

Dec '91

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CAROL SINGING

MEMORIAL GARDENS  
CHAPEL HILL

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

AT

7.00 P.M.

In aid of 'Helpline'

SOUP IN ST. JOHN'S HALL AFTERWARDS



**CAROL SERVICE**



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

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

Advertising Manager: Mrs I Everitt, 12 Meadowcroft. Tel: 813504.

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

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16th January for February issue



## THE ORIGIN OF THE CRIB

To celebrate the birth of Christ, St. Francis of Assisi decided to make it 'real' for his people and his friars who lived in the hills around the hermitage of Greccio. St. Francis sent a message to an old friend, Giovanni Vellita, telling him of his plan to re-create the scene at Bethlehem. "If you want to celebrate the Feast of the Lord at Greccio, hurry and diligently prepare what I tell you, for I wish to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem, I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardships of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger, how with an ox and ass standing by he lay upon the hay."

Giovanni and his friends worked hard and succeeded in re-creating in the cave the first Crib scene surrounded by candles. The villagers and friars were completely overwhelmed as they celebrated the Christmas Mass at which St. Francis preached, bringing the Christmas story to life in a very special way.

After the death of St. Francis, the custom of having a crib at Christmas spread throughout Europe. The crib in the house also became popular by the seventeenth century owing much of its popularity to the enthusiasm of the Franciscans. In England the symbol of the Crib was taken further in the baking of a Christmas mince pie in an oblong shape to cradle the image of the Infant Jesus. This was very much a pre-Reformation practice and by the time of the puritans, mince pie making was outlawed as "idolatrie in crust".

When we have a crib scene in our home it is not only a reminder of the First Christmas, it is also a link with all other Christians who have celebrated the joy of the birth of Christ through the ages.

May the joy of the Crib enrich our lives this Christmas and bring home to each of us the meaning of the birth of Christ - to remind us that God our Father loves us so much that he sent his only Son to be our salvation. Jesus is our salvation and hope and he shows us the way of love. Let us renew ourselves in that love this Christmas as we care for the sick and elderly. We try to be better people. We pray for peace for our troubled world and pray God's Spirit will help us all to seek the things of lasting value in God's love.

Christmas is but the start of a pilgrimage in the love of God until we come to the glory of heaven - a kingdom not of this world.

This Christmas let us pray for the lowly and down-trodden. Let us pray for the sanctity of life in the midst of Abortion and Euthanasia. Let us pray for the sanctity of man and woman in mutual respect. This Christmas let each of us try to be less selfish and materialistic and seek the true meaning of Christ's birth - "Peace and Goodwill".

Christmas is truly a festive time of hustle and bustle and shops. But it is also the time of the family and it is the time to draw close to the Church of Christ in worship and joy.

May the joy of the Infant Saviour bless each and every one of us this Christmas and lead us to a holy and happy 1992.

Rev. J. D. Meehan  
St. Theresa's



## HOUSE TO HOUSE CAROL SINGING 1991

This year we are singing to raise money for HELPLINE, Stansted's Community Care Service. Please come and help us. Everybody is welcome particularly instrumentalists. If you cannot sing or play you can knock on doors and collect money. We meet each evening at 7.30 p.m. We will provide carol sheets so all we need is YOU in warm clothes and carrying a torch.

Saturday 21st December  
Meet outside Les Oldfield's to sing in Sunnyside, Woodfields, Chapel Hill and the Rec.  
Sunday 22nd December  
Meet at corner of Croasdaile Road and Cambridge Road. Singing in Dove Close, Croasdaile Close, Gilbey Crescent, Croasdaile Road, Rainsford Road, Longcroft and Loates Pasture.  
Monday 23rd December  
Meet at corner of Bentfield Gardens and Bentfield Road. Singing in Bentfield Gardens, Cawkell Close, Bentfield Road, Wetherfield and Bentfield Causeway.  
Tuesday 24th December  
Meet at corner of Spencer Close and Chapel Hill. We will sing in Spencer Close, Chapel Hill and the St. John's area.

