The LINK



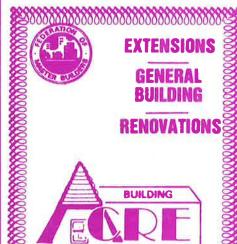
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TO ALL OUR READERS

January

The precise origin and earliest character of the Roman god Janus is unknown. His name means "passageway" and the god was considered to be present in every door or gate.

Originally Janus was associated with the spring, around March, when his powers were supposed to aid vegetation! Around 200BC the month of January, named after Janus, became the first month of the Roman year. They chose Janus as he was seen to protect beginnings in his role as protector of gateways. He is often depicted has having two faces - to look both forward and backward. Occasionally he is depicted with four faces when he appears on a gateway where two routes cross, i.e. a gateway with four pathways leading from it.



A Roman coin with a double headed Janus: the god facing both ways was believed to be present in every gate, door and passageway.

The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

To order your copy of Link please contact:

Mrs L Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture Tel: 813428

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All other enquiries to the Editor:

Mrs L Everitt, 12 Meadowcroft Tel: 813504

Mrs G Barber, 17 Rainsford Road Tel 812105

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

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill For February issue by 12 January 1995 For March issue by 9 February 1995

Village News





VILLAGE DIARY

January

2-5	7.41 - 6.5	Skip at Crafton Green	
5	8.00 pm	Local History Society	
7		NO URC Cake Stall	
9	8.00 pm	Leisure Facilities Meeting	
- 16		WEA - Weatherwatch	
28		Open Day at Guide Hut	
30 - 2 Feb		Skip at Crafton Green	

February

2	8.00 pm	Local History Society Pill Boxes	
4		URC Cake Stall Carnival Quiz Night	
11		Scouts Quiz Night	
16		Royal British Legion Women's Section	
25-26		Skip at Crafton Green	

Looking back - Looking forward

As I look back on 1994, I recall two significant developments in our Church life. the first has been the addition of the parish of Birchanger to our family of parishes. I spent the first three months of the year on sabbatical considering how multi-church benefices can best work. I returned convinced that this required respect for the integrity and independence of each church within the group, whilst recognising common membership of a family of Churches. I am grateful to all three parishes for making this work in practice.

Our second concern last year was to do with Church finances. You will know that the national situation has attracted publicity and some of the Church Commissioners' problems have led to a greater demands on local churches. However Anglicans have had to learn what other Christians already know - that the living Church cannot be funded other than by living Christians. I am grateful to God for the good initial response from parishioners but am conscious that there is still much we must do if this is not to be a constant burden.

Looking forward to 1995, we will be saying good-bye to two of our priests. Margaret and Geoff Booker are hoping to move in the near future and we will publish details when they are available. Richard Dunstan-Meadows is hoping to return to the Army - to the Chaplains' Department - in June. We will be sorry but wish them all well for their future.

Whether or not we get another curate this year, the time has come to tackle the whole issue of Local Ministry. The was the other half of my sabbatical research. Ministry is part of God's call to all his people - not just the few who finish up wearing "dog-collars"! We will be seeking appropriate ways of realising this in Stansted.

May God bless you all through 1995.

Bob Wallace



MOUNTEITCHET SENIORS' CLUB



The weather on the day of the Mountfitchet Seniors' Club Sale was atrocious but it didn't deter many members and friends from joining us for a very successful Saturday afternoon, both socially and financially. We were delighted to welcome our past chairman, Mrs. Winch, and members from Birchanger and Farnham clubs. A number of Stansted traders had donated prizes for the raffle and we are very grateful to them for their support. In less than two hours we had raised nearly £350 - a 'grand' total indeed and a very fair reward for a lot of hard work from our members.

At the Annual General Meeting in November, our Chairman, Mrs. Jenny Gardner, was pleased to report an increase in interest in the club, with several new members and the prospect of a varied programme planned for 1995. Miss Tame, our Treasurer, reported a healthy balance at the bank, which promises well for some interesting outings next year, and our subscription will be held at £1.50 for 1995.

