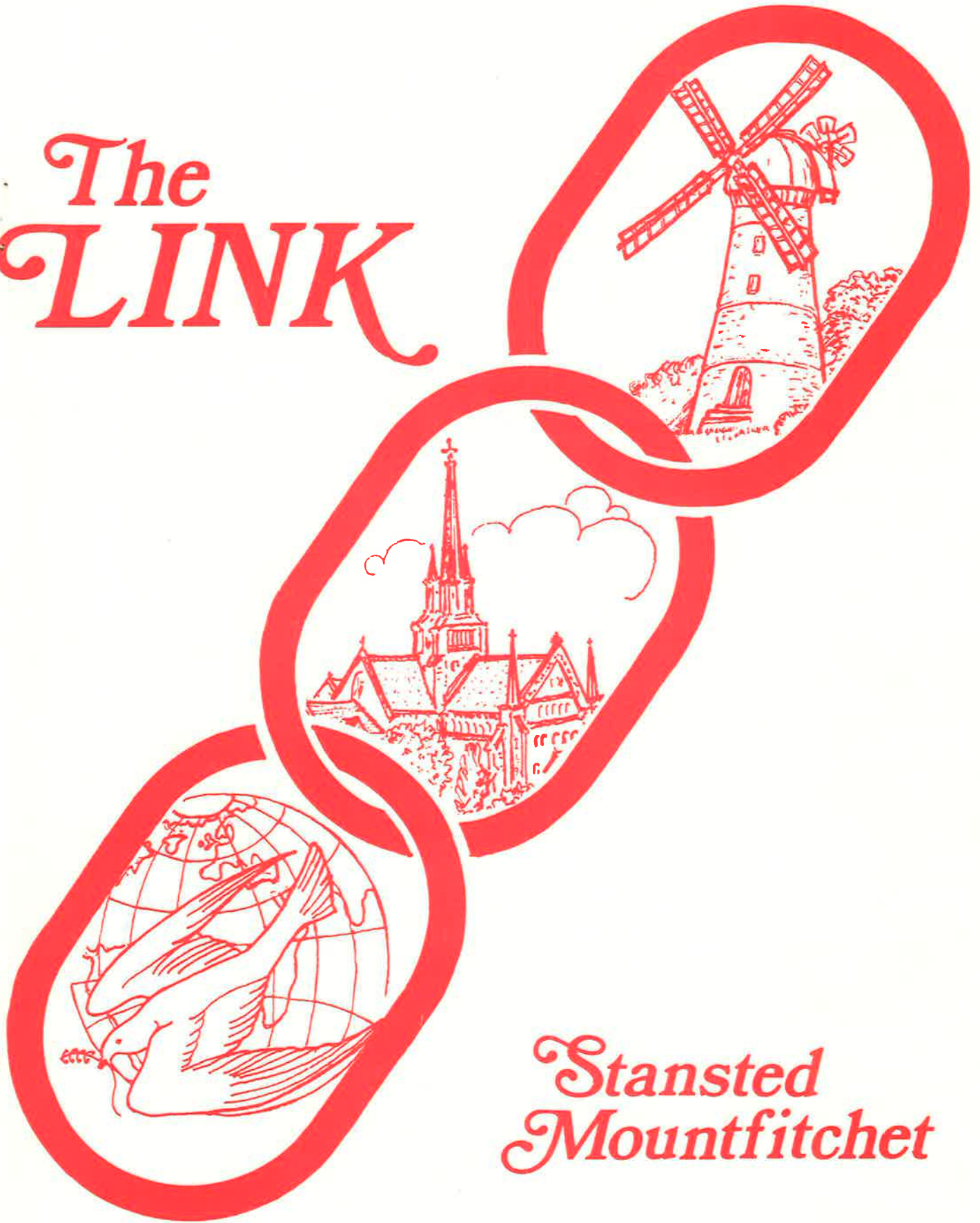


Jan 191

The LINK



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WAR & FAMINE

AT HOME ... FOR THE FAIR GOVERNING OF OUR COUNTRY

AND

PEACE

FOR ALL OF US WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS



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.

