

May 90

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of community,
whose will is that all
your people enjoy
fullness of life:
may we be builders
of community,
caring for your
good earth
here and worldwide,
and, as partners with
the poor,
signs of your
ever-friendly love;
that we may delight
in diversity
and choose solidarity,
for you are in
community with us,
our God for ever.*

Amen.

Christian Aid Market

This will be held on Saturday May 19th, at the Friends' Meeting House, Chapel Hill, from 9.30 to 12 noon. All contributions for the following stalls can be given to your Church C.A. representative or brought on the morning of the market:-

Cakes
Plants & produce
Good-as-new clothes (no jumble)
Bric-a-Brac
Toys and books
Bring and buy

For any more details about the envelope collection or the market please contact me.

Catherine Dean
813579

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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
10th May for June issue
14th June for July/August issue

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

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.

We rightly exult over the Resurrection victories of our Lord; death is transcended and becomes the gateway to life; evil is transversed to become an incomparable benediction; suffering is transmuted into the material of mercy and peace. But our exulting in these triumphs may lead us to overlook something equally wonderful; which is this - in the Resurrection God gives Jesus back to us, to the human race.

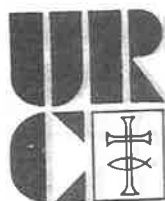
It is worth noting that Jesus did not appear to the various people who conspired to hound Him to death. Dr W R Maltby suggested that our Lord avoided doing so out of love for them, because to have come back from death to His enemies would probably have done them permanent psychological harm. Those He came back to were His friends, who, in spite of their forsaking of Him, still loved Him greatly.

He came back to them to re-establish the loving fellowship with them which their faithlessness had imperilled and His death would otherwise have ended. He came back to His terrified disciples to greet them with the blessing, "Peace be unto you". With most considerate care He gently brought the heart-broken Mary Magdalene to recognise Him. With tender patience He enlightened the darkened minds of His two friends walking to Emmaus. With loving understanding He helped Thomas through his doubts. Peter was given the opportunity to reverse his threefold denial with a threefold confession of love. And on leaving His disciples' sight, hearing and touch Jesus assured them "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".

So God gave Jesus back to those who were able to receive Him; and gave Him so lovingly and carefully; and gave Him back for good, His continuing and abiding gift to mankind. But why on earth should He bother after the way the disciples failed Him and we fail Him? Well, it all has to do with the mystery and miracle and glory of His grace. That's the way He is. If we want Him, there is nothing between us and Him and He is between us and all things.

God bless you all.
Yours affectionately,

Harold Fisher



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel: (95) 23296

Group Secretary:

Miss Muriel Dalley
145 Cherry Garden Lane
Newport, Essex
Tel: (95) 41210

Stansted Contact:

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.

A thought for Christian Aid Week.

Fair Shares for All

Let's share the food my brother, Let's share the fruit of the world. Steak for me, and rice for you ... and eggs for tea and rice for you ... It's nice for me but rice for you.

Fruit and wine and milk and jam, cheese and pickles, fish and ham ... for me. And a little rice, just a little rice, if you're lucky ... for you.

Let us share the pain my brother, but you shall have MORE than your share. Pains for you and pills for me, germs for you and 'Jabs' for me, though you die young, long life for me!
Tranquillisers, deep X-rays, penicillin and nothing to pay, for me.
And a little clinic, just a mobile clinic, (per 100 thousand), for you.

Let's share the war my brother, let's share the horrors of war. Peace for me, napalm for you, trade for me, but raids for you; Cripples, orphans, refugees, villages burned, no leaves on trees ... for you.
A little pang of conscience for me.

Let's share our wealth my brother, let's share all that you have. Gold for me but beads for you, Christ for me, the Devil take you, there's two for me but none for you. Bingo, bombs and drugs and booze, money to burn to waste and lose ... And a little aid, just a little aid (when we can spare it) for you.