For further details please telephone one of the following:-  
Helen Baker 814865 Judy Goddard 812498  
Derek Honour 813160 Peter Jones 813252



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was a dry day again this year for the Remembrance Parade from Crafton Green to the Memorial Gardens.

The Rev. Ronald Rawlings, Methodist Minister from Stansted (Bishop's Stortford Circuit), led the short service at the Memorial reading out the names of the Fallen of two world wars. After the Exhortation and Silence, the final prayer was said by the Rev. Rawlings before wreaths were laid by Mr. Peter Jones for the Parish Council, Mrs. K. Stevens for the Royal British Legion, Mrs. E. Little for the Women's Section, P.C. Wood for the Stansted Police, Mr. D. Bayford, the Stansted Fire Service, Mr. Paternoster, Stansted Airport, Mr. Kempton, Stansted Social Club, Mr. E. Pretty, Stansted Scout Group, Karen Bellamy Flowers for Stansted District Guides, Mrs. B. Ryan, Stansted Evening Womens' Institute and Mr. R. Stoddard, a F.E.P.O.W. wreath on behalf of Mrs. Snow, eleven in all.

Service followed in St. John's Church led by Rev. Rawlings. The church was again full. Lessons were read by Mrs. K. Stevens, Chairman of Stansted and District Royal British Legion and Mr. Alan Dean for the Parish Council.

Thanks to all who attended, took part or organised in any way.

# HELPLINE

HELPLINE NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

It takes a very little time in the day to run an errand for someone or perhaps collect a prescription from the chemist, but it can make a huge difference for those who are unable to get there themselves. Can you help? If so, please ring 816008.

We would also be grateful for any donations (Tel: Treasurer on 814562) as our phone bill is large and our budget small!



LINK FUNDS

A very successful Coffee Morning was held at 58 Chapel Hill on October 16th for Link funds. Despite the weather £139 was raised to help keep the 1992 subscription unchanged at £2.50p. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Janet Townsend

- And very many thanks to Janet Townsend for again hosting this fund raising event for us.

Ed.

## 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.



## United Reformed

Chapel Hill

**Minister:** The Rev'd Margaret McKay MA BD  
16 Gibson Gardens  
Saffron Walden, Essex  
Tel: (95) 28155

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin  
23a St John's Close  
Saffron Walden, Essex  
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 and Newport please ring the Group Secretary.



Since 1988 when the present pilot group was formed, the Stansted U.R.C. Pilots have grown from strength to strength.

There are two groups meeting in the Lecture Hall every Wednesday evening between 5.15 and 8.15 p.m., ages 5-11. The activities are varied and the children are very enthusiastic about all they do. For instance, last Wednesday they held a 'Bring and Buy' sale in aid of 'Children in Need' and between 6.0 and 8 o'clock raised £50.00, mostly from items they had made themselves. They wish to thank all those who supported them in any way.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas the Pilots are going to 'entertain' the elderly at Norman Court and Mead Court with Christmas Carols and individual items of their own. They will be in Victorian costume. They also hope to visit the elderly at 'Fullers House'. This will be the Pilots' second visit to Norman and Mead Courts, for earlier in the year they distributed Harvest produce which they carefully collected themselves.

In the months to follow Stansted U.R.C. hope to expand their two pilot groups to three. This will be for older children, probably of secondary school age and above. They hope to meet once a month to begin with and are meeting on Sunday 17th November to discuss in which activities they would like to take part.

On Saturday December 7th from 7.0 - 10.00 p.m. Stansted U.R.C. are holding a 'Family evening' for the young people. Again, activities will be varied and I'm sure they will be making good use of their new full-sized table tennis table. Perhaps, in time, they might challenge the young people from other churches around to a table tennis match.

We are all greatly encouraged by these activities with our young people, especially when we see them coming to the 11 o'clock service on a Sunday morning. We couldn't continue to grow however without the help of our ever growing number of leaders, and the constant encouragement of our two very hard working ministers, not to mention the prayers of all our congregation.