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

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
17th January for February issue
14th February for March issue

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

SACC

(Stansted Association of Christian Churches)

This week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from the 18th January to the 25th January. The Unity Service is to be at St. John's on Sunday 20th at 6.30 p.m.

The theme for this years Week of Prayer is "Praise the Lord all nations" (Psalm 117) the shortest psalm.

With the formation of "Churches together in England" and taking the words of Cardinal Basil Hume "What we can together we should not do apart", let us join together to make this year's service at St. John's one to remember, and show that we are united in prayer and in fellowship.

The Special S.A.C.C. executive meeting is on Tuesday 8th January at the U.R.C. Hall 8.00 p.m. to discuss the way forward. As Chairman of S.A.C.C. I would like to invite anyone who may wish to attend this meeting to come along, to put their point of view, or suggestions.

Francis Mercer
Chairman

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

*THE new Archbishop of
Canterbury, Dr George Carey,
will be enthroned at a ceremony
in Canterbury cathedral on the
afternoon of April 19.*



Stansted gets its own magazine

10 YEARS AGO

10 years ago "Link" was launched and as we start the next 10 years it is worth looking backwards and forwards!

Those first copies duplicated with loving care - but without a single picture, were good to read, but perhaps not so pleasing on the eye as our editions are now. We've come a long way! But we want to improve as we go - so we need your help!

Each month we hope to have an "Editor's Column" not for controversial subjects - but for your ideas - interesting happenings - favourite recipies, and above all how we can improve "Link". To start you off, here is a question that S.A.C.C. (Stansted Association of Christian Churches) and the "Link" committee have talked over many times - and not come up with an answer!

"Would one religious article monthly be more acceptable?"

If this were to happen, then maybe the Churches would fill their space with more about their outside interests and their social happenings - or it would allow space for your ideas.

Let us know what you think!

But a warning - if we are inundated with letters you must bear with us if we do not print them all!

Thank you for your help in advance and help us to make "Link" even better in the next 10 years.

Margaret

FROM THE VICAR

DIARY

Are we going to start the new year at St. John's with exciting, dynamic new ideas? That may be too much to hope for, but I am certainly hoping to start my third year here with a new approach to two important areas of our parish life - two areas to which I have given a lot of thought and prayer over the past few months.

Firstly - our Sunday Worship. From January the parish communion on the first Sunday in each month will be an occasion for all-age worship. We will be working hard - and it does require hard work - to arrange services which will especially help both younger people and those who are new to the Christian Faith to share in and enjoy our worship. The service will still be a Eucharist. This is a deliberate decision: to have a service without communion would simply mean that our young people become more separated and pushed out from our main pattern of worship. It would also be unfair on Children's Church leaders and young communicants. We are hoping very much to use the talents of individuals - young and adult - and of various parish groups - in preparing and presenting these services. This plan has the full support of the P.C.C. and we hope it will be well supported by the congregation aswell.

The second area of our parish life I am keen to improve is our care and concern for the sick. I am aware that I often do not get to hear about people who are sick either at home or in hospital. The clergy are always ready to visit, but contrary to popular expectation we are not clairvoyant: neither does the Almighty hand me down a visiting list at morning prayers! Please do let us know if you - or someone you know - is ill and would welcome a visit at home or in hospital. I would rather be told by several people than not know about an illness. We are also reviewing the card system in church for prayers for the sick so that people can show if a visit would also be appropriate. Our prayers and concerns for the sick are a vital part of our ministry - do please help us in this.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Bob Wallace

REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

25 November Lauren Victoria Baker
Cody Jane Howard
Jonathan Richard Pearman

WEDDING

24 November Paul McEndoo &
Jennifer Ann Kettle

FUNERALS

1 November Lizzie Gladys Cassie Goodson, 81
9 November Lucy Linda Wright, 13
29 November William Charles Davis, 86

January

- 2 8.15 pm Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway NB NOT Tues 1st
- 3 10.30 am Service at Norman Court
- 8 2.00 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
- 2.15 pm Tiny Tots
- 10 10.30 am Service at Mead Court NB NEW Regular time (2nd Thursday 10.30 am)
- 14 8.00 pm Standing Committee at Vicarage
- 22 2.15 pm Tiny Tots
- 28 8.00 pm P.C.C. at Vicarage



P.O. Box 89
Molepolole
Botswana
November 1990

Hello Friends,

We are still alive and kicking and on the whole enjoying ourselves. Four weeks ago I had my first scorpion bite whilst changing the altar linen. At first I could only spot a gruesome looking spider to blame for my swelling hand. I stamped on it and told my church cleaning ladies to put it in a glass so that I could take it to hospital. She replied "Father it is you who must go to hospital not the spider." Thinking that I was about to die I did not explain the need for doctors to know the type of poison in order to give the correct antedote. Not that there was any doctor to be found when I arrived at the village hospital, instead a nurse gave me a form to fill in which asked questions inappropriate to a person believing he is about to meet his maker and attempting to stop the blood flow to his heart by squeezing his wrist. Eventually the nurse returned with three giant syringes attached to even bigger needles which she planted unceremoniously into my bottom as I stood (there being no bed) trying to crawl up the wall. The nurse's reluctance to look at the bottom of a Priest did not help matters.

On my return to the church I was shown a scorpion which had also been discovered beneath the altar cloth and had been promptly killed. The scorpion was the cause of my pain. Actually I was quite proud of my scorpion bite and kept both insects in a glass to show friends. Unfortunately a few days later I left the glass on the kitchen table and poured a frothy beer into it having already enjoyed too many other frothy beers and proceeded to swallow scorpion and spider.

Not all of life is so exciting. I am now in the routine of running seven parishes. I must admit that I find it a rather lonely existence, especially after Stansted and Farnham where I could share decisions and fellowship with other clergy. At first I thought that I would even be praying on my own until the church gardener Rex began joining me for morning prayer. Praying early in the morning meant that I was never completely awake but I did notice that every-day he looked a little different. It was after a week that it finally struck me that he was wearing a different pair of glasses daily. I had guessed that his eyesight was poor by the way that he would kneel down facing the back of the church as I knelt looking forward when we prayed. I thought maybe it was a local custom; I enquired about his eyesight and discovered that he had collected over fifty pairs of glasses. We have now taken him to the eye clinic to have him tested for a suitable pair but have not yet discovered where the other fifty originated from.

Living in a new culture means that I continually have the experience of being unsure as to whether I am making sense to the people even when I have a good translator with me. The people's faces are very hard to read and when I talk to them they look at me, heads tilted to one side, as if I am slightly mad. I often feel I am. The Bakwena tribe who populate my parishes are a strong-minded and proud people. If a person is poor or crippled people do not see it as their responsibility to care for him or her. It is a culture where the fittest survive. My Church Council regularly agree with my opinion in a meeting only to say in private to the congregation that they disagree with Moruti King. This is partly because people gossip excessively and also because it is seen as offensive to disagree with me to my face. Historically the Bakwena have had a difficult time, being used as cheap labour by the British, attacked by the Boers and always facing the relentless heat of the Kalahari. It is not surprising therefore that we are viewed with some suspicion by our parishioners. We face the challenge of responding to their suspicion with humour and love.

As temperatures rise here we wonder if you have had a white Christmas. We keep you all in our thoughts and prayers and pray that your New Year may be peaceful and happy. Please keep your letters coming because they keep us going.

Tony



Dear Friends,

We have now been in Botswana for nearly eight months and in Molepolole for six. Like the locals we are beginning to lose our sense of time and accept that we are here for the foreseeable future. At the moment the dominant

feature in everybody's lives is the complete lack of rain. The temperature is regularly reaching 107°f in the shade and is creeping higher as the sand retains the heat. How many of the children walk two miles or more to and from school barefooted amazes me. The general consensus among the Bakwena is that we are entering a period of drought with all its dire consequences for crops and cattle. Having only finished a drought period three years ago, their fears are understandable.

