

April '95

The LINK



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Mountfitchet

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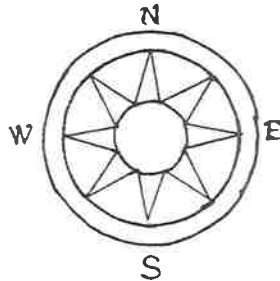
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**GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT
APRIL 14TH**

**Calling all children -
Help is required to man the ship,
fight the pirates and discover
the strangers' kingdom.**



**You can do all this on Good Friday at
St. Mary's School, St. John's Road, Stansted.
All you need is a boarding card, a packed lunch and 50p.**

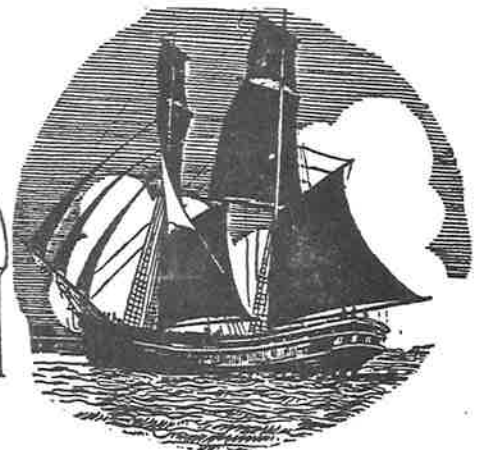
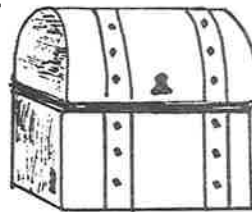


Application forms will be available at the local schools or from Marion Johnson at 62 Chapel Hill, Stansted. Once your application form is completed and returned you will receive your boarding card giving you your cabin number.



All children of school age are invited to join the crew.

Parents are invited to St. John's Church at 2 p.m. to see the children perform our play "The Final Voyage".



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To order your copy of Link please contact:

Mrs L Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture Tel: 813428

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*Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill
For May Issue 13 April 1995
For June Issue 11 May 1995*

April

- 1 2.30pm Gardening Club Show
5.30pm Lazer Group Variety Show
8.00pm Belgian Evening
8.00pm Vegetarian Cookery at St Mary's School
- 2 11.00am Dad's Morning at Rainbow
3.00pm Grand Re-Opening of the Windmill
- 3 2.00pm Uttlesford Carers Support Meeting
Shalom
- 5 8.00pm Gardening Club AGM
- 6 8.00pm Stansted Local History @ Day Centre
- 7 6.30pm VE Day Service @ Birchanger
- 8 Craft Exhibition @ Quaker Hall
- 12 Afternoon W.I.
- 13 7.45pm Quiz Night @ Bentfield School
7.45pm W.I. - Quaker Meeting House
- 14 Good Friday Project
- 16 Windmill Open
- 17 Windmill Open
- 20 7.30pm Royal British Legion Women's Section
- 24 - 27 Skip at Crafton Green
- 24 Shalom Prayer and Praise
- 25 8.00pm TFSR
- 26 Coffee Morning Motor Neurone Disease
- 27 - 30 Chevetogne
- 29 Carnival Frog Race @ Mountfitchet School

Village News



May

- 2 10.00am Bible Society Coffee Morning
- 4 8.00pm Local History @ Quaker Meeting House
- 7 Windmill Open
- 8 Shalom One Act Plays
Windmill Open
- 13 8.00am WI (Evening) Outing
- 15 - 18 Skip at Crafton Green



VE/VJ DAY PLANS



During World War II church bells were silenced for normal purposes, being kept "in reserve" to be rung only in the event of invasion. Fortunately the only church bells to be rung during the war turned out to be for a false alarm. At the end of the war, by way of celebration, as many church bells as possible were rung simultaneously all over the country. This year the Ministry of Defence are hoping to organise a similar nationwide event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. The provisional date at the moment is 20 August, but we have not been given a time yet.

We are now looking for **bellringers** - lapsed ones or new ones, we do not mind, but anyone wishing to learn should start fairly soon so that they are competent and confident by August. The local tower, St Mary's Stansted, will be running "Brush up your Ringing" courses and "Learn to Ring" courses over the next few months. To be a bellringer you need to be fit enough to manage the twenty or so steps up to the ringing chamber and to have hands big enough to hold a rope about 4-5cms in diameter. You do not have to be very strong, tall, heavy or any particular age. If we have any older residents who rang in 1945, but who do not feel that they can manage full sized bells these days, we have a set of handbells which could be rung sitting down so that they too could join in.