It is with great sadness that we record the death of Brian Wright on 2nd April 1990. Brian, who was an Elder and a Lay Preacher, had not lived in Stansted for the last few years but was always interested and involved in the life of the Church here. Our thoughts and prayer go out to Jill his wife and Mary his sister and their families at this time.

SERVICES FOR MAY

6th Rev. L. Rapkin Communion
13th Mr. R. Friday of Cambridge
20th Rev. M. Melvin of Harlow
27th Rev. L. Rapkin

Please do not forget the "Bibles for Romania" Coffee Morning at 58 Chapel Hill on May 2nd at 10.30 a.m.

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 John Cardell-Oliver
43 Gilbey Crescent.
Tel: 814463

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

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	-	9.30am
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.

"There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his disciples didn't even have time to eat. So he said to them 'Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while'. So they started out in a boat by themselves for a lonely place." (Mk. 6:30-32)

Like Jesus and his disciples, we all from time to time need a chance for peace and quiet - a time to go away from the usual hustle and bustle for our everyday life - a time to stop and think.

In June we are arranging an opportunity for anyone in our congregations to do just that. A Quiet Day has been arranged at Radwinter Church for Saturday 9th June, and it is open to anyone from our own or other congregations in Stansted. The day will be led by the Revd. Harold Fisher, who is well known to many and will shortly be leaving Stansted after 13 years to minister in Chelmsford.

The theme for the day will be "The Actions of the Eucharist" - taking, blessing, breaking and sharing, and there will be time for silent meditation or prayer between the talks. At midday we will come together for the Eucharist and lunch with the children.

Quiet Days are not just for the specially holy people - they are an opportunity for anyone to think and pray more deeply about their lives and their faith. The day follows on from our series of Lent sermons when the clergy talked about things they found helpful in praying.

We will be arranging transport for anyone who needs it, and there will be a creche for children of all ages in the village hall. So there is no excuse for anyone not to come! If we are to look forward to strengthen our life as a church, then opportunities such as this to renew and deepen our faith are vital for each of us.

A couple of practical points - coffee and tea will be provided, but you will need to bring a packed lunch, and there will be a modest charge of £1 for adults and 50p for children towards the expenses for the day. If you would like to come, or need more information, please contact Margaret Booker on 812684.

Bob Wallace

P.S. We shall need a couple of people who would be willing to help look after the children for all or part of the day. Offers to Brenda Wallace '812203).



NEW PCC

At the Annual meetings on 2nd April, the following were elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council for the coming year.

Church Wardens; Alan Corbishley
Derek Honour
Deanery Synod: Alastair Bone
Alan Corbishley
Marion Johnson
Glynis Morris
Also elected: Anthea Bareham
Anthony Butcher
Francine Cope
Jackie Corbishley
Jane Freeman
Peter Jones
Anthony Minshull
Peter Pavitt
Hermione Perry
Alastair Richardson

In addition all licensed clergy are on the P.C.C. The first meeting of the new P.C.C. will be on Monday 30th April.

CAISTER '90

On Friday March 30th Warner's Holiday Camp at Caister became the destination for about 350 of the laity of the Diocese of Chelmsford and its four Bishops. Four of us went from Stansted - Marion, Tom and Ann Johnson and Stella Skingle.

We arrived early at about 3.30 pm in bright sunshine. Having found our chalets, unpacked and made the usual cuppa, we strolled down to the beach and breathed in the lovely sea air. Our weekend had begun!

The theme for the weekend was 'The People of God'. The Keynote address on Saturday morning was given by writer and broadcaster Elaine Storkey. She spoke vividly and amusingly, taking as her text I Peter 2 vv 4-13 and 4 vv 7-11, reminding us that Jesus is a living stone, the stone that the builders rejected, the cornerstone. We can build our life around Him. We are supposed to be the other stones in the building around Jesus, the Cornerstone.

Elaine went on to talk about the Decade of Evangelism that is rapidly approaching. She asked the question "What is the love we need to communicate in this decade of evangelism?" She suggested that love is "hanging in there faithfully"; love is going to go on for ever. The People of God should be loving one another belonging to one another.

