

Feb '97

The LINK



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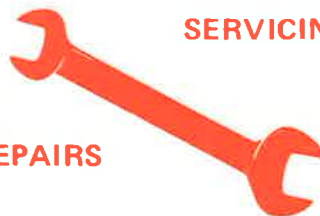
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(Interdenominational)



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

FRIDAY MARCH 1ST

AT 2 P.M.

"On the journey together"

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

Cost is 25p a month; £2.50 for the year. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

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

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

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
14th February for March issue
14th March for April issue

SACC

(Stansted Association of Christian Churches)

Come to a LENT GROUP



CHURCHES TOGETHER

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 13th February. The first Sunday in Lent is February 17th and there will be a joint service at the U.R.C. Church at 6.30 p.m.

Plans are being prepared for Lent Groups again this year. If you are interested in joining a group please contact either Francis Mercer 813945 or Derek Honour 813160.

A date for your forward diary. The Agape will be held on Sunday 17th March at the U.R.C. Hall. Canon Martin Reardon the General Secretary of Churches Together in England will be with us on that evening, so please book the date and come along.

The open meeting of S.A.C.C. on Tuesday 8th January produced some very good suggestions, a number of which will be implemented during this year. I would like to thank all those who attended or suggested ideas. It was a very worthwhile meeting.

Francis Mercer
Chairman S.A.C.C.



SHALOM'S VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM'S CHURCH OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY

At approximately 11 a.m. at Crafton Car Park twelve members of the Shalom Group met together to embark upon a journey to Birmingham. Our destination was the Church of Africa's Cherubim & Seraphim. This was to be the third of our visits to them.

The visits were started by Rev. Tony Bundock who will be remembered from his service at St. John's Church. As a student in Birmingham Tony chose to be attached to the Church of Seraphim and Cherubim and in fact became an "honorary" member. He introduced the Shalom Group to them and for the past five years we have been exchanging visits.

The welcome, to say the least, is warm. The generosity of the Church members is overwhelming. We joined in their service or rather were carried along on a wave of joyful celebration, punctuated by Halleluias and Hosannas, which is truly electric.

Underlying this estatic desire to praise God are concerns for people and issues of the day. Prayers for the sick and peace in the world. Personal testimonies were given and joyful processions to put money in the collection box!

The congregation is expected to wear long white robes, most angelic! We tried to conform as far as possible.

We were fortunate that Tony was able to join us for a day which was truly memorable. Hopefully they will be visiting us in Stansted this June. We look forward to being able to reciprocate the warmth and love we found there, and welcome anyone else who wishes to do so.

Dates for Shalom Meetings

Monday February 4th 8 pm 20 Bentfield Green
Monday February 18th 8 pm White House, Ugley Green



SONGS OF PRAISE

Weary yet exhilarated I returned home and reflected upon our afternoon at the airport. Churches together in a new spectacular building praising God. I know it was only a final rehearsal for the real act of worship for viewers this summer, yet it had an atmosphere of joy, excitement and togetherness, helped by the prayers from a BBC Chaplain and Chris Bishop the airport Chaplain, and also the cheerful jokes of producer, presenter and conductor and their untiring patience in keeping us keyed up to give of our best.

Three things though stand out in my memory that I will not easily forget. The extreme mobility, skill and professionalism of the camera crews. They never intruded on one and it was easy to forget that they were there.

Secondly, the mention of the "Jesus Bolt"; there is one bolt that is vital to all the struts holding up each "tree" in the building. These trees contain all the electrical wiring, heating and lighting and if that one bolt were to fail the tree and the roof would collapse; I shall not see or use the airport without thinking of the vision of some engineer in calling that one vital bolt the Jesus Bolt.

The last wonderful memory of that afternoon was as we left, standing in the car park in the dark and seeing the terminal building ablaze with light. For me it summed up the whole afternoon - Jesus Christ the light of the world.

What a send off as it were by the people of this area to this new and exciting era of our life. We were privileged to have been there and only sorry so many of you were unable to come and share it with us. A truly ecumenical venture for the week of prayer for Christian unity.