As we go forward into 1992, perhaps we can join with other young people in the Christian churches in Stansted. I'm sure this is the way ahead and that we will be blessed in the work we are trying to do for our young people in this area.

Valerie Trundle



#### URC PREACHERS FOR DECEMBER

- |      |          |  |
|------|----------|--|
| 1st  | 11 am    | Rev. S. Evans of Cambridge   |
| 8th  | 11 am    | Rev. M. McKay Communion  |
| 15th | 10.30 am | Group Christmas Gift Service led by Rev. M. McKay and Rev. L. Rapkin followed by coffee & mince pies in the Lecture Hall |
| 22nd | 11 am    | Lessons & Carols Mrs. J. Townsend  |
| 25th | 10.30 am | Christmas Morning Family Worship Rev. L. Rapkin  |
| 29th | 11 am    | Rev. M. Booker   |

### **Methodist**

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Minister:** The Rev'd Michael Hayman  
2 South Road  
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.  
Tel: 654475

**Secretary:** Mrs Marion Dyer  
7 Blythwood Gardens  
Stansted, Essex CM24 8HG

**Services:** Morning Service - 9.30am.

#### METHODIST CIRCUIT YOUTH WEEKEND

The theme for this year's youth weekend at North Pickenham out in the wilds of Norfolk was "Who cares?". It was apparent that 38 young and 5 not-so-young people did care enough to give up the second weekend in November in order to be challenged about what life is all about. Naturally it was a multi-media event with poetry, music and drama all coming together for the thought-provoking worship session on the Sunday morning. We were privileged to have Yvonne Jinks (Stort Valley Schools Trust worker) as our leader, and hope that she was not too shocked by our Methodist idiosyncrasies! As always we had a jolly good time, and are looking forward to next October when our venue is likely to be St. Mark's College near Audley End.

Michael Dyer



# Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting for  
worship: 11am

## "AND THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM AT THE INN"

Christmas is a particularly difficult time for the homeless. The places where they can usually obtain cheap accommodation very often close down over the Christmas period and people not used to sleeping rough can find themselves on the streets without adequate protection. Even those who manage to find a place to sleep near a heating vent may find that the heating is switched off during the holiday period.

Every year Quaker Homeless Action provides bed and full board for some 200-300 of London's homeless people. On December 23rd the helpers work hard to set up the kitchen - rolls of towelling, masses of hired cutlery - huge saucepans (which later need something like a Black and Decker to chip away the porridge!) mountains of food and large lined crates which act as hay boxes. I remember my astonishment on my first visit when out of a kitchen 12' x 12' a full Christmas lunch for 300 people was produced: the hay boxes were invaluable.

An early priority is to sort all the nearly new clothing acquired over the last year into sizes, so that a few people at a time can come and choose a new outfit. Particularly prized are warm underwear and socks of which there are never enough.

Certain homeless people come year after year and greet the helpers with real affection.

Many are willing to help with the chores or will come to check that the kitchen is as clean as it should be, watch the work in progress or beg an extra sandwich. Some have special talents: I remember one man (turned into a wandering alcoholic by the tragic loss of his entire family) who was an excellent pianist. He was critical of the awful, old piano but played on good humouredly.

Some noble helpers stay over the whole Christmas period, making their home with the homeless, but most of us only manage a few shifts. Those with special skills - hair cutting, chiropody, entertaining - are encouraged to come prepared but often a friendly ear is all that is needed. Some of the tales are heartrending and one can feel very "wring" but the Christmas spirit does surfact and helpers and guests do have a lot of fun.

Anthea Lee

(If you can donate socks, warm underwear, hotel soap or suitable gift-wrapped presents, please leave them at 26 Bentfield End. They will be received with gratitude.)