The December meeting was a new venture when we all met at the King's Arms for a Christmas lunch. Forty members and some of our volunteer drivers spent a very happy few hours, most kindly served by Jean Hargrave and her team. Without the help of the volunteers, several members of the club would be housebound and we were please that we could show our gratitude to them in some small way. Once again, some of the Stansted traders had sent prizes for a raffle - this gesture is very much appreciated by all of us.

At the end of the year, our Treasurer and long-term serving member of the club committee, Miss Evelyn Tame, has to give up the job she has done so well for several years. She will, of course, remain a valued member of the club and we now publicly express our thanks for all she has done.

The Mountfitchet Seniors' Club re-opens on Wednesday 4th January, when we look forward to seeing all the familiar faces - there is still room in the Day Centre for some new ones if you'd like to drop in on any first of third Wednesday. If you have a problem with transport, please telephone and we will help out wherever we can.

Audrey Rodgers Secretary

Tel: 813385

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club continues to consolidate its mid-table position in The Essex Senior League. As a result of the Club's best victory for a number of years, beating Leyton Orient, we have been rewarded with an away tie in the Quarter Final of The Essex Senior Cup against Diadora First Division side Billericay Town. Three days before this game we are at home in another Quarter Final, this time in The Essex Senior League Cup.

Do come and give the team the support they deserve since it will be much appreciated.

As always new social members are always welcome. Please enquire at the Clubhouse for details.





Fixtur	es for Jai	nuary		
Tues	3 Jan	To be arranged		
Sat	7 Jan	Maldon Town	Н	3.00pm
Tues	10 Jan	Billericay Town	A	7.30pm
Sat	14 Jan	Ford United	A	3.00pm
Tues	17 Jan	To be arranged		
Sat	21 Jan	Southend Manor	A	3.00pm
Tues	24 Jan	To be arranged		
Sat	28 Jan	Concord Rangers	н	3.00pm
Tues	31 Jan	Haverhill Rovers	A	7.30pm

Leisure Activities with a plus

We hear a lot these days about added value - VAT probably being the most famous, and the latest additions to that probably affect everyone.

However, on the brighter side, tucked away in a corner of the village is a place where you can add a lot of very pleasant "added value" to your lives and recreation. We are mainly younger age groups, but there is a good spread of ages from five years up to the (young at heart) grey haired variety!

What do we do? - Most things that people find enjoyable. A poll among some of our teenage members put "Have fun" at the top of the list, followed by "Make lots of friends", "Take responsibility", "Do exciting things", "Work as a team". We try to find something for everyone to enjoy, and there is no compulsion to join in things you do not like. (We can also cater for most forms of disability.) Whatever your interests we can guarantee that you will find someone with the same or similar interests and a pleasure shared is a pleasure increased.

On the quiet side we tell stories, sing songs, play music, tread the boards and cover a very wide range of crafts from basic needlework to enamel work, pyrography and weaving.





Rainbow Playgroup, Youth and Adult Centre, Lower Street, Stansted, Essex CM24 8LR

A new term and a new year - we hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Festivities. Here at Rainbow Playgroup the final weeks of last term were a burst of activity which was enjoyed by the children, playleaders and parents alike.

For January we thought we would enliven a traditionally "quiet" month with a Quiz Night to be held on January 28th at St. John's Church Hall. Tickets cost £5 per person, to include a fish and chip supper (please bring your own drinks) and are available from Michaela Bitter on 815796. All are welcome - the more the merrier!



The more energetic side covers group games (like leg wrestling [!?!], parachute games, etc.), camping, canoeing, abseiling, archery, and skiing, as well as the more mundane like swimming and netball.

We also learn a lot of useful things - cookery, first aid, elementary bookkeeping and administration

(hopefully, shortly to be linked with the G.N.V.Q.s we hear so much about these days), responsibility for others and so on - too many things to list. Some of our teenagers/young adults use the skills and qualifications earned with

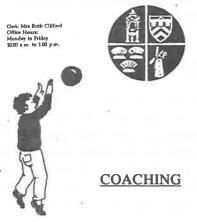


us to go on to higher education courses such as N.N.E.B. and teacher training courses at university. Our training awards are recognised all over the world and with our international network we encourage young people (and some older ones) to travel and meet others from different backgrounds. We also have an organisation which sets up work placements (lasting from 2 weeks to several months) in third world countries where people with knowledge and skills can help set up workshops, schools, irrigation schemes, etc. and so help to relieve poverty and disease.