Margaret

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am

My first awareness of Quakers came through a beloved aunt who was a repository of family anecdote and used to tell me how her mother, as a little girl in Manchester, was sent to buy bread. "Would'st thou like a cake, Elizabeth?" asked the Quaker lady who kept the bakery. Elizabeth, thinking it polite to refuse first and then be pressurised, said "No, thankyou". Her refusal was accepted and she went home disappointed to her mother who explained to her that when dealing with Quakers you should always say what you really mean. I'm happy to record that on her next visit to the shop the offer was repeated, and accepted with a prompt "Yes, please". "Ah", said the shopkeeper, "I thought thou wouldst have liked one last time."

This must have happened about 1850, and would have been told to me some seventy years later. Nowadays perhaps Quakers are rather less rigid and little girls less pseudo-modest. But speaking truth? The questions that can be answered with a plain yes or no are rare.

Listen to any politician being questioned on the media, or, in fairness, think what yes/no answers you can give to the complexities of modern life.

Someone who did live the simple truth as he understood it was the eighteenth century Quaker John Woolman. 'Woolman arrived in London on 8 June 1772, wearing his white hat and undyed clothes. There were no stock or bands at his neck, and he had simple woollen buttons. He had no lapels, and his shoes were made of undyed leather.' His appearance shocked the London Friends but they eventually agreed to endorse his travelling ministry. 'He set off to travel through his ancestral country, impressing and inspiring Friends everywhere, again testifying by his life. In America he rode, but here, observing the condition of the ostlers and horses employed in the trade, he preferred to walk rather than use the stage coach. In September 1772 he reached York. After a brief illness he died of smallpox and was burried there ... possibly the greatest Quaker of all.'*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be'

says the old Shaker song. But Sydney Carter used the same tune for 'Lord of the Dance', and the pattern of the dance is complexity. The Lord of the Dance himself confronts us with contradictions. 'Unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek, offer also the other'; but to the Pharisees trying to warn him of Herod's intent to kill him, 'Go ye, and tell that fox ...'

Trying to find the truth about ourselves or about our world can lead us through endless mazes into difficult and dark places. Truth, you could say, is the stern name of God. Yet if we believe anything, we must hold somehow, beyond and below the twistings, to an ultimate simplicity. A lovely name for it is Grace. It offers itself, and all it requires of us, like the Quaker lady in the cake shop, is that we should say "Yes, please".

Amy Taylor

* Quoted from 'Portrate in Grey: A Short History of the Quakers' by John Punshon.



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.

Throughout history there have been men and women who have chosen to live a solitary life, and who have found great joy and peace in doing so. Many have found that by living apart from their fellows they have been able to come closer to understanding the mysteries of the universe.

Jesus himself chose to spend 40 days in the wilderness. There can be great benefits in being alone if we use this time to develop our powers of thought and meditation.

We should not be frightened of being alone with our thoughts, but it's pointless to dwell in the past, or long to turn the clock back, our thoughts should always be positive and forward looking.

Few of us are hermits by nature but we should be able to find enough inner resources to enjoy a benefit from time spent alone. Quiet thoughts can help us to assess the quality of our lives:- Are we doing anything worthwhile with our life; are we thankful for those who love and help us in life?

Lent is drawing close and is a particularly good time to get to know ourselves better as we prepare for Easter.

E. Quinn

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Tom Allen
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 654475

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

Tom and Kathleen send their loving greetings to all Stansted friends as they weather some of the low days (following some of the steroid withdrawal) - after the "high" of Christmas time. They are now taking a short break with friends in Yorkshire and our thoughts and prayers for a time of physical and spiritual restoration are with them.

January 5th saw a very happy family party at the Meeting House - a much better time of day chosen this year for the children (aged 72 to 4 weeks) to enjoy themselves.



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 and Newport please ring the Group Secretary.

By the time you receive this February 'Link' January 15th will have passed and we shall know whether the threat of war which hangs over the world as I write has materialised.

A week or so ago we were reading and singing the angels' message of peace and goodwill as they heralded the birth of Jesus to a world which even at that time was torn apart by strife and hatred.