Our local tower practices most Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm until 9.00pm and we hope to have the tower open when the church is open over Easter and the first Sunday in May for anyone who would like to know more about ringing. Alternatively, interested people could telephone me and I will be happy to discuss lessons and/or show them around at a mutually convenient time.

We have about a dozen bellringers at Stansted tower, but our members also ring regularly for several other local churches and we will find it very difficult to ring in all these churches if we do not have any other volunteers. Anyone who volunteers and learns to ring will get the chance to ring for the celebrations, even if we get more than the minimum numbers required, bellringers are very good at sharing. [In fact I know of no other organisation which has such a wide variety of members, from dustmen to doctors, from youngsters (even babies) to octogenarians (or older), men and women, who can get together, share a common interest and enjoy each other's company on a regular basis.]

Gina Barber, Telephone 812105

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
WOMEN'S SECTION



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
STANSTED & DISTRICT BRANCH

After normal business at our February meeting, the Rev'd Richard Dunstan-Meadows gave a very interesting and amusing talk on Remembering - particularly during this 50th Anniversary year of the end of World War II.

He stressed the importance of experiences in life which have made us all what we are. He spoke about his early life, his life in the army, as a curate and chaplain of the Hertfordshire Cadet force; and showed us many souvenirs of his experiences. In June he will be returning to the army as a chaplain.

Thirty seven members from five villages went to the Group Meeting at Birchanger on 8th March. After group business had been concluded we heard a very interesting talk by a magistrate whose patch is S.W. Essex and the Probation Service.

Our next meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday 20th April at 7.30 p.m. All visitors are very welcome.

Pat Clower



STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

All Senior citizens - 60 plus - are welcome at Stansted Day and Community Centre at Crafton Green, behind the Library on Chapel Hill. The Centre is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for tea, coffee, snacks or a cooked lunch at very reasonable prices. The comfortable surroundings and friendly atmosphere offers the opportunity to make new acquaintances and to renew old friendships.

If you, your neighbour or friend have not yet visited the Centre, make the effort and try it - you will be glad that you did. If transport is a problem ring B/S 815091, help may be available.

1995 marks a watershed in the series of 50th anniversary activities commemorating the end of the Second World War. There have, however, been 72 conflicts in which nearly 3,000 lives have been lost since 1945, including the ongoing Bosnian situation.

The Legion cares for all ex-service personnel, not only its members, and it is anticipated that even without any further conflicts, the demands on the services of the Legion will continue to grow until at least the year 2010.

In an endeavour to project the Legion into the next century a new Logo has been designed, with the Poppy to the fore. Our work continues and the Poppy Appeal provides the Legion with its greatest source of income (64% last year). We thank everyone for their continuing and ever increasing support in this way.

John L Segar 813289



**Stansted Mountfitchet
Local History Society**

Meeting on 6th April at 8 p.m. at the Day Centre.
Meeting on 4th May at 8 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House.

As the booked speaker for the March meeting was indisposed, Ted Pretty, who was going to give his talk in April, told us of his 37 years connection with Audley End. Some of the old retainers were still there when he started, including the Head Butler and Dairy Maid. During restoration work over the years many interesting features have been discovered in the house, including hidden ceilings and walls, and pieces of hand coloured glass from the chapel window, which has now been restored.

Peggy Honour 813160



STANSTED FUN RUN/WALK 10KM
25 JUNE 1995

Last year's Fun Run was a major success and attracted approximately 250 participants and raised £1500 which was divided equally between three charities.

The support and enthusiasm for the Fun Run shown by all who took part has inspired the Committee to organise what has now become an annual event. The date of this year's run/walk is 25 June 1995 and the beneficiary charities are:

- Local - Uttlesford Crossroads Care Scheme
- National - Whitechapel Mission for Homeless People
- International - Regular aid for the Poor which supports Red Cross, Oxfam and Save the Children.

Come on, get on your running shoes or walking boots and prepare yourself to join in the fun.

If you are interested in entering, sponsoring or helping with the organisation, please contact:
Jim Collins by telephoning 01279 813707
 or by writing to:
 20 Bentfield Green, Stansted, Essex CM24 8HX.

**Letter to
 the Editor**



"Spare a thought for the Collectors"

One busy evening recently whilst preparing the family's evening meal I was asked by telephone if I would distribute and collect a certain Charity's envelopes in my locality.