As well as our own training schemes we take part in national schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We are hoping to have an "Open Day" on 28 January - do come and have a look at what we can offer, and sample some of our craft activities. If you like us, you can join us, our only age limit is minimum 5 years, although some activities are limited to certain age groups. Who are we? - Guides (not 'girls' any more!) - we can offer training, guidance, responsibility and a good social atmosphere to today's ladies (young and old). Definitely a hobby with a big "added value".

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council



The need for tennis and cricket coaching in the village during the summer holidays seems to have passed, judging by our experiences in 1994. We are delighted to report, therefore, that we will be trying something new - BASKETBALL.

We are endeavouring to arrange for coaching to take place in the gym at the Mountfitchet High School, and this can start as soon as we have sufficient eager participants, aged between 11 and 16 years. If you would like further information, please contact Cllr Janice Loughlin on 812346, or the Clerk, 813214.

LEISURE FACILITIES IN THE VILLAGE

We are sure you will all remember receiving a letter asking you to let the Parish Council know what sort of leisure facilities you would like to see in the village. Sadly the response has not been overwhelming, but we are giving you another opportunity to have you voice heard!

There will be an open meeting at 8.00 pm on Monday 9 January 1995 in the Day Centre. We do urge as many of you as possible - of ALL age groups - to come along and discuss this important issue - after all, if the council does not know what you want it cannot begin to enable it to happen!



SKIP DATES

The full list for 1995 will appear in the next edition of our Newsletter - due out in January/February, but the first few are as follows:

Monday 2 - Thursday 5 January Monday 30 January - Thursday 2 February Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 February.

STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



A new year - a fresh start - opportunity knocks!

If you, your spouse or your friends are not yet familiar with, or not yet using the facilities and services available at the Day Centre, to all senior citizens on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., call in to see for yourself and sample what is on offer.

As well as the opportunity to meet, chat and share the companionship of others, tea, coffee, snacks or a cooked lunch are available at very modest prices.

The Day Centre serves Stansted and surrounding villages. A warm welcome awaits all new comers. If you are immobile, ring B/S 815091, it may be possible to arrange transport.



WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Our spring course will be "Weatherwatch", to be given by Mr.Norman Billett, from Dunmow. He will explain the workings of a weather station and give an insight into weather patterns in the British Isles. The class will study weather charts which will help with understanding those shown on television and in newspapers. Each Monday the previous week's weather will be analysed and the outlook discussed weekly. Students will be encouraged to "read" the sky and understand cloud formations. World climatic trends and hazards will be discussed and special weather phenomena explained.

The ten week course will begin on Monday 16th January held, as usual, at the Day Centre. First evening 7.30 p.m., for enrollment, lecture at 8 p.m. Reduced rate for pensioners, unemployed free. If you would like further information please ring Jean McBridge, 812214.

We wish all our members a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you on 16th January.

Royal British Legion



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 1994

What a wonderful turnout there was for the Remembrance Parade.

The Legion Standard was paraded firstly in Elsenham at St. Mary's Church, followed by a Parade to the Memorial in the centre of the village. The Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Rangers, Guides and Brownies took part. Wreaths were laid by the Parish Council. This was a most genuine and uplifting event, as many who did not participate in the Church Service were present at the Memorial.

The Parade in Stansted was as always well attended by many organisations and the thanks of The Legion must be expressed to the Parish Council for organising the parade and particularly Mrs. Ruth Clifford, the clerk, on whom most of the workload fell. The Legion Standard arrived just before the eleventh hour prior to the Wreath laying in Stansted. The commemoration and Service at St. John's were both moving and truly expressed the words 'We will remember them'.