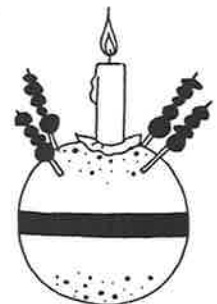
I am not as affected by the heat as Tony is. He is walking around in the sunshine all day because his aged vehicle is only working spasmodically, not a new situation for Tony. I am still working in Gaborone in a classroom with ceiling fans but as from January I will be teaching in a local English-medium primary school in a brand new classroom built under a beautiful lemon tree.

We have to occasionally remind ourselves that we are living in Africa. Every so often I make a conscious effort to look around me and soak up afresh all those daily scenes which have become familiar to us. Today (Saturday) is the big funeral/wedding day, it is now 11.15 a.m. and there is no sign of Tony's 9 a.m. wedding party, the two old crinkly Catechists are sitting patiently under the oleander tree in our garden while Tony is outstretched on the settee, fan aimed at his face, his eyes shut having told me he is mentally writing tomorrow's sermon.

There is a funeral party taking place in one of the neighbouring rondavels, as is usual the family have hired a khaki army tent to sleep guests and last night a cow was slaughtered ready for today's feast. Every day this week at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. about fifty people have traipsed by for funeral prayers. This will incidentally be a far greater number than the people who visited the old lady as she was dying in the village hospital.

It is taking for granted things like sleeping under a mozzie net, politely smiling at conversations which I don't understand, seeing children struggling with wheelbarrows full of water butts and checking beneath the loo seat for scorpions, that show me that I am accustomed to my new surroundings; the one sight however which I will be continued to be amazed by is that of ladies carrying large, heavy pots on their heads with such perfect poise.

Helene



February

3 3.00 pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am

SELF HEALING

I recently went on a weekend course at a Quaker healing centre to learn more about 'self-healing' - of mind, body, emotion and spirit. It was based on an holistic approach, looking at the inter-action of the mental and physical, and using relaxation, meditation and 'creative visualisation' to deal with the stresses and tensions of life.

Relaxation can relieve physical pain and also bring relief from stress involving both the mind and the emotions. In meditation we try and make contact with a 'higher self': we draw in life-giving energy and use it to cleanse and alter ourselves, getting rid of negative attitudes and searching the unconscious for messages of renewal by sending love to different parts of our bodies, we can plant the feelings we want to have there and watch them grow.

Meditation can take the form of 'creative visualisation' - a means of re-programming our mental attitudes through pictures in the mind, using the right side of the brain to produce images of well-being and thus taking a positive attitude to dis-ease. It can be used to change a physical reality, by visualising it, and then picturing a way of overcoming it: this method has been used to limit pain and even to overcome serious illness - our leader for the weekend had once been given six months to live and had prevented the growth of cancer by these methods. It can also deal with emotional blocks and pain, or habitual ways or attitudes we wish to change, by imagining ways of removing these, and allowing tensions and anxieties to leave the body. Contact with nature is important and the impurities breathed out in this way can be returned to the earth to be recycled.

We spent a good deal of the weekend exploring these techniques through meditation and relaxation exercises; we lived on vegetarian food and spent a session discussing how diet can affect physical health; we also talked about healing by professional healers. Altogether a very fulfilling weekend, a 'mustering of our inner resources' to bring the unbalance into balance in our lives.

Margaret Whitelaw

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 Franciscan friend of mine a little while ago explained the loneliness of the homeless. We, the lucky ones, have just had the joy of spending Christmas with our families and friends and, as you read this, joining in parties to welcome the New Year. Perhaps now is the time to reflect on the less fortunate members of our society. My friend spent 3 months living among the homeless, not as a member of a religious order, but as near as possible as a member of the homeless community.

In relating his experiences it is interesting to note how prayer and the presence of God played a part in his life during this period.