# Church of England

St John's Church, St John's Road

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

Services: 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

## Anglican Spirituality

### A series of talks for Advent

This series will take place in St. John's on Friday evenings at 8.15 p.m., followed by Compline at 9 p.m. The talks will be as follows:

29 November - Bishop Jeremy Taylor - *Dr. Duncan McGuffie*

6 December - Anglican Spirituality - *Canon John Byrom*

13 December - George Herbert - *Rev'd. Christopher Kevill-Davies*



DIARY FOR DECEMBER

- 2 8.00 pm P.C.C. at the Vicarage  
3 8.15 pm Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway  
5 10.30 am Service at Norman Court  
6 8.15 pm Advent address and compline  
7 Concert  
10 2.00 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close  
12 10.30 am Service at Mead Court  
13 8.15 pm Advent address and compline  
20 9.15 am St Mary's School Carol Service in Church  
2.30 pm Peter Kirk School Carol Service in Church  
7.00 pm United Carol Singing in memorial gardens  
22 6.00 pm Carol Service at Farnham Church - no evening service at Stansted  
24 3.00 pm Crib Service  
11.30 pm Midnight Mass  
25 8.00 am Holy Communion  
9.30 am Parish Communion  
11.00 am Holy Communion and Carols - ST. MARY'S  
29 6.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

As we "go to press" the date of the Christingle Service has not been fixed. This will be advertised as soon as possible.

REGISTERS FOR OCTOBER

Baptisms

- 27 Richard Adam Aley  
Melissa Rhian Comyn-Noyes  
Jennifer Elizabeth Honour

Omitted from September:

- 22 Rose Emily Chatto

Funerals

- 15 Albert Edward Pigram, 86  
21 Mildred May Turner, 93



December 7th 7.30 p.m.  
**Netteswell Youth Band**  
**Christmas Concert**  
St. John's Church, Stansted.  
Tickets:  
Adults £2.50 Concessions £1.50  
Family £6.00



GUIDING LIGHTS

By the beginning of next month the days will be truly closing in. Those walking home through the Memorial Gardens and the grounds of St. John's will find their way home well lit. The Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council have co-ordinated their efforts to provide new lighting in this central part of the village, through which many commuters, school children and shoppers pass every day.

The scheme introduces period lighting in the form of Victorian gas lamps. The Parish Council have provided two standard lamps along the path in the Memorial Gardens, and the Parish Church the lights on the path adjacent to the Church, by the Hall, and in the car park.

All in all the new lighting scheme should afford a much greater degree of security for those who walk through the Church grounds in winter, and at the same time visually enhance the village.

P.S. Thanks to the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council for this cheering and helpful amenity - from the Editor - and, I'm sure, many who read this.



Dear Friends

I am writing to inform you of the sad news that Helene and I have left Botswana and are now in Britain. At present we are uncertain what the future holds for us. Our first three years of marriage has been a very pressurized time and we have a lot of sorting out to do.

Although we spent only eighteen months in Botswana, we did some valuable work which we hope will continue on into the future.

Helene and I are very grateful for the love and support you have given us. When we have reached a final decision concerning our future, I will write again.

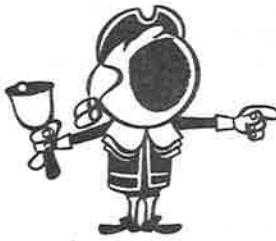
Fr Tony

If anyone wishes to send Tony and Helene a Christmas card, they can be reached either via Bob or myself.

Margaret



# Village News



## FUTURE EVENTS

### December

- 4 11.00-12.30 Stansted Hall - Barnardo's Christmas Fayre
- 5 1.15-3.00 St. Mary's C of E Primary School Open Day
- 5 7.30 Clavering. British Legion Women's Branch Bring & Buy
- 5 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society
- 7 2.30 Broom End Nursing Home Bazaar
- 7 7.30 St. John's Church. Netteswell Youth Band Christmas Concert
- 8 Parsonage Farm. Conservatives' Pre-Christmas Party
- 10 7.00 Stansted Hall Soiree. Supper, music and Bygone Fashion Show (see notice)
- 11 8.00 Rhodes Hall. B. Stortford. Concert
- 20 7.00 Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill. Carol Singing with collection

### January 1992

- 2 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society
- 4 7.30 Stansted Hall. Conservatives' Dinner Dance (see notice)



### 1ST STANSTED SCOUT GROUP

Volunteers are urgently required to help with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. At least two assistant leaders are needed for Beaver Scouts (which caters for 6 & 7 year olds), one for Cub Scouts (8 - 10½ year olds) and a further two for Scouts (10½ - 16 year olds).