I work for a number of worthwhile charities so was reluctant to get involved with another but was persuaded.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of these unsolicited requests the collectors do this with the best of intentions with no gain for themselves, usually a cost and quite a lot of inconvenience. We appreciate that Charity envelopes regularly drop through our doors and a polite refusal or return of the empty envelope is quite acceptable. In these days of lasting recession and uncertain futures I am sure many of us do know what it is like to be short. What is unfair is ignoring the doorbell so that we have to come back time and again OR as happened to me the other week after a third return - a PERSONAL rebuke with hurtful comments that "I was knocking on the door asking for money - begging!?" At this gate the rest of the follow-up calls were abandoned!

It is difficult for Charities to raise needed funds we all know and they do rely on help from the public to collect but please spare a thought for these who help, usually your neighbours - one day you could need the help the Charities give.

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Although nearing the end of season, the club still have some important games to play in the month of April not only to earn a respectable league position but also in three cup competitions.



On Saturday 1 April we entertain Basildon in the second leg of the Essex League Cup semi-final hoping to overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first leg. Easter Monday morning sees the visit of Sawbridgeworth Town for what promises to be an exciting local derby. Dates still have to be arranged for the semi-final of the South Midlands Cup and the final of the Uttlesford Cup.

Fixtures for April				
Sat	1	Home	Basildon United	3.00pm
Sat	8	Away	Maldon Town	3.00pm
Sat	15	Away	Southend Manor	3.00pm
Mon	17	Home	Sawbridgeworth	11.00am
Sat	22	Home	Basildon United	3.00pm

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Ruth Clifford
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Council Offices
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex CM24 8AQ
Telephone: (0279) 813214

SKIP DATES

Monday 24th - Thursday 27th April
Monday 15th - Thursday 18th May.



NATIONAL LOTTERY

As you are probably all aware, bids for funds from the National Lottery are now being accepted. If your group is hoping to apply for funds you will be pleased to hear that the District Council will be holding a "Lottery Surgery" in the Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green, on Thursday 20th April 1995 - 7.00-9.00 pm.

Officers from Saffron Walden will be available to discuss your project with you and to offer advice on the preparation of your bid. Please feel free to come along and make the most of the advice being offered.



ANGLIA IN BLOOM

We have entered Stansted into this annual competition and hope that all parishioners will continue in their efforts to keep the village blooming! The Parish Council will be running competitions for the Best Front Garden (this does not have to be a lawn - a few tubs and/or hanging baskets will count!) as well as the usual pub and school poster competitions. There was a notable effort made by local shops and offices last year for which we were most grateful keep up the good work!



Pancake Day proved great fun at Playgroup recently with all the children and some parents trying their hands at tossing the pancake and their feet at sprinting, in an assortment of races which despite the windy conditions was a great success.

The children have had an interesting and exciting week with a variety of animals and pets kindly brought in by a number of people. Snakes, scorpions, lizards and spiders provided an unusual and educational variation to the old favourites such as rabbits, dogs, cats and mice. The ability to hold and stroke them all proved thrilling for the less fainthearted!

Preparations are in full swing now for Easter, with Easter concerts to rehearse for and Easter cakes to make, as well as the traditional Easter bonnet parade and raffle we hold. A Happy Ester to all from everyone at Rainbow Playgroup.

P.S. Don't forget our Dad's Morning on 2nd April, 11am - 1pm.

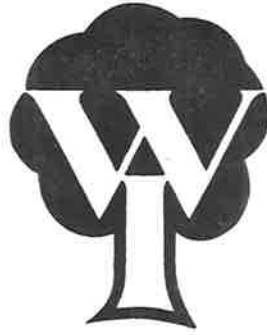
Stansted Art & Craft Market

The public meeting of those interested in the future of the market took place on 21 February when 31 people were present. The first and very pleasant part was to present cheques for £500 to both the Stansted Trust and Stansted Trust for Needy children, which Marion Johnson received and £100 for the Mountfitchet School Library, received by Sandra Ruff.

As a result of the following discussion it has been decided to organise the market again this year at the Community Centre, the chosen weekend being 28/29 October 1995. Alan Corbishley has undertaken to co-ordinate the function whilst Gwen Hopkins and Edmund Wilkinson retain their posts as Secretary and Treasurer. Cliff Browne takes over responsibility for Artists/Paintings and Alec Conner becomes responsible for Crafts and Advertising and Brenda Ryan takes over the Catering. Other offers for help have been received but of course anyone interested to help in any way will be welcome.

