our meetings and contributed to all our social events. May Hill had been an active member of the branch some years ago, but regularly prayed for the M.U. through the indoor members group. She too was always interested to know what we'd been doing. May they both rest in peace.

Next month's meeting is on Wednesday 24th March at 2.30 pm in the Hall. Fr. Tony will be speaking. He and the Vicar swapped dates, as another engagement prevented Tony from speaking last month.

The Deanery Service is on Tuesday March 7th at Quendon Church. Bring & Buy and Tea afterwards - please let me know if you wish to go and need transport.

Margaret

Now You See Them - Now You Don't

The clergy of Stansted are now slimming by the second and are hoping that all is going well with the sponsor forms and collecting tins. If you need a sponsor form please contact one of the clergy. We're now halfway through Lent so let's keep up the momentum.

YOUTH

FOCUS

Our Youth Group has decided to plunge into the world of show-biz. We are inviting parents and anybody who fancies to join us on 19th March at 7.30 pm for what I'm sure will be a most entertaining evening.

Before then we have our usual varied diet of a Sunday evening. Contact any of the youth leaders for programme details and myself or Brenda if you would like to join.

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



OVERSEAS GROUP

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, KASUPE

In 1988 we raised £256 for U.S.P.G.'s project to provide medical supplies for St. Luke's Hospital and a programme for the protection of medical staff against AIDS. We hope to continue this support into 1989 with various fund raising events. The first will be a cake stall in St. John's Church Hall on Palm Sunday, so please mark in your diary:

"Palm Sunday Cake Stall
19th March 1989"

Cakes will be on sale during coffee time after the Parish Communion.

We would welcome offers of cakes and biscuits for this stall. These may be left in the Church Hall before the 9.30 am service, or in the Church porch before the 8.00 am service.

PLEASE help raise money for this important work by donating AND buying cakes on Palm Sunday.

The parents of a Parishioner were in Malawi over Christmas and, knowing of our interest in St. Luke's, they took the opportunity of visiting the Hospital. It was most encouraging to learn that they "were very impressed by what we saw - care and love were in evidence everywhere". Clearly our donations are being well directed.

Alastair Richardson
815518



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.

Wishing everyone all the blessings of Easter,
from Fr. John D. Meehan and the Parishioners of St. Theresa's

THE YEAR 2000

The Diocesan Pastoral Council was inaugurated by our Bishop on 22nd October 1987 to plan for the future. As a new member of the Council and St. Theresa's Parish Representative, I have been catching up on the year's work for this exciting project.

The task is to assist the Bishop in drawing up a 10-year plan by 1990 to enable the Diocese to move ahead as a unified body towards the same goals and in the light of a shared vision into the third millenium. The 10-year plan does not mean that we plan for 10 years ahead. The year 2000 is the focus - the actual planning will be in 2-year phases.

As a first step in this 2-year process of enquiry, discussion and prayerful reflection, the Bishop has asked the Council to listen to the views of everyone in the Diocese, including young people, men and women of all age groups, non-Catholic partners, the sick and the

housebound. A simple (anonymous) questionnaire was distributed in our Parish in February. The responses people made will be used by the Parish and the Diocese to plan for the future. By the end of 1990 the Bishop will implement a 10-year Pastoral Plan which will reflect these views and respond to people's real needs.

In the meantime, our Bishop wishes a special prayer to be used throughout the Diocese - during Mass and at other times of prayer in the parish -

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Living God,
teach us to walk in your
ways more trustfully,
to accept your truth more
faithfully,
and to share your life more
lovingly.
Inspire us by the power of
the Holy Spirit for mission
within our Diocese and guide us
in our Pastoral plan,
so that your name may be made known
and that all may come as one family
to the Kingdom of the Father,
where you live for ever and ever,

Amen

from Monica Kapadia
Parish Representative on the
Diocesan Pastoral Council

VICAR'S INDUCTION

Those of us who were present at the recent induction of Bob Wallace and his wife to the Parish of St. John's would like to thank all those who welcomed us so sincerely both at the Service and at the Reception afterwards.

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.

As Bunyan's pilgrim "Christian" continues on his journey and has various experiences, he finds an excellent pilgrim companion named Faithful. They are truly devout men and kindred spirits, but are soon joined by a third who, though he appears fine, is of a very different spirit. Christian recognises him and keeps a distance from him. But Faithful is meeting him for the first time and is readily deceived by attractive manners and clothes and by agreeable speech.