IF HELP IS NOT FORTHCOMING SOON THE BEAVER COLONY WILL CLOSE AT CHRISTMAS AND SCOUTS WILL BE IN DANGER OF CLOSING DURING 1992. This could have a knock-on effect for the two Cub packs in the group.

Full training and uniform are supplied free of charge.

For further details please contact:

PHIL SANDOM (GROUP SCOUT LEADER)  
TEL: B/S 814563



## STANSTED EVENING

The November meeting of the Stansted Evening W.I. was opened by the President, Mrs. Brenda Ryan, who presented the birthday buttonholes. She then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. John Salmon.

His talk was about working with Handicapped Scouts or those with special needs. He showed a video about deaf children and told us that there are three types of sign language. Then he showed us a large variety of aids for people who are unable to use their hands properly, such as those with arthritis or other problems. This talk was very much appreciated as so many of us do not realise how much these problems can affect our everyday life.

The Secretary then read out her Yearly Report, as did the President and the Treasurer. The President then read out the programme for 1992. The President for 1992 is Mrs. Brenda Ryan.

There was also a sale of useful and ornamental things for Christmas presents and a display of books from Usbourne presented by Mrs. Annette Wright.

The competition was your favourite cartoon.

Mrs. C. E. Brook  
812155



### STANSTED MOUNIFICHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

5th December. Do Paintings Communicate? - Simon Townsend

2nd January. Hedges and Boundaries - Peter Sanders and Tony Wellings

Meetings are held in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill at 8 p.m. on the first Thursday in the month. An interesting and varied programme has been arranged and all are welcome.

For a programme card or more information, contact Peggy Honour, B/S 813160.

# West Essex Hospice Care Trust



SAINT CLARE TRUST -  
WEST ESSEX HOSPICE CARE  
INVITE YOU TO A SOIREE OF  
NOSTALGIA AND ELEGANCE  
AT STANSTED HALL  
TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 1991  
AT 7 P.M.

Hot supper sets the mood for the evening:  
beef cooked in ale, ham cooked in cider, or  
a vegetarian dish will be served in the  
authentic setting of Stansted Hall.

After which Mair Muir presents an entertain-  
ment of music and fashion of bygone days.

Tickets £7.50.

Tickets will be sent by return post. Please  
send cheque addressed to Saint Clare Hospice  
Trust, Summers Farmhouse, Summers Farm Close,  
Phelips Road, Harlow, Essex. CM19 5SL.

## HOSPICE DAY CARE STANSTED DAY CENTRE (MONDAYS)

### WHAT IS DAY CARE?

Day Care offers a person learning to live with  
a life-threatening disease a social day out.  
The Hospice Day Care Sister works closely with  
local Family Doctors, District Nurses and  
MacMillan Nurses in order to help such people  
improve their quality of life by controlling  
unpleasant symptoms such as pain and anxiety.

The day is planned according to the wishes of  
those who attend, and varies from a game of  
scrabble to a visit from a reflexologist. Our  
desire is that the six-eight people who attend  
Day Care will find this day an extension of  
their home life and the new friends they make  
will increase their understanding of their own  
emotions and add to their inner strength.

### WHAT ELSE IS AVAILABLE?

Home cooked lunch, morning and afternoon  
drinks, which can include special diets, are  
served free of charge, usually after a lunch  
time aperitif such as sherry. A visit from  
a Social Worker, Solicitor or Clergyman can  
be arranged to discuss individual situations.  
An appointment with a hairdresser on the  
premises can be organised; almost anything  
is possible. One group at another centre  
have arranged a trip to a theatre.