After this address we split up into small groups of about seven, to discuss some of the points raised by Elaine Storkey. That was followed by "A Word with the Bishops", when we went into four different places with one bishop in each, to report our findings. This gave everyone an opportunity to get to know the diocesan bishops a little better.

For me Saturday afternoon was one of the highlights of the weekend, for that was the time set aside for Workshops. These were many and varied, with brass-rubbing, cooking, circus skills, dance in worship, banner-making, etc. I'd chosen music for my workshop and was rather apprehensive, lest everyone else in the group should turn out to be a brilliant instrumentalist or singer. However, my fears were groundless. I ended up in a group with a young man, Shaun Islip, who talked to us about Worship. He is worship-leader in a London church near Victoria. I found Shaun a really inspirational man to listen to. His great love for the Lord shone out of him as he talked, and later, as he played and sang with guitar and trumpet.

We sang through the music that we would be using for Sunday morning's Eucharist, much of which was new to us, but all of which we enjoyed. Robin Sheldon, the other musician who led us, had written some of the settings for the service. He and Shaun belong to the Music in Worship Trust and both taught us a great deal.

The climax of the whole weekend was reached at the Holy Communion on Sunday morning, when everyone gathered in "Neptune's Palace" for this wonderful act of worship. Offerings from each of the Saturday workshops were brought forward during the service. The liturgical dance group performed very beautifully and the Speaking in Worship group showed that the Bible readings could be shared amongst groups of people.

The hymns in the service ranged from the traditional to the very new, proving without a doubt that the two can stand together. As we sang 'Let there be love shared among us' after we had exchanged the Peace, it was difficult to keep the tears from my eyes. There was real love for one another at Caister that weekend. Everyone talked to everyone, regardless of age or which parish you were from. But, most important of all, we were all there because we shared a love for Jesus Christ, and when we ended our service with 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' and hearts and hands were raised to Him, there was a feeling of real joy.

I urge anyone who missed Caister 90 to book themselves a place on the next Diocesan weekend. It was tremendous!

Stella Skingle



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk: Katharine Hurford
2 Matching Lane
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 654945

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

I would like to say thankyou very much indeed to everyone who helped with the Good Friday Project. Those who worked so hard to get everything ready and those who did such a grand job on the day. Thank you parents and friends for coming to the service. Of course none of this would have been worthwhile without the children so a big thankyou to them for doing so well on Good Friday.

Marion Johnson

Meeting for worship: 11am



REGISTERS

Baptisms

25 March James Alan Whatmore
John Derek Whatmore
Matthew James Stock

Wedding

31 March Peter Robert Clachan &
Jennifer Mary Halls

Funerals

16 March Elizabeth Ann Banks, 95
24 March Joyce Gwendoline May, 68
30 March Gordon Archibald Collett, 64
6 April Kenneth Allen Roy Snow, 68

DIARY - MAY

- 1 10 am Service at Mead Court
8.15 pm Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway
- 3 10.30 am Service at Norman Court
- 8 2 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
2.15 pm Tiny Tots
- 13 10 am Confirmation at St John's
(The Bishop of Colchester)
6.30 pm Christian Aid Week Service at St Theresa's - no evening service at St Mary's
- 15 Evening Archdeacon's Visitation at St John's (The Archdeacon of Colchester)
- 20 6.30 pm Rogation Sunday service at Farnham (Levels Green Barn) - no evening service at St Mary's
- 22 2.15 pm Tiny Tots
- 24 ASCENSION DAY 10 am Holy Communion
8 pm Parish Communion

Quakers don't make exciting Hollywood heroes. Scriptwriters are traditionally more at home in a world where men are 'real men' and justice is meted out in ample measure from the barrel of a gun.