Whatever the outcome of the meetings and talks among the leaders of the nations during this coming week, whether war is averted or not, we must surely all agree that ours is a troubled world where peace and goodwill seem to be in short supply.

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus, at supper with his friends in Jerusalem shortly before his crucifixion, when all around him was clamour, hatred and angry crowds eager for his death, gave this promise to his disciples "Peace is my parting gift to you".

How much that promise meant to his friends was proved later when many of them faced persecution and even death for the sake of good news of the gospel.

The peace of God within their hearts was far beyond human understanding, convincing them that nothing, not even death itself, could separate them from the one they loved, worshipped and served.

Jesus says to us in these troubled times, 'My peace I give to you'.

Lydia Rapkin

Preachers for February

3rd Rev. L. Rapkin - Communion
10th Dr. Anderson of Cambridge
17th Rev. E. McIlwain
24th Rev. Evans - Family Service

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

Deacon Brenda's Letter

As I am writing this it is less than a week before the UN deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Talks between Mr. Baker and Mr. Aziz appear to have failed: the last hope to avoid war now appears to be an attempt by the United Nations Secretary-General.

By the time you read this it is possible that Iraq will have withdrawn and peace negotiations be planned. But it seems perhaps more likely that a full scale war in the Gulf will be under way.

This has made writing a letter this month particularly difficult: a letter about war would be irrelevant if it does not happen. On the other hand, to write about something else if we are to be involved in war in the Gulf would appear trivial and inappropriate.

When we are preoccupied with major events like war and peace, life and death, other things can pale into insignificance. To discuss trivia with people who are facing the reality of these wider issues is unhelpful and tactless.

Jesus, too, faced a similar dilemma. He had a sense of urgency about his ministry which focussed his teaching on the great issues of people's relationship with God: of repentance and faith, of love and forgiveness, of life, death and eternity. And yet so often people he met were only worried about trivial matters - details of how and where they worshipped; of the rituals of daily life, of theological niceties. Yet he did not ignore these minor questions - instead he responded to them in a way which brought people on from the smaller concerns to think about wider questions - to look more carefully at themselves and their relationship with God.

This month we begin the season of Lent. Let us each use this time to put our trivial concerns behind us and concentrate on the most vital thing in our lives - on God himself, and on our relationship with him.

Brenda Wallace

Registers for December

Funerals

3 Dec Ernest Donald Swan, 82
4 Dec Evelyn Mary Harris, 74
5 Dec Perce Ralph Tabor, 64

6 Dec Herbert Mould, 78
6 Dec Ida Florence Harbridge, 96
14 Dec Hilda Elizabeth Barclay, 93

Diary for February

3 3.00 Christingle Service
Guest speaker: Mr Ian Sparks
Director of the Children's Society
5 2.15 Tiny Tots
8.15 Prayer Group, 22 Bentfield Causeway
7 10.30 Holy Communion - Norman Court
12 2.00 Tuesday Club, 10 Hargrave Close
7.00 Holy Communion
7.30 Shrove Tuesday Party (see note)
13 Ash Wednesday
10.00 Holy Communion
8.00 Parish Communion
14 10.30 Holy Communion - Mead Court
24 4.00 Holy Baptism
26 2.15 Tiny Tots

SHROVE TUESDAY PARTY AND "BEETLE BASH"



in St. John's Church Hall
on Tuesday 12th February 1991
from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

A hot supper is included -
no need to eat first -
families particularly welcome

Tickets (including supper and
a glass of wine/soft drink)
Adults £2.50

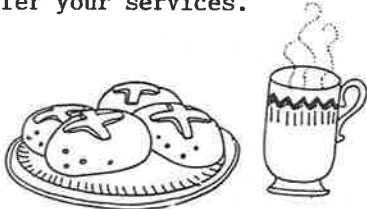
Concessions/accompanied children £1.50

Good Friday

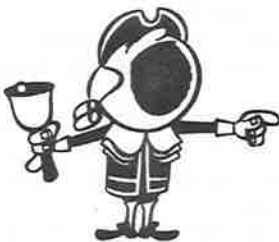
GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

Once again we will be holding the Good Friday Project for children at St. Mary's School. Last year the Project became more Ecumenical than ever before. With 200 children attending, we need many adults to help with the activities and to organise the movement of the children, so we are inviting any adults who would like to help to give their names to Marion Johnndon, 62 Chapel Hill, tel. no. 812284.