Volunteer drivers can transport anyone inter-  
ested in attending at the times that suit the  
individual. Janet Lodge, the Sister in Charge  
usually likes to meet people and discuss how  
Day Care can help their situation, and will  
invite those interested to come to Stansted  
Day Centre for a cup of tea and decide if they  
would like to come regularly.

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Most families and friends of a person who has  
been diagnosed as having one of the life  
threatening diseases try to give as much  
support as they can; however they need time  
to relax and think of their own needs. Day  
Care aims to provide that time.

For further information please ring and leave  
a message for Janet Lodge, Hospice Day Care  
Sister on 0279 413590.



Despite the inherent unpopularity of AGMs in  
general, our branch AGM on 17th October  
attracted over 30 members.

We listened with interest to our President's  
report in which she thanked everyone for making  
the past year so successful. This was followed  
by the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. We  
still have 74 members and this past year have  
made a profit of £583 with which to help our  
disabled ex-servicemen and their families. In  
her report our Chairman thanked the officers,  
the committee and all the members for their  
unfailing help and support during the year.

Officers elected for the coming year are:-

President Mrs. M. Gabb  
Chairman Mrs. E. Little  
Secretary Mrs. C. Whall  
Treasurer Mrs. V. Levey

Committee: Mesdames Clower, Measures, Parry,  
Patmore, Saville, Snow, Traveller,  
Wedlock, Wiffen

After the completion of business we watched an  
interesting demonstration by Mrs. Heather  
Horner on "Make up for the Older Woman" with  
Mrs. Little as the "model".

We have no branch meeting in December, but on  
Thursday 5th December our quarterly Group  
Meeting will be held at Clavering at 7.30 p.m.  
with a Christmas Bring and Buy.

We wish all our members - whether or not they  
are able any longer to attend our meetings -  
a very happy Christmas and a happy and peaceful  
1992.

Pat Clower  
815220



# STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

## BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

DON'T MISS IT! IT'S THIS WEEK - WEDNESDAY  
4TH DECEMBER.

Come and enjoy the warm, 'Christmassy' atmosphere of Stansted Hall - complete with relaxing armchairs! The Barnardo's annual Christmas Fayre has become quite a social event!

Everyone is welcome. There's the usual generous raffle, a well-stocked tombola, Christmas stalls, cakes, delicatessen, plants, dress accessories, 'bring and buy', 'guess the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc.

Perhaps those with cars could offer a lift to less fortunate friends and neighbours. Barnardo's needs our support. Last year alone they cared for over 16,000 deprived and handi-capped children and their families.

Stansted Hall, next-door to St. Mary's Church, Burton End, Stansted. 11 am to 12.30 pm. Admission 50p inc. refreshments.

Mrs. P. Garnell  
813124



**The National Childbirth Trust**  
Education for Parenthood

## NCT COFFEE MORNINGS - DECEMBER

- 3 Under 1s & expectant mums at Lesley Coleby's, 2 Leyfield, Takeley. Tel: 871250
- 4 Toddlers at Penny Brooks', 42 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted. Tel: 814763
- 6 Pre-school group at Pauline Burnard's, 20 The Street, Manuden. Tel: 814600
- 10 Under 1s & expectant mums at Louise Storey's, "The Laurels", Hailes Wood Close, Elsenham. Tel: 814425
- 11 Open House at Nola Marshall's, "Holly Bank", Crow Street, Henham. Tel: 850 307
- 13 Pre-school group at Sue Carrington's, 33 The Croft, Elsenham. Tel: 647343
- 17 Under 1s & expectant mums at Isabel Atkinson's, 12 Coltsfield, Stansted. Tel: 814176
- 18 Toddlers at Jenny Dalton's, 32 Wetherfield, Stansted. Tel: 815935
- 20 Pre-school group at Angela Mason's, 6 Stansted Road, Elsenham. Tel: 812545



We are now able to announce full details of our Christmas and New Year social programme. On Sunday December 8th the Branch is holding a Pre-Christmas Drinks Party at Parsonage Farm, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Morton. Tickets are priced at £4.