We are all delighted that the future of the market has been secured.

Greg Snow



Stansted Afternoon

The meeting opened in the usual way with the singing of Jerusalem and the presentation of birthday posies. After the record of the last meeting had been read, we were reminded of various forthcoming events. Our speaker, Mrs. Wilbraham then entered the hall to a round of applause, dressed as Queen Victoria. After a brief introduction she entertained us with



extracts from Queen Victoria's journal and letters written to Albert and their daughter Vicky. Having these thoughts presented in a dramatic form gave me a clearer insight into her mind and the depth of feeling Victoria had for her

husband and family. Everyone listened in rapt silence.

Our next meeting is on 12th April when Mr. Pickess will be speaking on "Houses and Gardens". For further information about our meetings contact: Mrs. J. Grose, 815714.



STANSTED EVENING W.I. OXFORD OUTING - SATURDAY MAY 13TH

Oxford is a most interesting city with famous museums and colleges, restaurants and the river, old and new shops; so again something to suit all tastes.

We shall be leaving the London & Stansted at 8.00 a.m. with a pick up just after at Maitland Road. We aim to return to Stansted by 6.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

An optional tour of the colleges, led by a Blue Badge Guide has been arranged. This will start at 1.00 p.m. (the Colleges are open only in the afternoon) and take about 2 hours. Costs will be in the region of £5 for the coach and £3 for the tour.

Stansted Evening

The promise of a world tour brought members to the March meeting when Susan Walker returned to tell us about the second half of her trip round the world. "Eastern Delight" turned out to be a very apt title as we travelled through Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China seeing it all through the eye of her camera.



Refreshments were followed by the business meeting when details of future events and arrangements were given. The Jumble Sale had been a success and with a tea to be provided by the catering group for a visiting coachload of gardeners, will ensure that our auditor has a smile on his face.

A handbag contents competition, won by Mrs. Jean Fuller, led us to believe that she must have the biggest handbag in Stansted! Well done Jean. After the raffle was drawn, a reminder was given that our next meeting on April 13th will be held at the Quaker Meeting House.

Pearl Wellings
813614



Anyone is most welcome to join us - male or female, member or not, so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to come.

Pearl Wellings 813614 2 Loates Pasture





**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

March meeting at the Day Centre on 1 March 1995.

A good attendance of members were very interested in the presentation given by Peter Wilkins from Buckhurst Hill. Obviously a dedicated expert on all aspects of the Daffodil species his talk covered the ordinary type and some of the more exotic ones.

The members competition - a pot of daffodils - was won by Bob Adamson.



**SPRING SHOW -
SATURDAY APRIL 1ST**

Our show will be held at the United Reformed church Hall, chapel Hill Stansted - open to the public from 2.30 p.m. **ADMISSION FREE.**

Raffle and refreshments available.

Members are reminded that all entry forms must be deposited with a committee member by Wednesday 29 March at the latest.

APRIL MEETING - Wednesday 5 April at the Day Centre at 8 p.m. - OUR AGM

Please try to attend this important meeting. In addition to the business side there will be Wine and cheese. **ALSO** Mr & Mrs De Jager (the company who supply our bulbs etc.) will be with us, primarily to present the prizes for the De Jager class in the spring show.



ADVANCE NOTICE
PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE...

On Saturday 15th July a coach has been booked to go on a "Church Crawl" in suffolk.

So far I have no idea of the actual itinerary, having left that to Roy Tricker, church historian and Field Officer to the Churches' Conservation trust. Those of you who have been on a tour accompanied by Roy will know that the day will be most entertaining, instructive and full of his infectious enthusiasm for all aspects of Church history and architecture.

The only item on the day's agenda of which I can be confident is our tea - booked with the parishioners of Barsham near Bungay, and we will be leaving there at about 6 o'clock.

I hope to give you more details later, but if you would like to reserve your seats on the coach, do please phone me -
Audrey Rodgers, 813385.



The Bishop's Stortford 41 Club (graduates from Round Table!) were brave enough to invite me to speak about TFSR at their February meeting. The preceding meal was superb and most of the audience managed to keep awake long enough to hear about planes, hammers and sewing machines. The generous donation they made to TFSR funds is hopefully an indication of my success! Thank you Peter for the invitation.