You do not need any special talents, although we can put any talent you have to good use and you will have a lot of fun. This is a great opportunity to give the children a happy day in the company of Christian people and a chance for members of all the Churches in Stansted to work together. Come on - get on the telephone now and offer your services.



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

February

- 4-7 Skip at Crafton Green
- 7 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society
- 8 8.15 Day Centre. Helpline Social Evening
- 12 7.30 St John's Hall Shrove Tuesday Party
- 20 8.00 Day Centre. Huw Johnson Club AGM
- 23 2.00 St John's Hall Evening WI Jumble Sale

March

- 2-3 Skip at Crafton Green
- 7 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society
- 19 8.00 Day Centre. Stansted Millers AGM
- 25-28 Skip at Crafton Green

April

- 27 Carnival Barn Dance - see notice

June

- 22 Carnival Day



The annual Barn Dance to the Redbridge Folk Band with usual superb food will be held at the Mountfitchet School on 27 April next. Put the date in your diaries. Tickets will be available shortly from any member of the Carnival Committee, so reserve them now. Watch out for the posters for other ticket vendors and further details.

Meanwhile, another important date for your diaries, CARNIVAL DAY 1991 22ND JUNE. Be there or be square.

Mrs. T. M. Stockwell
14 Poulteney Road
Stansted Mountfitchet



THE SUE RYDER FOUNDATION

Many people have heard of the Sue Ryder Charity shops that sell a wide range of donated goods - bric-a-brac, nearly new clothing, etc. to help raise funds for the Homes.

There are 24 Sue Ryder Homes in the United Kingdom and they exist to give disabled and sick people of all ages the care and attention they cannot get elsewhere. The needs are desperate as this Foundation receives little or no help from Central Government in Britain and grants from the District Health Authorities are extremely low.

I have been a supporter for over 25 years and I do thank the five local ladies who have given me warm clothing at various times and especially recently twelve woollen coats, five being real fur. I have taken two loads down to Headquarters in Cavendish since Christmas. Of course, as usual, they were gratefully accepted. If anyone can help by taking clothing to Cavendish and so visit the Museum and super cosy restaurant in the grounds or contact me for all further enquiries, I know any help will be greatly appreciated for this worthy cause.

Incidentally, fur coats and anything not suitable for their shops to sell are sent to Poland by lorries which would normally return back empty; boots and shoes are badly needed there.

Evelyn Tame
815639

STANSTED AFTERNOON

Our January meeting was opened by the president, Mrs. Pauline Cianciola. After the current business was discussed birthday posies were presented.

Canon Richards was introduced and gave us a very entertaining afternoon telling us of his sponsored cycle ride from John o'Groats to Lands End, and made us all realise that it entails far more than just riding our bicycles.

The competition "Advice to a Bride" was won by Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Calver and the raffle won by Mrs. Scarr, Mrs. Cianciola and Mrs. Christopher.

P. Little



What a generous cheque we received at our Christmas party from the Essex Police, thanks to the great interest Sergeant Roger Burrows has shown in our Club. £1,250 has made our holiday in 1991 a certainty and we have booked three chalets for a week at Kessingland Lowestoft on August 10th.

We cannot thank Roger and his colleagues in the area enough for their marvellous gift to us. We were delighted that some of them were able to join in the fun at the Christmas party where we made short work of a turkey dinner so that we were ready to give Father Christmas a great welcome. Thankyou to Sandra, Val and all the parents who helped to make the evening such a success.

We started this year with a visit to the Cambridge Pantomime, thanks mainly to the generosity of the staff and customers at the "Cock" Public House, who during the year have contributed to our funds culminating in a £50 donation on Christmas Eve. Everyone had a lovely time at Cambridge and we all shouted "Big money" and "Hello Robin Hood" at the right time. We had the added enjoyment of munching the sweets and chocolates during the performance thanks to the gifts received from the "United Reformed Church". A big thankyou to all concerned.