The highlights of our social calendar of events is the Ninth Annual New Year Dinner Dance to be held at Stansted Hall on Saturday January 4th 1992 commencing at 7.30 p.m. Ticket prices have been held at £12.50 and £7.50 for under 25s. Our Member of Parliament, Alan Haselhurst, will attend. Black Tie is optional. We look forward to another memorable evening.

Tickets for both events can be obtained from Joan Summers, Bridgett Gott, Brian Harvey or myself.

Philip Duly



It has all been happening over the last couple of months. We have made a couple of trips out; firstly to a workshop event in Colchester on 12th October where we had some further instruction in saw doctoring, and secondly, a fortnight later, to the major gathering in Sheffield where we rubbed shoulders with such notables as Trevor Huddleston and Freddy Boswell!

Publicity has been high, with TFSR as this week's "Good Cause" on Sunday 27th October, and a flattering photograph in the Stansted Observer of the same week. Consequently I have had offers of tools and help with re-furbishing from a number of people ranging from Takeley in the East to Standon in the West. There is now a strong possibility that some of our members will be running an occasional working session during the daytime, which may appeal to some of you who find dark winter nights rather daunting!

Our next Tuesday evening workshop is scheduled for 10th December at 8 p.m. Feel free to just turn up if you do not mind getting your hands dirty. Dates for January are 7th and 21st.

Michael Dyer  
814059

# OUR PAGE



## CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or, is it at the beginning of Advent which starts four weeks before 25 December and is a special time for us to get ready for the birth of Jesus?

The word 'Advent' means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare. Not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So, perhaps, the question isn't 'when does your Christmas start?' but 'where does it finish?'



**What's brown underneath but green and furry on top? Last year's Christmas cake.**

**What happened to that waterproof, shock-proof, anti-magnetic, unbreakable watch that I bought you last Christmas? It caught fire.**

## CHRISTMAS EVE

*24 December is Christmas Eve - can you say what EVE is the answer to each of these? Each answer starts with the letters EVE, answers at the bottom of the page.*

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses it leaves?

*Answers: even, Everglades, event, everlasting, evening, Everest, evergreen.*

# CHILDREN

## HOW SANTA CEASED TO BE A SAINT

*Whatever happened to Saint Nicholas?*

*FOR 1500 years the good Turkish bishop, patron saint of sailors and children, was remembered as a Christian holy man who was kind to the poor. Then he suddenly became the secular Christmas symbol we all know today.*

*It seems the Americans are to blame. Saint Nick arrived there with Dutch settlers and by 1810 he had a new identity: fat and jolly, wearing furry red clothes and driving a wagon.*

*Poor people were out. Santa became an elf who could climb down chimneys; he also acquired a sleigh and a team of eight reindeer. He moved house to Lapland where, even now, he can be seen making wooden toys and writing replies to the half-million children who write to him in Lapland each year.*

*Other letters go to a small town in the United States called Santa Claus, where the townsfolk answer all his mail. Here in the UK, the Post Office handles 500,000 letters a year addressed to Father Christmas, Reindeerland (or variations on this). They are diverted to Edinburgh (all the children get a reply).*

*In 1988, one little girl asked for an electric wheelchair for her invalid grandfather in Cornwall. The chairman of the Post Office delivered it personally on Christmas Eve. Less selfless was the small boy who sent Santa his father's wage packet to help pay for his presents. Dad got his money back.*

PHILIP BARRON

**IF YOU are young, a Christian and on the move to another part of the country, the Christian Youth Contact Service may be useful for finding a local church or Christian fellowship, plus help in finding accommodation. Of course CYCS is also looking for the names and addresses of established Christians who have offered to be available to help young people settling into their neighbourhood.**