We have recently been successful in the tool gathering front. Ridgeons of Cambridge came up trumps with a load of tools that they have been collecting from customers over the past year or so, and a retired doctor, also in Cambridge, donated 15 sewing machines! In connection with the latter, we would welcome offers from anyone who would be prepared to take one or more sewing machines home to clean them up and generally make them presentable for shipping out to groups in Tanzania or elsewhere. We can offer training of necessary!

If you feel you can help us in any way, please give me a call, or come along to 7 Blythwood Gardens on the fourth Tuesday in the month (25th April, 23rd May) at 8 p.m.



It was Robin's birthday so Mr. Rainbow came to entertain us. His magic tricks held us spellbound, his funny songs had us rolling in the aisles and we were all holding our breath when Mr. Punch threatened to eat the baby. Fortunately Mrs. Punch came to the rescue just in time so we were all able to enjoy the birthday cake and goodies which followed. A big thankyou to Paul, Sandra and Robin's Mum and Dad for a lovely evening.



Our holiday plans are now well in hand and we have booked five caravans in Hunstanton. We have now found our fifth cook and driver. We still need a little more cash to cover the cost of the holiday so we hope you will all come along to a Coffee Morning at 62 Chapel Hill early in May at 10 a.m. Look out for the posters. We have so far had no offers to bring our three young ladies to Club on a Thursday evening from Saffron Walden. If you are wondering what this entails please contact me on 812284.



Marion Johnson



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

New members are always welcome. Come along to one of our coffee mornings from 10am to 11.30am. Tea or coffee 30p members (40p non-members), and children's drinks 10p and 15p.

- Tuesdays - expectants mums and under 1's
- Wednesdays - toddlers
- Fridays - pre-school

Diary for April

Tues	4	Julie	Elsenham	814047
Wed	5	Elaine	Elsenham	813706
Fri	7	Susan	Ugley	814052
Tues	11	Sarah	Stansted	812804
Wed	12	Julie	Elsenham	814047
Tues	18	Shelley	Henham	850133
Wed	19	Sue	Henham	850356
Fri	21	Clare	Stansted	815225
Tues	25	Eileen	Stansted	816685
Wed	26	Isobel	Henham	850354
Fri	28	Brigid	Stansted	816514



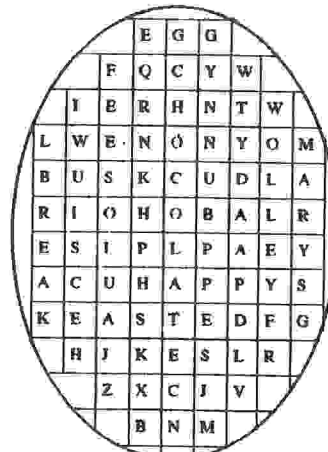
CAR BOOT SALES

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday 19th March
 Sunday 9th April
 Sunday 21st May
 Sunday 18th June
 Sunday 16th July
 Sunday 17th September
 Sunday 15th October
 Sunday 26th November

All 9.00am to 1.00 pm Refreshments available
 £5.00 in advance - £6.00 on the day
 Telephone (0279) 813384 for more details

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- DUCKS
- EASTER
- EGG
- HAPPY
- JESUS
- MARY
- NEW LIFE
- PALM
- RISEN
- SPRING
- YELLOW

SHALOM RETREAT FEBRUARY 1995



The annual retreat of Shalom took place as usual at the Elizabethan manor house in Suffolk, Hengrave Hall, a wonderful setting for contemplation and rest. This year twenty retreatants were lead by the Rev. Margaret McKay of the URC Church.

The theme of the weekend was Peace, and Margaret led us biblically through pathways to peace. This posed interesting discussions: Can there be peace without justice? Can conflict be an eventual pathway to peace? What does peace mean? If someone is not seeking peace but power and breaks harmony, what should be the Christian reaction?

We discussed how peace is a responsibility and does justice = peace. If harmony is broken, should reparation/repentance be a requisite before harmony is again established?

All this and more meant we had to take a hard look at ourselves, our community, our world. Shalom is a vehicle for building bridges, crossing divisions: it is a mighty challenge and requires peace in our hearts. How do we achieve this?

Margaret brought to our Shalom retreat gentle (but disturbing) aspects of our responsibility to maintain peace and harmony and asked us to consider: does it mean 'turning the other cheek' literally? Does it mean turning away from conflict? With Margaret we explored these problems.