Please keep the Greenshield stamps coming in - we shall get some new equipment with these.

Please pop in any Thursday and visit us, you'll be sure of a warm welcome. Why not book February 20th and come to our A.G.M. 8 pm at the Day Centre.

M. G. Johnson



STANSTED EVENING

On January 10th the Stansted Evening Women's Institute held their New Year Party. President, Mrs. Ryan, suggested that the proceeds of the raffle should go towards the St. Clare Hospice to help them set up their day centre.

A jumble sale will be held on 23rd February. A cake stall and raffle will also be included. Proceeds are towards the £300 needed in 1991 to keep the W.I. solvent.

After the business was concluded we had a very enjoyable entertainment provided by Mrs. Valerie Trundle, Mr. Peter Trundle and Mr. Richard Thomas. Their songs were very much appreciated, many of the members singing along with the songs that they knew.

After refreshments, during the social time, two quizzes kept all the members on their toes.

Come and join us at our meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 7.30 p.m. St. John's Hall.

C. E. Brook
812155

RAFFLE SALE

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

JUMBLE SALE

HOMEMADE CAKE STALL
BRIC-A-BRAC & BOOKS

FEBRUARY 23RD
2 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S HALL

HELPLINE

HELPLINE HELPMATES

DO come along to the Day Centre on
FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1991 at 8.15 p.m.

An opportunity not to be missed to meet
each other and to hear
Mrs Gwyneth Southgate,
Organiser of Uttlesford Council for
Voluntary Service

ALL ARE MOST WELCOME



West Essex Hospice Care Trust

So our nation is again involved in armed conflict - this time the Gulf War. A year ago there seemed real hope that the world was about to enter an era of peace - in the deepest meaning of the word - disturbed only by local 'civil' wars. How foolish mankind can be.

If there are any sceptics about the need for the continuance of the RBL this present conflict must surely be an answer. It was good to see the Legion sending parcels to our forces in Saudi Arabia in the run up to Christmas. Now that war has broken out there will, unfortunately, be the need to provide welfare support for families. The work of the Legion must go on - and there must be members to perform it. What about joining? Or what about volunteering to become a poppy collector? (Phone 814015).



On 5th December 58 members from surrounding villages met at Littlebury for our Christmas Group meeting.

In the County Needlework Competition certificates were presented to Mrs. Edie Snow and Miss Edna Winckworth. Group members were told that branches had presented a ceramic rose bowl to Mrs. Rosanne Kirkpatrick, the retiring County Secretary. For entertainment an excellent session of flower arranging was given by a former Stansted resident now living at Littlebury.

At our next branch meeting in the Day Centre on Thursday 21st February, Mrs. Sheila Parry will show us slides of her visit to Kenya. All visitors and newcomers will be very welcome.

Pat Clower
815220

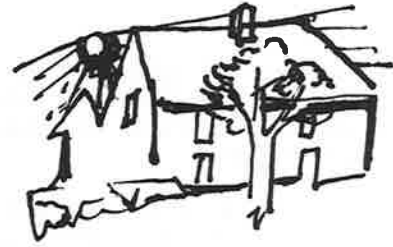
STANSTED MILLERS

Notice of Annual General Meeting

8 p.m. Tuesday 19th March 1991

in the Day Centre

Further details next month



WEST ESSEX HOSPICE CARE TRUST

St. Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust has appointed a voluntary Service Manager. He is Mr. Stan Wright who was born in Edinburgh on Christmas Day, 1940 and moved to Harlow in 1952. He worked in local industry for 16 years before joining Harlow Council in 1971. After restructuring, he became a member of the Council's Community Services Department (Environmental Health).

Stan Wright, as St. Clare's voluntary Service Manager, will have three prime objectives:

1) FAMILY SUPPORT - To provide a network of voluntary support in West Essex which will help families and friends who want their loved one, who is terminally ill, to remain at home for as long as possible.