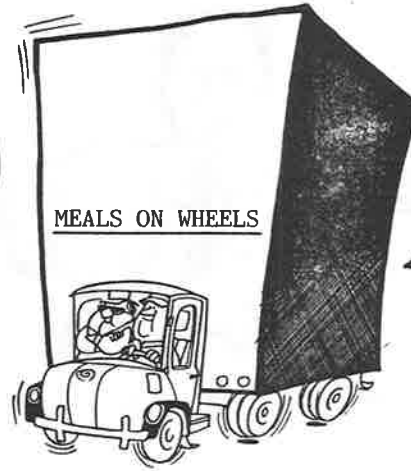
**In either case, write to: CYCS, PO Box 170, London N19 3EL.**





International soprano Anne Mackay is giving a recital with local pianist Sonia Levy at the Rhodes Hall, South Road, Bishop's Stortford on December 11th at 8.00 p.m. for the Herts and Essex Concert Club.

Tickets £6 Conc. £4.50  
Tel: 652629 or 655715  
Or available at the door



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TRANSPORT TO SENIORS CLUB

Have you two hours to spare once every five to six weeks?

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I am sure people are put off volunteering for these jobs because they feel it will be too much of a tie or commitment, but this is not true. We are incredibly lucky in this village that so many people give so much of their time helping other people. If only a few more would help, just a little, it would ease everybody's load.

Many of our drivers are in their seventies and eighties so there is no age limit. I would love to hear from men or women aged from 17 to 80+ who are prepared to help. There is a petrol allowance for drivers, and we also welcome non-drivers to assist with delivering Meals-on-wheels.

Please contact:- Janet Hollis  
Little Fosters  
105 Cambridge Road  
Stansted  
B/S 812073

Please telephone, write or call and I will give you all the details of the jobs and answer any of your queries.

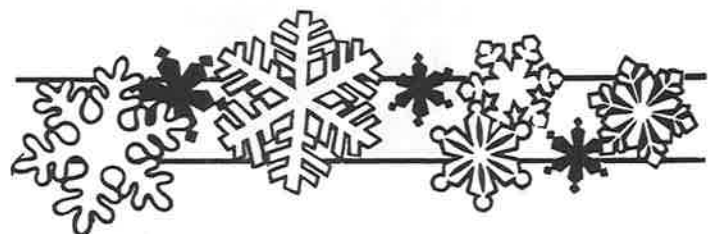
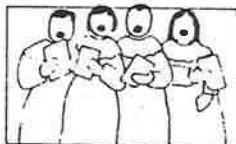
Our box of fireworks which was supposed to be full of pretty but quiet fireworks turned out to be extremely noisy with very loud bangs. As our firework party did not take place until the 14th of November our neighbours must have thought that they were in the middle of a firing range. Instead of being frightened by the loud bangs our members were clapping their hands with glee and shouting for more. Cold but happy, we were all glad to get indoors and tuck into the burgers in buns, which disappeared with amazing speed.

We say a big thankyou to Stansted Social Club who raised £700 for the "Huw Johnson Club Holiday Fund". Some of our members went to the Social Club for the presentation and we all had a great time.

Our next event is our Carol Service which we are holding at "Broome End". I'm sure we will all benefit from this joint effort.

All our members wish all our friends and benefactors a very happy Christmas.

M. G. Johnson



LASER QUEST

Bishop's Stortford, Harlow and  
Epping Hospitals Appeal



The following letter has been received by  
Barbara Tyson.

"Dear Mrs. Tyson,

Thank you very much for organising such a  
successful coffee morning for Laser Quest  
in Stansted - you had worked so hard to gather  
such a good and generous crowd of people  
together. I was delighted to come and meet  
you all, I really enjoyed myself and I'm sure  
everyone else did too.

You raised an enormous sum of money, £370 -  
it really is a big help towards our goal.  
Thank you for all you are doing for the  
Appeal.

Yours sincerely,

pp. Mrs. Anne Clifton  
Appeal Co-ordinator"



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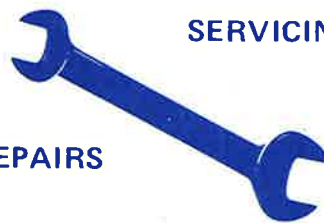
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