However, as is usual with our Retreat, there were periods of quiet reflection when some went for a walk in the surrounding countryside, or browsed in the library, visited the small chapel containing priceless, mediaeval glass windows or the 'family' Church of Reconciliation in the surrounds of Hengrave Hall, or just wandered around the extensive grounds.

Our Retreat was as it is meant to be - a little respite in our busy world - a time to recoup - a time to reflect - a time to regenerate our energies. And it was wonderful to share this with Margaret who brought humour as well as seriousness to our discussions. Our thanks go to her.

Rita Morson

SHALOM

An ecumenical group meeting fortnightly. Everybody is welcome to come regularly or occasionally.

- 3rd April Agape at Michael Dyer's home at 7 Blythwood Gardens
- 24th April Prayer and praise at Jim Collin's home 20 Bentfield Green
- 8th May One act plays followed by discussion at David Morson's home, Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham



A CRAFT EXHIBITION AND SALE

will be held at the Quaker Meeting House
on Saturday, 8th April,

in aid of the Meeting House fund
(we still have quite a lot to pay
for our new building)



Homemade Cake Stall

10.00am

1st Saturday of each month

outside the

United Reformed Church

Chapel Hill

(in church porch if wet)

The Annual Bible Society Coffee Morning

is on

Tuesday May 2nd

10 am - 12 noon

at 58 Chapel Hill

There will be a Bring and Buy
Stall and Raffle

Entrance, including
Coffee & Scones - 50p

Please support this once
a year event

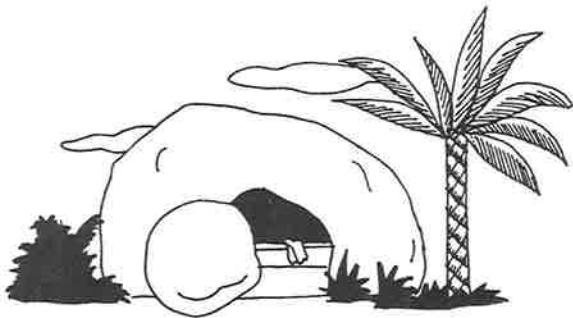
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN Stansted



The need to pray together is pre-eminent in Christian worship.

An opportunity occurs every Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m. in St. John's.

Come and make your voice heard too. He is always there to listen.



We all wish (Rev'd) Margaret and Geoff Booker many more happy years in their new home in Houghton. Here they are seen "At Home" at Burton End.



C.T.S. Chevetogne Visit

This year's Exchange is from Thursday evening 27th April to midday 30th April.

The Exchange has taken place now for about 8 years. One year a party from Stansted goes to Chevetogne and next year they come to us. They are of very mixed ages, from teenagers to pensioners. Some speak very good English some very little, but one thing is certain, we all get along very well together and enjoy tremendous fellowship and hospitality.

If anyone would like to be involved as a host, offering accommodation for the weekend, please let me know.

We would also be very grateful for help on the Saturday. Laying up tables in the afternoon for the evening get-together at Crafton Green, or helping to dish up the bring and share dinner on Saturday evening, or for any offer to make a dish (salad or pudding) for the evening.

It is a very busy weekend for the hosts who are involved and we would all be very grateful if anyone could offer to do some of the tasks which make the weekend run smoothly.

If you can help or would like to become involved in the Exchange please ring Eileen Quinn on 812109.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk: Mary Rice
92 Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford,
Herts. CM23 2QP
Tel: 651769

Meeting for Worship: 11.00 am

Methodist

Meet in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

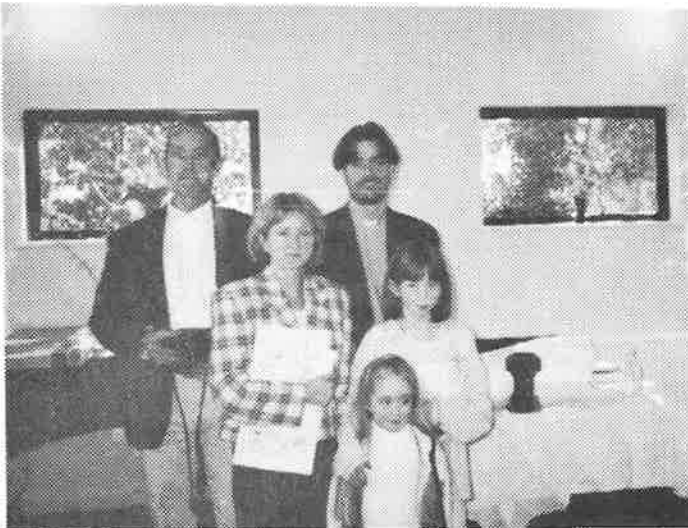
Minister: The Rev'd Michael Hayman
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 654475