This new companion is called Talkative. He cheerfully tells Faithful that his greatest delight is to talk about the Christian religion as they continue on pilgrimage. At the drop of any hat he is ready to launch into well-informed and very articulate discourse on any and every aspect of Christianity. With a ready and golden tongue he can talk beautifully about their religion.

But there lies his downfall. And Christian, who is well acquainted with him, knows how hollow all his talk is and warns Faithful: "Remember the proverb, "They say, and do not"; but the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. He talketh of prayer, of repentance, of faith, and of the new birth; but he knows but only to talk of them. He is the very stain, reproach, and shame of religion to all who know him. Thus say the common people that know him: "A saint abroad, and a devil at home."

"Poor, little, talkative Christianity", was how E. M. Forster once spoke of the Church and of us who belong to it. How easy it is to fall into the trap of Bunyan's Talkative. It can be true of us both as individuals and churches. In churches with committees, councils, conferences, etc. we can spend more time talking about Christianity than living it, expend more effort debating God's work than doing it. And we may easily deceive ourselves into believing we are doing it just because we are talking about it. Religion can readily become a "Talking shop".

And like Bunyan's character, as Christian observes to Faithful, "He thinks that hearing and saying will make a good Christian, and thus deceive his own soul". We may read, write and talk about prayer, but not pray, knowing a great deal about it but not doing it; about faith, but not having it; about love, but not living it; about God, but only as hearsay.

Here is a danger for every church and every Christian. "Not everyone that says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my heavenly Father". "He who does the will shall know the doctrine." Two quotes from our Lord - the warnings of His love.

God bless you all.

Harold Fisher



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- | | | |
|----|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 10.30 | Day Centre. Conservatives Ladies AGM (see notice) |
| 3 | 8.00 | Conservatives Joint AGM |
| 1 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Mountfitchet Garden Club |
| 10 | 10.30 | 55 Chapel Hill. Royal British Legion (Women) coffee morning |
| 24 | 9.15 am | Good Friday Project at St Mary's School (see C of E news) |

April

- | | | |
|----|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 | 10.30 | 58 Chapel Hill. Bible Society Coffee morning/Bring and Buy |
|----|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|



HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

What a night to remember! Two young children snatched from the arms of their Nanny by two unscrupulous criminals. No, it was not the latest update of "Sons and Daughters" or some other such soap opera, it was the Huw Johnson Club annual trip to the pantomime "Babes in the Wood" at Harlow. The criminals were not so unscrupulous, in fact they were the

lovable rogues Snatch and Grab. The "babes" were finally returned to their nanny by the dashing Robin Hood, and like all fairytales, the ending was happy.

However, one little girl from the Huw Johnson party watched the show from the auditorium door, finding the demon of the forest a bit too convincing. Another found comfort in Marion's lap and Julia clung to June. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the play, participating by yelling out the right responses in the right places.

I would like to thank the drivers who drove us all so carefully to Harlow and back. A big thankyou too to the members of the United Reformed Church who provided sweets and chocolates to eat during the show.

Lorna Conroy

UTTLESFORD COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

INFORMATION

The Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service exists to coordinate the activities of the various voluntary organisations in the District Council Area and to offer services and support to them in a variety of ways. Voluntary organisations in all the towns and villages in Uttlesford are listed in our Directory (price £2.50) and information about Care Groups in the area is published in our quarterly Newsletter.

In addition to this coordinating role, the UCVS endeavours to seek out areas of need and put into operation agencies to meet those needs. As an established Voluntary Service council, we have the opportunity to nominate candidates to sit on various bodies such as the Community Health Council, Joint Consultative Committees and Joint Care Planning Teams.

Projects which we have initiated include the recently launched branch of MIND which will help people with mental health problems and a Hospital Discharge Scheme which helps patients (mostly elderly), during the first few days after they leave hospital. Our present concerns are to establish a Care Network to cover Uttlesford which will deal with minor, non-medical emergencies (and provide 24 hour duty officers in key parts of the region), to set up a branch or two of CRUSE - the organisation that cares for the widowed and their children, and to investigate ways of coordinating transport in this rural district.

The Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service had its Inaugural Meeting in October 1987 and now has an office on the Hospital site in Saffron Walden. The present organiser, Gwyneth Southgate, will be happy to answer any queries about the UCVS and put organisations requiring assistance in touch with agencies who can offer help. Members of our organisation include Parish Councils, Individual County and District Councillors, Churches, Women's Institutes, The Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance Service, The W.R.V.S., Day Centres, Clubs for the Elderly, Handicapped Groups, W.E.A.s and Social Clubs.