He started by going to the South Bank with about £1.50 in his pocket. Finding space between two others he lay down. In his own words "By the Grace of God I discovered I'd happened on the best skipper between the two best possible people who immediately took me under their wing, helped me find cardboard to lie on, where the soup van came, and gave me all the other basic information I needed."

He discovered increasingly over the months that followed that he was becoming part of a tight knit community who on the whole supported each other. He certainly felt that he received far more than he was able to give.

His main occupation was the day to day business of living, finding places to pray, discovering sources of food and blankets, getting used to the weather and the sheer physical vulnerability of being asleep and unprotected in a public place.

Prayer was easy at this time, with nothing else in particular to think about, and plenty of anxiety to fuel it. He found the extended times of prayer to be absolutely essential if he was to cope at all. Although he felt fine, he was living very close to his own emotional and psychological limits. It seemed that as a new source of stress arose another was taken away and he was very aware of being held by God.

As time went by, his circle of contacts widened and he was accepted in the Day Centres and Handouts as a regular.

The social life of the homeless begins around 10.30 p.m., when the van brings the soup, bread and tea. It provides a gathering point and was the time when he was able to give something in return for the help he had received, by listening and offering advice; at the same time he became aware of his own insensitivity, glimpsing all sorts of areas of need to which a gentler, more perceptive person would have been able to respond.

At the end of three months he returned to his monastic life, able to understand that others less fortunate than himself shared God's world.

Francis Mercer

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.

We are, as ever, deeply grateful for the shining example of faith shown us by Tom and Kathleen over this long period of our minister's illness ... and thankfully they report "steady progress". (We can only guess at the difficult times, in between, as the radio and chemotherapy call on all his strength). We pray that in 1991 the whole family may continue to find those spiritual resources and increased faith in God which will carry them through every difficulty.

We do not see so much of the Rawlings family at our Stansted services now as Ronald is not sparing himself in taking over so much of Tom's work. We send special greetings to Ronald, Nancy and "Grannie" on their (today!) snowy hill-top.

Meanwhile, the Methodists seem to have been so busy taking part in and enjoying other village and inter-church activities that we have postponed our pre-Christmas party until Twelfth Night!



We have received the following letter from Tom and Kathleen Allen

"Tom's treatment ended on November 29th - it was extended by one day due to machine failure the previous Tuesday. The six weeks went remarkably well. At no time did we find the journey difficult! The main side affects for Tom, have been a slight shake in his hands and a growing feeling of tiredness. Although for at least four weeks of the treatment he managed an hour or so around Bishop's Stortford in addition to the trip to London!

He has an out-patient appointment on the 20th December but will not be scanned again until the end of February. The radio therapy continues its work for three months. We both want to express our sincere thanks for the love and prayers from the Stansted Churches. This six weeks has been a testimony to the power of prayer and we are so grateful for the part you played in this.

We give thanks to God for the past two months and trust Him for the months to come.

With every blessing for 1991.

Love and prayers."

Tom & Kathleen



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.

At the beginning of a New Year it is quite common to look back over the year that has just passed and at the same time look forward into the future, wondering what the coming year will have in store.

Looking back we realise how often we fussed and fretted about the unknown future which in retrospect often turned out to be not nearly so daunting as we feared.

How discerning of human nature Jesus was. He understood exactly how we often feel. "Don't be anxious about tomorrow" he said "for tomorrow will be anxious for itself".

The words of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew, Chapter six, that God cares for each one of us and meets our essential needs, were not only spoken for the listening crowd on the Galilean hillside so long ago, but for all today who love him and seek to do His will.

We can trust in God's love and care for us in the coming days and leave concern for the unknown future in His hands, as these words taken from the 'Golden Bells' hymnbook, and gratefully acknowledged, so aptly express.

God holds the key of all unknown, and I
am glad
If other hands should hold the key
Or if he trusted it to me
I might be sad.