I'm reminded of a film in which Alan Ladd portrayed a Naval Reservist, recalled to active service at the beginning of World War II, and being forced to make a painful choice between his sense of duty as a serviceman and the pacifist values instilled in him by his Quaker parents. Of course traditional values are not undermined too much - his pacifist leanings are only a temporary aberration and he 'comes to his senses' in the end. As the film demonstrates, pacifism is neither an easy nor a popular option. Even the Christian Church has often failed to accept the full ethical demands of the Sermon on the Mount.

Throughout history, however, there have been those with the courage to shed new light on the message that Jesus preached. Those like Franz Jagerstetter, who was executed in 1943 for refusing to serve in Hitler's armies, despite being given his Bishop's permission to fight for the Fatherland.

I don't claim to have that kind of courage, but I do hope that I can find the strength to set aside the Hollywood imagery and to live a life that is true to the original Christian message, and to the Quaker peace testimony. In the words of George Fox; "Here we are for ever: neither now nor in the centuries to come shall we be moved, for war is evil now and will every be evil, even when it seems to be a war for the right".

John Millington

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd John Meehan
The Presbytery, 12 Millside.
Tel: 814349

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

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

A MUSICAL PARABLE

The Parable of the Piano as told by
Fr. Jim Brand

The battered, dented, well played piano has obviously suffered, but has been loved and has given pleasure. Sometimes we are only given 'Rules of Living' and we are unable to use our inspiration or our heart and soul. We are not able to think it out for ourselves, we are only able to obey the 'rules', terrified that if we do not appear to conform we are lost. In this way as with the pianist only a part of us is living. If we only play with one finger and then feeling nervous and guilty we are unable to take real responsibility for what we do, unable to put the whole of our being behind our lives. Jesus gave us the whole of himself - we appear to be limited in what we are prepared to give.

It is easier for most people to justify themselves by not living to the limit God has given them and therefore not making any mistakes - therefore not giving the whole of themselves; just the fingertips. This is totally dishonest, playing safe with no imagination.

The violin and the drum are very different from each other but in music they are able to listen to each other, love each other and are able to play the main theme together. This is shared with the rest of the orchestra. What is your main theme? Are you able to share it or are you too frightened and want to play safe?

Listening gives one the chance to play and one cannot be without the other. When listening to a singer we do not notice the accompanist if he is there - we notice if he is not there. The whole performance is incomplete. This is the same with the Holy Spirit, without him life is incomplete.

In an orchestration every instrument gets a chance to play the main theme - our main theme in life is to establish Christ in our lives. Once we have done that we can keep quiet and listen to others.

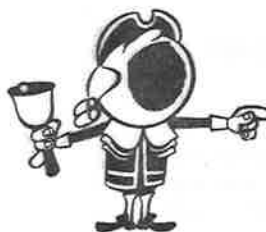
We are all different, like instruments in an orchestra - loud - soft - mute - clashing, etc. but all work together to produce the harmonious main theme.

Our Pope is the conductor of the music that Christ has written, he makes sure we follow the score!

Mary Warnett

Jubilate

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

May

- | | | |
|-------|-----------|---|
| 2 | 10.30 | "Bibles for Romania" Coffee Morning at 58 Chapel Hill |
| | 8.00 | Garden Club Meeting at Day Centre |
| 3 | 8.00 | Local History Society AGM and feature on 'The Old Court House, Chapel Hill: from Literary Institute to Rocky's Disco' at Day Centre |
| 6 | 9-noon | Stansted Sports Association Boot Sale at Hargrave Park |
| 7 | 2.30 | Brownie/Guide May Fayre at St John's Hall |
| 9 | 8.00 | Annual Parish Meeting in Day Centre |
| 12 | Noon-2 pm | Liberal Democrat Ploughman's Lunch at Day Centre |
| 14-17 | | Skip at Crafton Green Car Park |
| 17 | 7.45 | Royal British Legion Women's Section - "History of Bishop's Stortford" at Day Centre |
| 19 | 9.30-noon | CHRISTIAN AID MARKET at Friends Meeting House |