Membership, which is £5 annually, entitles a group or individual to a free copy of the Directory of Voluntary organisations in Uttlesford, the delivery of the quarterly Newsletter, Free Publicity in it, Public Relations Services through the UCVS office and photocopying at cost (5p a sheet, A4 only at present).

We will be opening a VOLUNTEER BUREAU soon and anyone wishing to register as a volunteer or to join the UCVS as a member is asked to get in touch with the UCVS office, c/o Saffron Walden Hospital, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HY. Telephone Saffron Walden 513626.



"Our Village"

In the January issue a brief look was taken into events at Bentfield End Cricket Club, after which further memories of this Club have again come to light.

Mr. George E. Rose, who farmed Bentfield Green Farm (whose dairy proclaimed "Our Milk and Cream are of one quality - The Best") started the Club around 1930. Their wicket was fenced off (removed for matches) from the outfield as the farm's dairy cattle had access to this field during the week, which had an effect of turning fielding into an art of minding your step. (This practice is still observed today by some village clubs).

The pavilion was opened by Club President, L.D. Gosling Esq. This building was thought to have started life as a brick drying shed, seeing service with the nearby brick works. Later it became a roost and shelter for chickens, all before its renovation into a fit pavilion.

A fixture card for the 1936 season tells us of a season opening on May 7th and closing September 26th. Opponents being Farnham, Rickling Green, Ugley, Clavering, Rickling, Henham, Arkesden, Sheering and Berden, on a home and away, with a home fixture v. Stansted British Legion as a Bank Holiday game.

Transport for away matches was for several players quite an experience, taken in the back of the farm's Manchester lorry; seating consisted of a hasty arrangement of chicken box type seats which on some occasions proved none too strong - no doubt adding to the afternoon's entertainment.

Amongst the club rules could be found:
 1. All subscriptions to be handed to Treasurer not later than May 3rd. (Playing members paid two shillings and sixpence).
 2. A member of the committee shall be responsible for the return of all apparatus each night with the assistance of members.
 3. The committee shall have power to expel any member from the club who is abusive or causes annoyance to other members.

My thanks go to Mr. Arthur Trundle and George Herrington, both being playing members of this club, who have made today's story possible. Hopefully we may see a few more overs bowled before the close of play.

P. J. Brown



The National Childbirth Trust
 Education for Parenthood

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

Coffee mornings from 10 am - 11.30 am

Toddlers - Fridays

March 3rd Isobel Atkinson,
 12 Coltsfield, Stansted
 March 10th Jackie Feehan, Cordwents,
 Stansted Rd, Elsenham
 March 17th Annette Wright,
 2 Washington Meads,
 Maitland Rd, Stansted
 March 24th Easter - no coffee morning
 March 31st Lorraine Brewster
 44 Bentfield Gdns, Stansted

Under One's & Expectant Mums - Tuesdays

March 7th Pauline Burnard,
 20 The Street, Manuden
 March 14th Helen Gibson,
 22 Alderberry Rd, Stansted
 March 21st Christine Whitmarsh
 45 Bentfield Causeway,
 Stansted
 March 28th Anne Kitson, 24 Spencer Close
 Stansted

A small charge is made for coffee, juice, etc. at our coffee mornings. If you need help with transport to a coffee morning please telephone Isobel Atkinson 814176 if you would like to host a coffee morning please ring Jackie Feehan on 813206.

NEARLY NEW SALE MARCH 7th at the United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted, 2.30 - 4 pm. Sale of Toys, Nursery Equipment, Childrens Clothes, Maternity Wear, etc. Entrance Fee 20p members, 25p non-members. If you have any items that you would like to sell please ring Maggie on 813541.

AGM 8 pm 4th April at Penny's, 42 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted. All welcome!

A donation of £174.35p has been sent to the Heart Foundation in memory of
 Christy Johnson
 from all her friends.
 We thank you all for your sympathy and kindness from her family.



Local Organisers:
 Stephanie McDowall 812137
 Eileen Quinn 812109
 Treasurer: Katy Dockerill 812997



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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

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

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

Transport for those without cars can be arranged.

Dates and Venues for March

Wed 5th March Angela's 813582
 "Fallen" or Free? PROSTITUTION: Does it fulfill a social need or does it degrade both parties. Come and share your views.

Thur 23rd March Eileen's 812109
 SOMERSET - "Only the Jordanto be crossed before the promised land of Cornwall & Devon" - So you think you know all about the country of Arthur's Camelot, of Alfred's Wessex - Katy, Jane, Stephanie and Anne are out to inform and surprise you!