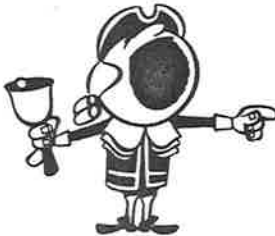
What if tomorrow's cares were here without
its rest?
I'd rather He unlocked the day
And as the hours swing open say
'My will is best'.

With Christian greetings for the New Year.

Lydia Rapkin

STANSTED SERVICES FOR JANUARY

- 6th 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin (Communion)
- 13th 11 am Mr. Strutt
- 20th 11 am Dr. B. Macartney
- 27th 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin (Family Service)



FUTURE EVENTS

January

- 5 7.30 Stansted Hall, Conservatives Supper Dance
- 7 7.30 Day Centre, S.E.A. Course "Railways in Britain"
- 8 8.00 U.R.C. Hall, S.A.C.C. Executive
- 10 8.15 Day Centre, Helpline meeting, Mrs. G. Southgate of U.C.V.S.
- 16 8.00 16 The Campions, Stansted Carnival Meeting
- 17 7.45 Day Centre, British Legion Women's Section (see notice)
- 18 Stansted Hall, Sports Association Grand Ball (see notice)
- 20 6.30 St. John's Unity Service (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

February

- 9 2.15 St. John's Hall, Conservatives Jumble Sale

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Clerk: Owen Wilson MAPSAS

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

Tel.: 813214

Pavement signs

The Council have reaffirmed their policy of requesting the appropriate authorities to remove advertising signs on pavements

Skip dates

The skip will be at the Crafton Green Car Park 7th-11th January and 4th-8th February, 1991.

Litter "blitz"

A litter blitz is to be arranged for 22nd March, 1991; invitations to participate will be sent to appropriate organisations next year.

Planning applications - representations by interested parties

Please note:-

- (a) planning application plans can be viewed at the Parish Council Offices during office hours (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday);
- (b) written representations should be sent to the District Director of Planning as soon as possible;
- (c) the Parish Council would appreciate copies of representations so that they are aware of opinions when preparing their comments, and
- (d) the public can attend Council meetings (both District and Parish) where planning applications are discussed.

"Knight" signs

The Council have been considering the renovation of the signs (at the southern and northern entrances to the village along the B.1383) which feature a Norman knight.

The signs were erected by the former Chamber of Trade about 1977/78; they could be a prominent feature with careful restoration. The Council have obtained quotations from suitable craftsmen, the lowest of which (for both signs) is £395. No funds are available from the former Chamber. Any donations for this work, which should be sent to the Council Offices, would be gratefully received.

"Experts" for emergencies

The Council are updating their emergency plan. The close proximity of an Airport, Motorway and railway means that the Parish needs to be well-prepared to cope with an unexpected emergency. The Council would be pleased to hear from any Parishioner with nursing or other relevant experience (including knowledge of languages) who would be willing to be included on the plan.



Bulb planting

The Council's thanks to all who have, or will, be assisting with bulb planting - including the Gardening Club, Round Table, Brownies, Mountfitchet High School, British Legion, Braefield Precision Engineers Ltd., Sports Association and Bentfield Primary School

On behalf of the Council, may I wish all Parishioners a happy and prosperous New Year - ALAN DEAN, Chairman.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Coffee Mornings : January

- Under ones and Expectant Mums: Tuesdays 10-11.30
- Under Twos: Wednesdays 10-11.30
- Over Twos: Fridays 10-11.30

- 8th Beverley Forsythe, The Thatch, Stoney Common, Stansted, 812121
- 9th Carol Hearn, 'Hermits', Mill House Lane Elsenham, 816209
- 11th Sue Carrington, 33 The Croft, Elsenham 647343
- 15th Margaret Davies, Ivy Cottage, Ugley 815717
- 16th Jane Edwards, No. 2 Police House, Station Road, Elsenham, 816235
- 18th Ann Kitson, 24 Spencer Close, Stansted 813107
- 23rd Jenny Foster, 31 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted, 813591
- 24th N.B. Under Ones Thursday Pascale Fowell 57 Woodfields, Stansted, 812500
- 25th Anne Edwards, 'Lindens', Star Green, Henham, 850 065
- 29th Sally Webb, Victoria Cottage, 51 Lower Street, Stansted, 813518
- 30th Jackie Feehan, 'Cordwents', Stansted Road, Elsenham, 813206

STANSTED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Association has plans to put Hargrave Park in good order this year and as part of this endeavour we propose to start fencing the perimeter.