June

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 4 | Noon-9pm | Exhibition highlighting main contents Uttlesford District Plan at Friends Meeting House |
| 9 | | "Quiet Day" at Radwinter Church led by Rev'd Harold Fisher |
| 23 | | Carnival Day |



When this article is read, our Treasurer, Neil Ksmsley, will have participated in the London Marathon. It is being written in keen anticipation that he will complete the challenge he has set himself. He is running to raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

In doing so he has set a challenge to the people of Stansted. His dedication (training for many months) deserves a warm response. It is not too late to recognise his endeavours by giving retrospective sponsorship. Contributions please to any member of the committee or to Mrs. Stevens at 1 Blythwood Gardens.

The Easter Supper held on 6th April was very enjoyable, livened by a quiz arranged by Mrs. Stevens. One of the subjects was the RBL, which revealed how much we needed to learn rather than how much we knew. Unfortunately the event seemed to clash with other engagements and attendance was lower than it might otherwise have been.

The next events scheduled are - June 15th, a Social Evening when Certificates of Appreciation will be presented; and August 17th, a VJ Night Supper - both at the Day Centre. Supporters please note and make priority entries in your diaries.

Finally, we sadly lost two members recently - Ken Snow and Gordon Collett. "We will remember them". Ken was an active member of the branch committee and was a keen member of the Far East Prisoners of War Association. We offer our condolences to their families.

After the conclusion of business at our March meeting Mr. Nelson talked to us about anecdotes in ancient newspapers. He read extracts from papers dated 1792 - with a story of the French Revolution; 1820 - about an officers' mess dinner lasting from 6 pm to 7 am the next morning, and many others. The first newsletters were written by businessmen to each other with a note attached telling of news in their area. These newsletters were read in taverns and coffee houses.

Our coffee morning at the home of our President, Mrs. Gabb, raised £145 including donations. Our grateful thanks to all who so generously supported us.

The speaker at our branch meeting on Thursday 17th May at 7.45 pm in the Day Centre will be Mr. Wright on the history of Bishop's Stortford.

Pat Clower

Stansted Art & Craft Market

Following the successful market held in October 1989 the committee has now been able to arrange the distribution of funds to local causes and charities as listed.

Stansted Trust	£350
Stansted Trust for Needy Children	£350
Mountfitchet School	£100
Boy Scouts	£ 75
Girl Guides	£ 75
Stansted Parish Council	£450
for the following:	
Summer Play Scheme	£100
Spring bulbs	£ 50
Seat for gardens	£200
Safety surfacing under play equipment	£100

It will be seen that a total of £1,400 has been distributed and we know will be well used. Our thanks are given to all those involved in enabling this amount to be produced and given.

Greg Snow
Chairman

Good news for all deaf and hard of hearing people.

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



The 8th Spring Show of Mountfitchet Garden Club took place on Saturday 7th April and once again proved to be a great success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members and friends who contributed to the event and acknowledge the support given by Van Hages Garden Centre.

Prominent amongst this year's winners were David Williams (Chairman) who won the Daffodil Cup and Medal, Janet Townsend - the Humphrey Vase, not forgetting Gordon Fuller - the Maud Banks Tankard and the committee shield which is awarded for the most points in the show. A special well done to all competitors for the overall high standards apparent throughout the show.

The next meeting of the club will be on Wednesday 2nd May, 8 pm, Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted, when Mr. Staines will give an insight talk on the Glen Chantry Gardens, a visit planned for later this year.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Hoffman who received the Club Trophy for being the most successful competitors in the Club's monthly competitions during 1989.

The 1990 monthly competitions start in May with the 'Best Potted Geranium'.

Sue Wilkinson



SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

Hello there!

Once again Eastertime is upon us. The children have been very busy making Easter cards and bunnies, and are looking forward to all those Easter Eggs.

The first half of next term will be an exciting time. We have a Dad's Morning on May 12th from 10-12, where dads or grandads can come along to see what the children do at Nursery School. We usually see some marvellous models made and painted (oil rigs, aeroplanes, trains, etc.).