We like to start off our New Year with last year's Christmas dinner! Luckily the chef of the Kings Arms did not know this and cooked us a superb 'cordon bleu' meal! Many thanks to all the staff there for the hospitality shown to us and the really excellent fare.

Our new programme for the first half of this year can be obtained by ringing either of the local organisers.

We would love to have some new members and you would be sure of a warm welcome.

Eileen Quinn

**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.

The February meeting, which included a presentation on 'Planning and Stocking a Garden Pond' by Mr Porter of Langley Aquatics, was well attended. Mr Porter gave many useful tips on how to best maintain a healthy environment in which both fish and plants will thrive.

Now that we've sorted out the pond, how about the rest of the garden! Mr French is our March guest speaker and he will deliver an expert commentary on garden layout and design.

March's competition will feature the best flowering pot plant.

Oh! and before I sign off let me remind you all that our Spring Show is only a couple of months away on April 15th, so start planning those entries.

next meeting, Wednesday 1st March, 8 pm, Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Sue Wilkinson



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

On January 26th we had the charity stall at Stortford Market and raised £107. Many thanks to all who donated things and helped out on the stall.

The Unwanted Christmas Present Sale at Mum and Co on the other hand raised a grand total of £1.50! Is this a local record of sorts?

Since just before Christmas the playgroup has been managing without Ann Conroy. Many thanks to all who have stepped in to fill the gap. We all hope you'll be back soon Ann.

Rainbow Playgroup is at:
 Youth and Adult Centre
 Lower Street
 Stansted

3-4 years Tues and Thurs
 4-5 years Mon, Wed and Fri.





STANSTED AFTERNOON

On a lovely sunny February afternoon, members and one visitor were welcomed by Mrs Ann Calver our President. A posy of pretty snowdrops was presented to the "February birthday" member.

The speaker for the month was Mr O'Neil who gave an amusing talk, entitled High Jinks with My Jinx, explaining that he considered himself a failure, everything he touched always went wrong. In fact he had barely left the hall when the electricity failed, causing amusement and frustration to the tea hostesses.

The competition for an unusual superstition had eleven entries. Mr O'Neil judged the one entered by Mrs Pauline Cianciola to be the winner, Mrs Stella Cooper placed second. Raffle winners were Mrs Pigg and Mrs Scarr.

Members were reminded of the coffee morning on 8th April. Discussion also took place regarding suggestions for handicraft sessions of an informal nature, members teaching each other various crafts. We hope to start these meetings some time in March.

The Afternoon W.I. meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Day Centre at 2.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Pauline Cianciola
Tel. 814487

STANSTED EVENING

'Craft' was the theme of our well attended February meeting. Members brought along an excellent exhibition of their hobbies, including embroidery, tapestry, calligraphy, basket work, etc.

Annette Allen demonstrated the art of stencilling and showed how this could transform a room with little effort. Members then tried this out for themselves with amazing results.

A competition for a home-made Valentine Card was won by Betty Little, second Elsie Stoddart and third Sally Smith.

The subject of our next meeting on March 9th will be 'Your family history'.

Vera Ansell
815949



On 31st January eleven of us went to the Corn Exchange at Cambridge for the 54th Annual Conference of the RBLWS, Eastern Area. After a short service the Lady Mayoress addressed conference. The speakers were Mrs. Langford, who gave a fascinating talk on the occupation of Holland by the Germans during the second world war; and Major Fairclough of the Salvation Army, who told us about the tracing of missing relatives. There were 80 branch standards, 9 county standards, 1 area standard and 164 delegates. Altogether a most interesting day.

Our March Group Meeting will be at Berden and our branch meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday 16th March at 7.45 p.m. when Rev. Eric McIlwain will talk to us about Canada. All visitors will receive a warm welcome.

A coffee morning will be held at 55 Chapel Hill on Friday 10th March from 10.30 a.m.

Pat Clower
815220



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The new season starts officially on 1st April.

There will be coaching for adults and children and people who are interested in this or club membership should please telephone:- Janet Hollis - B/S 812073.

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STANSTED DEMOCRATS

This year's dinner and dance at Stansted Hall was a great success with a record 120 people present to dance to local trio Misty. Dinner was prepared and served by members. As a prelude to the meal a short sketch was performed in the library; a skit on a parish council meeting which received a report on the "Redundant Politicians Fund"! (A variation on a current local controversy?) Amongst the guests were the former parliamentary candidate Mark Hayes and his wife Janet, constituency agent Wendy Jolley and Brian Talley and councillors from Democrat controlled Chelmsford Borough.