2) DAY HOSPICE CENTRES - To organise volunteers, by liaising with local Voluntary Organisations to support the nursing staff in providing an enjoyable day out for the ill person in a warm, caring environment. Five Hospice Care Centres, each open for one day a week are planned for the West Essex district.

3) TO WORK CLOSELY WITH:

a) The community based professional staff (GPs, District Nurses, Social Workers, Clergy, etc.) and the local Voluntary Organisations to locate suitable volunteers to support caring families in their home environment.

b) The Day Hospice Nurse(s) and local Voluntary Groups to organise volunteers to help with activities in the Day Hospice Centres and transportation for clients when needed.

Stan Wright takes up his new position on January 1st 1991 and can be contacted at

Sumners Farmhouse
Sumners Farm Close
Phelips Road
Harlow Essex
Telephone 0279 413590



Volunteers Can Be Life Savers

New volunteers are urgently needed by Uttlesford Home-Start to help families with children in need of on-going support and friendship.

Volunteers work on a one-to-one basis with a family. One young mother known as Susan has said: "Home-Start has been a life saver for me. I don't think I could have managed without them. Hopefully, when the children are at school I may be able to help someone in a similar situation". This young woman was referred to Home-Start by her Health Visitor when her second child was 6 months old. Families are usually referred to Home-Start by doctors, health visitors or Social Services workers.

Anyone who would like to be a Home-Start Volunteer can talk to me about what is involved by ringing Saffron Walden 31226. Volunteers are always trained before being sent out to families and the next 10-week training course begins in January.

Linda Robinson
Uttlesford Home-Start
The Surgery, High Street
Great Chesterford
Nr Saffron Walden, Essex

OVER TO YOUTH

While waiting to be inundated with original contributions asked for in January 'Link', we have much pleasure in reproducing, with permission, some of the work of pupils of Stansted Mountfitchet High School, five of whose pieces were chosen for the anthology "Do Pigs Dream?" produced by Essex County Council Education Department. With acknowledgements to the author, the school and the publishers, here is the first:

WITHOUT MY DAD by Matthew Francis

My dad and I used to laugh a lot,
Played around and messed about.
He was a big man with lots of love,
For my mum and me and my brother.

He worked in Cambridge, drove there every day,
And in the evening he'd come back
To have his tea and talk to us
And help me with my homework.

He watched the Grand Prix on T.V.
Dug the garden, cleaned the car.
He brought home games for my computer
And took us all on holidays.

He smoked a bit and ate too much.
He sometimes shouted if we did anything wrong,
But he made up for it with his love.
Only one fault he had, my dad, he snored a lot.

But now my dad has gone away.
He will never eve come back.
None of us will ever forget him
Or the love he gave us.

On the day when school broke up
My mum was given the bad news.
He had been in hospital for two weeks
And now he was not coming home.

I was torn apart, didn't know what to do.
I cried and cried till I could cry no more.
I felt empty inside and all alone.
My life is never going to be the same again.

So now our family consists of three.
We will never be the same family again.
No matter how hard we try, but
We will remember the dad I used to love.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Meetings on the first Thursday in the month at
8 p.m. in the Day Centre.

7th February : Stansted, the Last Three Hundred
Million Years - Peter Rawson

7th March : The Work of the Public Record
Office - Meryl Foster

Our May meeting cannot take place in the Day
Centre due to its use as a Polling Station in
the Local Elections, so our A.G.M. will probably
be at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill.
Look out for further details or ring B/S 813160.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

N.C.T. COFFEE MORNINGS : FEBRUARY

Under Ones and Expectant Mums: Tues 10-11.30
Under Twos: Wednesdays 10-11.30
Over Twos: Fridays 10-11.30