A Quiz Night has been arranged for 18th May. I hope we have as many people as last year. It was a super evening and lots of fun.

The children will be rehearsing for a Maytime Concert, which will be held on Wednesday 23rd May. All parents grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends are welcome.

To all mums who have helped this term a very big thank you. To Nanny May and Auntie Joan especially from the Little Group children a special thankyou.

To all the children starting Big School, we wish you the best of luck!

Thanks.

Auntie Helen



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OUT AND ABOUT IN STANSTED V

Can you imagine our village without trees? How exposed the houses would be and how different the surrounding landscape! Surprisingly, however, our treescape as we now see it is quite recent. Large houses were built to be seen and trees were kept in check, and until the railway network made supplies of coal readily available wood was the main fuel for heating and cooking and charcoal was used in forges and for other industrial purposes. This renewable energy source was controlled by cutting all hedge growth every few years and pollarding trees a few feet above the ground.

Virtually all tree growth in the village has therefore sprung up during the last 150 years. Old photographs from the turn of the century show present mature trees as saplings and rarely a fully grown tree in sight. The pollarded trees have now grown large branches almost as big as the original trunks and trees and scrub grow on any neglected land as can be seen along Gall End Lane and the overgrown approaches to Stansted.

In spite of this arboreal invasion it has been found necessary to protect hundreds of trees in Stansted with Tree Preservation Orders, hundreds of exotic trees are planted in open spaces and gardens, there is an outcry when a tree is felled and lament when they are blown down. The life span of most unmanaged trees is between 150 and 250 years so it is not surprising that gales now take a toll of trees that have been allowed to run wild since the mid nineteenth century.

Having set the scene, I now encourage you to go out and look at trees - you do not need to be a botanist to find interesting things. At one time it was fashionable to plant lime trees round one's boundary and you will see a lot of these in Stansted. They would have been kept cut back, of course, and a current example of cutting and pruning trees to form a fence can be seen opposite the Old Bell. Admire again the tall elms and beech in Silver Street and the huge oaks nearby. An oak in Pennington Lane is scarred by lightning that split the bark from the top branch to the ground. Consider the seventy year old oak hacked down by the footpath behind Blythwood Gardens and left to rot, unlike the mature oaks recently felled for timber in the plantation beyond Bentfield Green. Count the tree rings on some of the trees felled by the storms that have been neatly sawn up. Wonder why the decaying horse chestnuts along Gypsy Lane and elsewhere in the village do not regenerate themselves.

Those who need other reasons for walking out could look for the mistletoe which you can just about get underneath in Alsa Street. Be impressed by the tortured looking old hornbeam pollards near Turners Spring, one of which split in the gales. Hornbeam wood is very hard and part of the centuries old trunk shattered into iron hard splinters.

It is difficult to decide which would be the oldest tree in Stansted. Some of our many oak trees could be 400 years old. There is an old acacia in front of Bentfield Bury. There are the hornbeams mentioned above. Stansted Park has a wealth of old trees and among these is a huge old bolling of a sweet chestnut, still with a live branch, which must be a contender.

But you may have your own ideas on this. If so, please write in with your suggestions for our oldest, or tallest, or largest tree.



Felix

Thankyou to all those who attended the TFSR meeting on 26th March, and thankyou to those who were unable to attend but have expressed and interest in this organisation. The response has been sufficiently encouraging for us to move further towards establishing a TFSR centre in Stansted. In the first instance this will probably be a collecting centre, but we would like to start some refurbishing as well before too long.

In her interesting talk on 26th March, Kate Sebag from the TRSR London workshop gave us an insight into why TFSR exists (to help craftsmen in developing countries), and the ways in which people can help. It was good to see that there is involvement by people of all ages throughout this country. Some of them specialise in the repair or sharpening of certain tools such as saws, hammers, drill bits and screwdrivers. Others help to sort out tools and build up kits for sending to specific communities in Africa or Central America. TFSR encourages helpers to form social links with tool recipients, and uses the informal feedback as a way of ensuring that the tools are appropriate to the needs of the community.