Future events:

- 3-4 March Local members will attend national conference in Bournemouth
- 11 March 9.30-11.00 at parish council offices. Councillors' surgery with Ray Clifford (Uttlesford) and parish council colleague Marion Pretty
- 8 April 9.30-11.00 Councillors' surgery at the parish council offices
- 15 April 12.00 Ploughman's lunch at the Day Centre
- 4 May County Council Elections
- 13 May 9.30-11.00 Councillors' surgery at the parish council offices

For details of any event contact Jane Sell tel. 812408. Membership enquiries to Frances Spalding tel. 813432.

Alan Dean
813579



WANTED

We need an Advertisement Manager to compile next year's cover.

Any offers?

to Rev'd Margaret Booker
Tel. 812684



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Ladies A.G.M. will be held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 1st March from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker: Mr Jerry Hayes, M.P. for Harlow. Light lunch £1.00.

The Joint Branch A.G.M. will be at the Day Centre on Friday 3rd March. 8 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. Speaker: Alan Haselhurst - our M.P.

Thursday 4th May

Essex County Council Elections.

Thursday 15th June

European Elections.

Tuesday 11th July

Coach outing to Burghley House near Stamford. Please contact Pam Sutton for details - B/S 815070. All very welcome to come - please book early to save disappointment.

Surgeries to see your Conservative Councillors.

These are held at the Parish Council Offices from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Dates (Saturdays)

25th March, 22nd April and 20th May.

All enquiries to: Bridget Gott B/S 814440 or Pat Bickerton B/S 812411.

PEACE & JUSTICE ACTION GROUP (P.JAG) (see Nov. issue)

Further to our article in last November's "Link" about this independent, non-denominational group, recently formed in Stansted, we are pleased to announce that a cheque for the sum of one hundred pounds (£100) has been sent to the OXFAM Kampuchean Fund. This was money (mainly pennies and small change) collected in the bottles sited in and around Stansted, and also to a very generous donation.

We had asked people to donate just one penny a week. In this way they would not notice it and, as you can see, the money has mounted up. In this small way we feel we are not just another committee, but an ACTION Group who are committed to do something, however small, to help relieve some of the distress and deprivation in our world.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the third Wednesday of each month, or if you would like to have a Kampuchea bottle to collect pennies in your home, church, office or shop, etc., please ring Monica Kapadia on 52664, for more information.



OUR PAGE



EASTER FLOWERS

FROM the darkness of Good Friday, the day on which Jesus died on the cross, we come to the light and joy of Easter.

In Lent the church was dull and bare, but at Easter it is bright with masses of flowers. The flowers remind us that the world is full of life, even though it looked so dead throughout the winter months.

In our church we have an Easter Garden, made from stones and earth, grass and flowers and in the middle there is an empty tomb with the stone door rolled away to one side. You can read what happened in a special garden on that very first Easter Day in Matthew chapter 28; Mark chapter 16; Luke chapter 24 and John chapter 20.

If your church doesn't have an Easter Garden, or if you'd like your own at home, why don't you make your own.

EASTER GARDEN

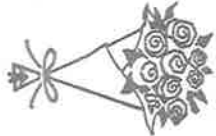
YOU'LL need a shallow tin or dish, soil or potting compost, moss, stones, an egg cup, flowers and a small clay plant pot.

Line the dish with soil or potting compost and put the clay pot on its side to make the tomb. Cover the sides of the pot and the soil with moss. Scrape a space in the centre of the dish to fit in the egg cup or other small container, fill this with small flowers and leaves and add some water. Decorate the garden with stones, pebbles and other flowers and put one large stone beside the mouth of the flowerpot to make the door of the tomb. Spray your garden with water and it will keep fresh for quite a long time.



*What do you get if you cross a crocodile with a rose?
I don't know, but I wouldn't try smelling it.*

*What do you get if you cross a sheep dog and a bunch of daisies?
Collie-flowers.*



*A major with wonderful force,
Called out in Hyde Park for a horse,
All the flowers looked around,
But no horse could be found,
So he just rhododendron, of course.*

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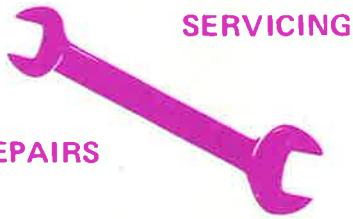
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