Secretary: Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground, Stansted, CM24 8BD
Tel: 813579

Services: Morning Service 9.30 am

Preachers for April:

2	9.30am 6.30pm	Passion Sunday Rev'd Michael Hayman We join with others for the Agape at the United Reformed Church
9	9.30am	Palm Sunday Mr John Banks
16	9.30am	Easter Day Rev'd Ronald Rawlings, Holy Communion
23	9.30am	Mr Don McGregor
30		United service at St. John's for the Chevetogne visit.



It was a double first at the Methodist service on 11 March. It was the first baptism to take place in the Quaker Meeting House since it was extensively renovated in 1993, and it was the first ever baptism to be performed by Tim Richards, who is coming towards the end of his training as a Methodist minister at Wesley House Cambridge before moving to his first church in Dover later this year. The happy couple being baptised were Alex and Ashley Kaley of Lower Street, who are seen in the picture with their parents and Tim.

Dear Friends,

I've only been linked with Stansted for the past three and a half years - though some people say it seems like an eternity. So, I am a relative newcomer, but what a month April 1995 is going to be.

I've been here long enough to know just how important the Revd. Margaret Booker has been to Stansted. Her place in the hearts of the people of St. John's parish - surely highlighted by her acceptance for the priesthood last year, and her ordination at Chelmsford about this time (along with Revd. Brenda Wallace) - is secure and she is much loved, as is her musical husband whom we treasure at my Stortford Church for his bassoon playing in our Carol Service, which he does just as successfully in the Stansted Carol singing spot each year. Margaret's role in Churches together is both that of leading and of wisdom. I know my United Reformed colleagues

(Revds. Margaret McKay and Lydia Rapkin) and Father John Meehan at St. Theresa's, would want to join me in wishing her and her husband every joy and blessing as they move to Huntingdon, but an assurance we will not forget them: God bless them both. Stansted will be poorer for their going.

And then on Good Friday there is the last of Mrs. Marion Johnson's Good Friday Projects. Other duties have prevented me sharing in this venture but everywhere I turn I hear something good: even the helpers end up tired but happy. How can we say thank you for such a marvellous annual experience of Christian Education? Well done, and thank you Marion.

And then it's Easter. You can take it as you find it: let it be just the family fun of Easter Eggs and greetings with bunnies on: let it be the realisation that Spring is here and the fields and gardens and hedgerows are reminding us that life begins again; let it be your own heart's response to emotional wintry days as you have to face bereavement and loss and weakness, but discover that life does go on and you can go on; or let it be, as surely as it is at the good Friday Project, a deeper understanding of God's love for you expressed in the sufferings and death, and the resurrection and the life of our Lord Jesus, and there's plenty to say thank you for.

Thank you Margaret and Geoff, thank you Marion, thank you God.

Yours sincerely
Michael Haymen, Methodist Minister

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 Richard Dunstan-Meadows
43 Gilbey Crescent
Tel: 815025

Weekly Services: Holy Communion 8.00 am
Parish Communion 9.30 am
(Creche, Children's Church and Lazer Group)
Evensong 6.30 pm

Holy Communion is also celebrated on:

Monday 7.30 pm
Wednesday 10.00 am
Friday 9.00 am

The following services are held monthly:

1st Sunday Holy Communion (1662) 12.15 pm
2nd Sunday Holy Baptism 4.00 pm
3rd Sunday Family Service 11.00 am

REGISTERS FOR FEBRUARY

Funerals

6th Frederick Palmer, aged 85
6th James Walter Sparrow, aged 76
7th Margaret Caroline Louisa Probert, aged 82
17th Edgar Maddox, aged 77
17th Henry Wilfred George Viner, aged 88
24th Gladys Farmer, aged 71



After fighting off stiff competition at the ever popular Quiz evening at St. John's on March 11, the winners were Team 4, consisting of Daryl and Steve Riley, Annette and John Richardson and Teresa Lashbrook.