So, if you have a surplus of any of the following tools please let me know, and I will be pleased to collect them.

Saws, hammers, files, hand-drills, planes, spanners or any other small handtools.

Also, if you feel able to help by being part of a small planning/management committee then I shall be pleased to hear from you so that we can get things moving.

Michael Dyer
814059

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB



The Annual General Meeting of the tennis club was held on Wednesday 4th April. The following officers were elected:-

President - Richard Shervington
Chairman - Janet Hollis
Treasurer - Georgina Rose
Secretary - Richard Mott
Match Secretary - Lynn MacDonald
Committee Members - Hazel Smith, Susan Frost, Rodney Craig, John Eyre, Richard Crosby

Mrs. Gwen Harbridge is our representative on the Parish Council.

At the time of writing there are still 6 vacancies in the 11-13 year coaching group starting on 2nd May and 4 vacancies in the 8-10 group starting on 1st May.

Members wishing to enter the Saffron Walden Hospitals Cup Tournament should enter their names on the list in the clubhouse by 8th May.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Do you remember what went on at the old Central Hall? Were you involved? If so, you may be interested in our meeting on Thursday 3rd May at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre. Following the A.G.M. business (which will be kept to a minimum) there will be a presentation entitled "The Old Court House, Chapel Hill - From Literary Institute to Rocky's Disco". Photographs will also be on display. Visitors welcome - admission to non members 75p.

This will be the last meeting of the season. An interesting programme has been arranged for next winter, starting on the first Thursday in September. Look out for details on the noticeboards and in the Link or contact 813160 - Peggy Honour.



"OUR VILLAGE"

To continue with our street lighting story by advancing to 1914 when we find the Parish Council looking for ways to cut expenses. One proposal was to cut down on the number of lighted street lamps. This was to bring forth a written response from an unknown poet, known only now as "A Lover of Light".

"Twas at a Council Meeting,
Where great things were discussed,
And on each face was pictured,
A look of pained disgust.
For the question that before them rose,
Was how to save 'Do we propose?'
They'd thought of various methods
By which to money save
But neer one would answer
And every face was grave.
It seemed as if the night would end,
Ere fortune would her help extend.
At last spoke up one member,
More sanguine the rest
Well we cannot all make money,
But each can do his best.
Though pounds are wasted every week by
licking George's stamps
We can economise a little by cutting short
the lamps.
And thus the vote was carried
But when it came to night,
The lamps in darkest places
Refused to show a light.
Except when some with kindly thought,
Had hung a lantern fearing naught.
And when the benighted wanderer,
Returns from revels late
A lantern for his only light
He wanders past his gate.
And as in utter darkness he gropes in sad
despair,
Heaven bless the Parish Council will not be
his fervent prayer."

Betty Turner remembers a duty her father had to carry out whilst working for the Gas Company in the early 1900's. He had to wait at the station for the mail train to come in, then walk up Chapel Hill behind the people and put the lamps out: not very nice on a cold wet night.

P. J. Brown

Judy Jay

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STANSTED AFTERNOON

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

April Meeting

Mrs. Ann Calver, our President, chaired our April meeting. Mrs. Pauline Cianciola reported in the National W.I. half yearly report. Mrs. Brenda Scarr outlined our programme for 1991.

Mrs. Doreen Hull entertained us with a most interesting and enjoyable talk on "Collecting Old Needlework", bringing many varied and beautiful examples to show us. These ranged from our own country to the Middle and Far East.

Mrs. Dockerill was first in our competition "Best use of 100 grms double knitting wool", Mrs. Patmore being second. There were eleven entries, resulting in an attractive display of knitting.

Mrs. Robinson, one of our guests, won the raffle.

On May 7th we are having a stall at the Thaxted Flea Market, when a selection of preserves, pickles and chutneys will be for sale.

Our next meeting on 9th May will be "Resolutions" when Mrs. Lewis, V.C.O. will talk to us.