As this will be expensive we are starting the year with a Grand Ball in order to raise funds. This will be held on Friday January 18th at Stansted Hall so why don't you call up your friends and organise a group to support this worthwhile cause and enjoy a memorable evening into the bargain?

Tickets, price £10 each, are obtainable from Sue Reed, tel. no. 812461.

Pearl Wellings



HELPLINE HELPMATES

DO come along to the Day Centre on THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 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



STANSTED SCOUTS

NEWSPAPER COLLECTING

We regret as from 31st December 1990 we will no longer be collecting waste newspaper.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY MORE PAPER AT THE SCOUT H/Q.

Thanks to everyone who has helped in the past.

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Saturday 5th January 1991, 7.30 p.m.
New Year Supper Dance at Stansted Hall, Stansted.

Saturday 9th February, 2.15 p.m.
Jumble Sale to be held at St. John's Church Hall, Stansted.

For tickets or any further details, please contact:- Bridget Gott - B/S 814440 or Joan Summers - B/S 814854





STANSTED CARNIVAL

STANSTED CARNIVAL

By the time you read this article there will be less than 6 months to go to the Carnival. Preparation has been in hand since September for both a Barn Dance in April and the Carnival on 22nd June. Consideration of Beneficiaries is already in hand but it is not too late to let us know if there is any group or person who would like to be included.

We would also be pleased to hear from any local organisation, school or person who feels they would be able to entertain or give a display for approx. 15 minutes in the Arena on Carnival Day.

Lastly have you ever thought about helping with the preparations for the Carnival? Why not come and join us on the committee? We are a very mixed bunch of people of different ages and outlooks, who usually meet once a month on a Wednesday evening. Our next meeting is on January 16th at Keith Johnson's house, 16 The Campions, at 8 p.m. so please come along or for any further information on any of the above items please either speak to any member of the Carnival Committee or telephone myself or Sue Reed (812461).

Theresa Stockwell
813446



"OUR VILLAGE"

A few questions have been asked with regard to our village story last month. One being what was a Char-a-bang? It probably is better pronounced as "Shar"-a-bang (French). It was a long light vehicle with transverse (crosswise) seats. This was the forerunner of today's motor coach. Green's Transport Department were in 1921 arranging Char-a-bang outings.

A second question concerned the mention of Mr. T.O. Newman. Around 1890 Mr. T.O. Newman was trading as an Agricultural Engineer with his premises on the junction in Lower Street where today stands Ernest Doe & Sons. During 1891 he sent two 16 horespowered Steam Ploughs to Halberstadt in Germany, there to be used for ploughing beet fields. By 1893 he was recorded as Engineer & Machinist and had in stock for sale mowers, reapers and binders,

holding the largest stock of secondhand machinery within the Eastern Counties. In 1896 a disastrous fire occurred on his premises. It broke out around 1 a.m. and resulted in the destruction of buildings, machinery, tools, lathe, 2 horses, a Brougham, etc. The fire was discovered by Mr. Stewart who was at this time Steward of the Working Men's Club (now Stansted Social Club). When he saw large quantities of smoke issuing from the loft above Stables in the occupation of Mr. Mayhew which adjoined the Engine House. In one of the stables there was a valuable horse belonging to Mr. J. Butler (Butcher). The fire brigade were summoned and along with other helpers gave great assistance. Unfortunately the horses were said to have suffocated. Estimated damages were put at around £480 which at this time, as you may well imagine, was a small fortune; hopefully it was insured. The origin of this fire was said to be uncertain but a fire had that evening been banked-up in the usual way on an engine within the workshop. Superintendent Pryke was to investigate the occurrence (which may come to light one day).