DIARY FOR APRIL

1	5.30pm 8.00pm	Lazer Group Concert Chevetogne evening
2	9.30am 6.30pm	Parish Communion -Margaret Booker's final service at Stansted -followed by a reception in the Hall Agape at URC HALL NO EVENSONG AT ST JOHN'S
4	10.30am 8.15pm	Service at Norman Court Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway
7	9.15pm	St Mary's School Holy Communion
9	9.30am 6.30pm	PALM SUNDAY Meet in Hall for Palm Sunday ceremonies, followed by Parish Communion The Crucifixion - J Stainer
10	7.30pm	HOLY WEEK Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion
11	10.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Service at Mead Court Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion
12	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion
13	8.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY The Lord's Supper and Vigil
14	7.45am 9.00am 11.00am 8.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY Communion from the Reserved Sacrament Good Friday Project at St John's with a Service at 2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at Birchanger Compline at Farnham
15	8.00pm	EASTER EVE Vigil Mass and Ceremonies
16	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	EASTER DAY Holy Communion at ST MARY'S Family Communion at St John's Family Service Evensong at St John's
18	10.30am	Service at Broome End
25	2.15pm	Tiny Tots

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

Services: Sunday Masses -
Henham 9.00 am
Stansted 10.30 am

Holy Days -
Henham 7.00 pm
Stansted 8.00 pm

BAPTISM

We welcome Ana Salvador Taylor who was baptised on 12th February.

Lent is the time of anticipation and waiting for the coming Easter celebration.

The full meaning of Lent is to be found in its consummation in the 3 days of Holy Week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

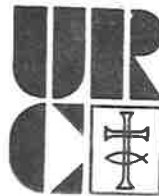
The rigours of Lent are undergone in our personal sacrifices to prepare us for the triumphant emergence of Christ from the tomb.

The Gospel message is clear in Lent. We are reminded that we must die to ourselves if we are to rise in Christ. "If we die with Him we shall rise with Him".

Every man, woman and child in our Parish should be very much part of this preparation for the Joy of Easter - we should together priest and people enter the sanctuary of the Lord and recount the joy of Holy Thursday, be part of the Passion of Good Friday and wait in the tomb with Jesus to share in the first light of Easter and the eternal life of the Resurrection.

May the Lord be with each of you and your families on your Pilgrimage to the Joy of Easter.

Father J D Meehan



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers: The Rev'd Margaret McKay, MA BD
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Saffron Walden, Essex
Tel: 01799 528155

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden, Essex
Tel: 01799 523296

Group Secretary: Miss Muriel Dalley
145 Cherry Garden Lane
Newport, Essex
Tel: 01799 541210

Stansted Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593

Services: 11.00 am each Sunday

For details of services at Clavering and Newport please ring the Group Secretary.

PREACHERS FOR APRIL

2nd	11.00am	Mrs C Bonner Family Service
	6.30pm	Rev M McKay C.T.S. AGAPE Lecture Hall
9th	11.00am	Rev M McKay
13th	7.00pm	Rev L Rapkin Group Maundy Thursday Communion
16th	10.30am	Rev L Rapkin Group Easter Day Communion followed by Fellowship in the Lecture Hall
23rd	11.00am	Rev L Rapkin
30th	11.00am	Ms J Calderley

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Nelson Orchestra

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Picnic**

Junior Day

**Folk Night &
Barn Dance**

Saffron Walden
Choral Society

Watch for further details

Plans are going well for this year's Music Festival. Three events which take place at the Church are on **6th May** at 8.00p.m. when well-known broadcaster Antony Hopkins will be talking about and conducting the music of Mozart with the Nelson Orchestra, the **13th May** when a violin Masterclass at 2.30pm will be followed by a recital at 8.00p.m. featuring Howard Davis of the Albern Quartet and our own Sonia Levy, and the **20th May** when the Nelson Orchestra will join forces with the Saffron Walden Choral Society in a performance of Mozart's Requiem. Other music will be by Festival Organiser Adam Pounds and Brahms.



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LAZER GROUP VARIETY SHOW
Saturday 1 April
5.30pm
St John's Church
Proceeds to local charity
Tickets £2.00; 75p concessions;
£5.00 Family ticket; from
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Katy Dockerill, 22 Bentfield Road

TALK

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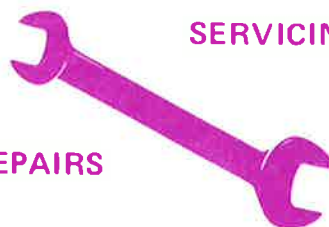
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