Liliane Bowman
814325

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A temporary change of venue - the United Reformed Church Hall - did not deter our members from attending the meeting to hear Mr. Andrew Stewart from Van Hages tell us now to turn our gardens into a riot of colour this summer.

The mysteries of planting hanging baskets were explained to mutterings of "so that's how it's done!" No excuses now for dull gardens, so perhaps the marks in the Best Kept Village Competition for private gardens will show an improvement this year. Following slides, questions and refreshments the business part of the meeting began.

A profit of over £78 had been made on the Market Stall and final details for the Spring Group Meeting were announced. As part of an effort in the Best Kept Village Competition, the garden at St. Mary's Church has already been dug over and tidied.

Resolutions time is nearly upon us and we heard that the Queen will be present at our A.G.M. at the Albert Hall to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the W.I. movement. It is Stansted's turn to go this year - we take it in turns with Elsenham W.I. - so there will almost certainly be a ballot to see who will represent us.

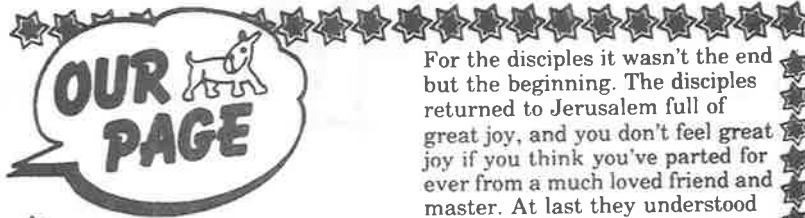
The resolutions for this year will be discussed at a May meeting and will deal with our Constitution, Bovine Somatotropin (BST) and the protection of the Antarctic - an interesting mixture of topics!

Ideas for next year's programme were proposed by members for discussion by the committee.

Our W.I. will be providing tea for a Chelmsford W.I. as they near the end of a trip round Suffolk in June. Cooks and helpers will be organised in May.

The meeting closed at nearly 10.30 pm after the raffle was drawn and the competition judged. Competition winners were Olive Barrett, Elsie Stoddard and Vera Ansell - how did they get those flowers to stay in the wine glass?

Pearl Wellings
813614



Ascension Day 24th MAY

DURING the forty days after Jesus rose from the dead he often visited his disciples. Then he returned to heaven. The disciples were on the Mount of Olives when Jesus gave them his final message. As they watched, they saw him 'taken up into heaven... and a cloud hid him from their sight'. This is what we call the Ascension.



Although this was the end of Jesus' ministry on earth it was not the end of his work. As the disciples watched Jesus being taken from them two heavenly messengers asked them 'Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go into heaven' (Acts 1, verses 1-11).

For the disciples it wasn't the end but the beginning. The disciples returned to Jerusalem full of great joy, and you don't feel great joy if you think you've parted forever from a much loved friend and master. At last they understood that Jesus had to go so that he could be with them, and us, always.

PUT YOUR NAME ON IT

If you would like to have your initials on a growing plant or tree, without damaging it at all - just cut your initials out of black paper and stick them on a flat leaf. In the autumn remove the paper (you may have to soak it first) and your initials will appear where the leaf was masked from the sun!

BRAINACHE?

1. What question must you always answer YES to?
2. What question can you never answer YES to, even though it's true?
3. If a group of people contains: a father, mother, uncle, aunt, sister, brother, nephew, niece and two cousins - what is the smallest number of people they can be?
4. What occurs four times in every week, twice in every month; and only once in a year?

Answers to puzzle:

1. How do you pronounce YES?
2. Are you asleep?
3. Four (the father and mother were brother and sister, one having a son and the other a daughter).
4. The letter E.

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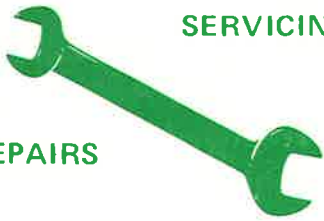
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