- 1st Louise Storey 'The Laurels' Haileswood
Close Elsenham 814425
- 5th Jenny Dalton 32 Wethersfield, Bentfield
End Stansted 815935
- 7th N.B. Under Twos Thursday Margaret Gilbert
10 Longcroft Stansted 812743
- 8th Elaine Byrne Moving house! Phone 813206
for new address
- 12th Penny Brooks 42 Bentfield Gardens
Stansted 814763
- 13th Linda Bush 2 Water Lane Stansted 816166
- 15th Pauline Burnard 20 The Street Manuden
814600
- 19th Katy Grant Moving House! Phone 813206
for new address
- 20th Frances Parrish The Moat House Grove Hill
Stansted 812565
- 22nd Angela Mason 6 Stansted Road Elsenham
- 26th Isobel Atkinson 12 Coltsfield Stansted
814176
- 27th Chris Whitmarsh 45 Bentfield Causeway
Stansted 815239

**THE PARISH COUNCIL OF
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET**

Council Offices, Crafton Green House,
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet,
Essex, CM24 8AQ

Tel: Bishop's Stortford (0279) 813214

Clerk: Owen Wilson

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

SKIP DATES

The Civic Amenity skip will be in the Crafton
Green Car Park on the following dates:-

- 4th to 7th February
- 2nd and 3rd March
- 25th to 28th March

The Council's Newsletter is due to be produced
in mid-February so, to avoid duplication, there
are no other items for the February Link.

**GREEN COLUMN
CAR - FREE HOLIDAYS**

WHEN did you last have a holiday from your motor car? Holidays usually require travel, and travel usually means the motor car. If we are looking for the most beautiful and inaccessible resorts, the motor car is often the only way to reach them.

Sadly the motor car has become a 'two-edged device. It helps to transport us to remote parts, but in doing so it adds to the noise and pollution which destroy the very peace and charm we seek on holiday. Cars bring tourists, and tourists also bring pollution. The signs are clear: more car-parks, more litter, more souvenir shops and cafes, more radios, more noise.

Is it possible to have a holiday without adding to pollution? Families with children often find a car is essential for taking all the baggage and equipment on holiday.

But as the roads and especially the motorways become more congested, perhaps holiday-makers will consider other forms of transport. After all, what's the fun of spending hours in a car waiting for a 10-mile tail-back to clear?

This year I am going to Scotland for my summer holiday. A car is the only practical means to reach the cottage where we are staying. But next year, I am determined to have a car-free holiday, and to explore the delights of Southern Ireland and Brittany by train, boat, and bicycle.

The Psalmist may not have been thinking of holidays, as we know them, when he sang 'He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water' (Psalm 23 v.2) But he definitely knew our need 'To get away from it all'.

DAVID EVERETT



Where would a man post a letter in his sleep?
In a pillow box.

What's the cheapest way to post someone?
Stamp on their foot.

ST VALENTINE'S DAY

St Valentine is one of those saints we don't know much about. Tradition tells of a priest or Bishop of Termi who was put to death for his faith in the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II.

Claudius had made a law that soldiers shouldn't marry as he thought it made them less warlike, but Valentine performed marriage ceremonies in secret. When he was finally arrested he was thrown into jail, and the story goes that he fell in love with his jailer's daughter.

On the day that he was led out to his death (to be beaten with clubs and then beheaded), he left a little note in his cell addressed to her. It was signed 'Your Valentine'.

In Victorian times printed Valentines were the most popular cards of the whole year - more cards were sent for 14th February than at Christmas.



BIBLE NAME QUIZ

The answer to each question is the name of a person in the Bible - where to look for the answer is in brackets. When you have got all the answers, take the first letter of each name and rearrange them to make the name of the church festival at the start of February.

1. Son of Adam and Eve, Abel's brother (Genesis 4)
2. One of Israel's greatest prophets. (I Kings 17)
3. Sister of Mary and Lazarus (Luke 30)
4. Abraham's nephew, his wife turned to salt (Genesis 11)
5. A prophetess at the Temple when Jesus was presented (Luke 2)
6. King David's son, famous for his wisdom (I Kings 3)
7. Ruth's mother-in-law (Ruth)
8. A disciple, Peter's brother (Matthew 4)
9. Philistine woman who betrayed Samson (Judges 16)

celebrated on 2nd February. makes CANDLEMAS which is letter of each is rearranged it Andrew 9. Delilah. When the first 8. Anna 6. Solomon 7. Naomi 8. 5. Cain 2. Elijah 3. Martha 4. Lot

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

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