1906 saw Mr. T.O. Newman Engineer & Contractor hauling by road, loco or Foden steam wagon, steam ploughing, cultivating drainage, threshing, sawing, lake and pond clearing. With all this machinery taking to the road mishaps were not uncommon. One such incident happened during the 1890's. A runaway engine belonging to Mr. Newman ran down Chapel Hill at about 9.30 a.m. It was in the charge of Messrs. Salland and Warwick. They lost control when a pin shook loose, but with commendable courage stuck to their posts. It smashed into Mr. Bretts Blacksmiths Shop and adjoining house making two huge holes. The breaksman was injured. We do not know of his injuries but trust he made a speedy recovery.

P. J. Brown



Our social evening on 15th November was enjoyed by all 34 members present. After the completion of business the meeting joined in the singing of first and second World War songs to the expertly produced music of Steve and Dave on electric guitars. We then partook of hot mince pies and tea/coffee and drew the raffle.

Our speaker for Thursday 17th January at 7.45 p.m. will be Mr. Ian Kemsley who will talk to us about Banking. Visitors are especially welcome.

Pat Clower



In this first issue of the new year it may be apposite to conduct a lightning review of 1990.

The branch has been active if not exactly flourishing. Membership has been sustained if not expanded. We need more members, especially from the younger generation, to secure the future.

Our social functions have been enjoyable - but if only more people would support them, the sense of true comradeship would be promoted. We have continued to acknowledge service: events were held to present certificates of appreciation to members for past meritorious services to the branch and to poppy collectors for distinguished long service.

A highspot was the participation in the London Marathon by our runner, Treasurer Neil Kemsley. He raised some £1,000 for the Poppy Appeal, a fine effort.

The poppy collection in November has raised £2,946 compared with £2,547 in 1989. Well done everyone. (The prospects for 1991 are bleak unless we can recruit new collectors).

Remembrance Sunday revived past practices. The parade from Crafton Green to the Memorial Gardens was well supported and the congregation at the Memorial for the wreath laying and silence was exceptional. The service in St. John's Church which followed was so well attended that the church was filled to capacity.

Finally, the AGM in November was lively and had a good attendance. Major Wallace and Mrs. Stevens were reappointed President and Chairman respectively, and David Challis became Secretary.

All in all quite a good year.

W.E.A.

The ten week course "Railways in Britain", lecturer Mr. Adrian Wright, will begin on 7th January 1991. The syllabus runs chronologically from early primitive tramways, through the Victorian era, the Beeching cutbacks to recent modernisation and expansion. The lecturer will concentrate on the historical aspect of the subject, using material from archives and anecdote and illustrating his talks with slides. It is hoped to arrange an outing at the end of the course.

Meetings are held at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Stansted, the first evening 7.30 p.m. for enrolment, lectures at 8 p.m. For further details please ring 0279 812214.

New members are always welcome.



STAR-STRUCK

When is a window like a star?
When it's a sky light.

What do you get if you cross a group of stars with a silver cup?
A constellation prize.

Which is heavier, a full moon or a half moon?
A half moon, because a full moon is lighter.

What's big, bright and stupid?
A fool moon.



READY FOR NEXT CHRISTMAS

You have to take down all the Christmas decorations by Twelfth Night, 6th January, so why not use the cards to make gift tags ready for next Christmas? Sort through them and find ones with nice pictures - if you cut the shapes out with pinking shears it gives a nice edge to the tag. Make a small hole in one corner and thread a loop of ribbon or coloured thread through the hole to tie onto the present. Now all you have to do is pack them away carefully for next Christmas (don't forget where you put them!).



The wise men followed a star to find Jesus - each of the answers to this quiz begin with STAR, so can you say which STAR is...

1. used to stiffen the washing?
2. the right side of a ship?
3. a beginning?
4. another name for the American flag?
5. a bird?

Answers: starch, starboard, start, stars and stripes, starting



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