The Poppy Appeal 1994

The final figures for the District are not yet available, but I am delighted to say that the collections and donations are well over £4,000. (Only once in the past has this figure been achieved when in 1990 the then Treasurer of the Branch ran in the London Marathon when his sponsorship raised £1,075 - that year the total raised was £4,738).

In these most difficult times financially, our thanks cannot adequately express the gratitude of the Legion for the dedication of the collectors, especially to those who joined 'the teams' for the first time, and their help.

NOT LEAST we must thank all who gave so generously to our cause.

My personal thanks to everyone.

John L Segar Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser Stansted and District





Our social evening will long be remembered - the luscious fish and chips, the tasty ploughman's, the wine, the wonderful company, the fantastic raffle prizes and our 11 year old organist who entertained us so beautifully and later in the evening played some old songs for us to sing, finishing with carols.

Thirty three members from six branches attended the quarterly Group Meeting at Clavering. After normal business we were entertained with songs and anecdotes by the Rev. Chris Bishop. We then drew the raffle and enjoyed some delicious refreshments.

Our next meeting is not until Thursday 16th February 1995 in the Day Centre when the Rev. Richard Dunstan-Meadows will be coming to talk to us. All visitors are very welcome.



Scouts

TORTOISE SCOUT GROUP

The autumn season ended with parents and senior Scout leaders joining the troop on November 29th to witness the investiture of Robbie Ellul as a Cub

Scout. This was followed by a social evening with refreshments and games.

Pre-Christmas activities also included an enjoyable ten-pin bowling session at Chelmsford on 6th December, while plans are well advanced for the annual camp at the end of July. The troop will join a similar one from Westcliff for a week at Hamlet Wood in Kent.





The Tortoises are a part of the Hatfield Forest District Scout Group, which caters for young people of both sexes with special needs in the district, who would be unable to cope in a conventional Scout troop. They meet each Tuesday from 7.15 to 8.45 at the Scout hut in Water Lane. Normal scouting activities are led by a dedicated team of leaders, with instruction often on a one to one basis.

Robbie's investiture brings the regular numbers up to about 6 and the leaders are keen to attract more youngsters to ensure the troop can keep going and prosper. Any enquiries may be addressed to Peter Harding, Group Leader, on 0279 812401 or Dot Snow on 0245 442021. Otherwise, why not come along on Tuesday and see for yourself.

Brian Linford - Parent (813466)



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A jolly start to Christmas season was enjoyed at the December meeting with "The History of Punch and Judy" culminating in a show by John Savill that took many members back to their childhood.

At our next meeting on Thursday 5th January members have a chance to take part themselves and there will be contributions on a variety of subjects.

On Thursday 2nd February Fred Nash will tell us about World War II Pill Boxes.

Both meetings in the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

Peggy Honour B/S 813160



Having an early spring clean? Unwanted Christmas gifts? Looking for a bargain?

Then come and have some fun at our

GRAND AUCTION

at Stansted Day Centre at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 14th January 1995

Price £5, including supper - bar

Our next monthly Ploughman's Lunch will be on Saturday 14th January at the Day Centre from 12 noon.

For further information contact:

Jane Freeman: 814084 Steve Riley: 815455

Frances Spalding: 813432

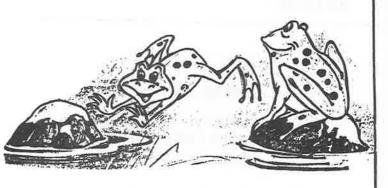




The date for this year's Stansted Carnival is Saturday 24th June and will follow its normal route from Bentfield Green to Mountfitchet High School. We are holding the following fund raising events at the beginning of this year to help provide the finance for the Carnival:-

Quiz Night - 4th February Mountfitchet High School

This successful quiz evening will be held again with teams competing for the Carnival Quiz Cup. Individual tickets are priced at £5.00 and include a fish and chip supper. There will also be a team ticket (8 persons) sold at a discounted price.



Frog Race - 29th April Mountfitchet High School This is good fun for all the family with "jockeys" being chosen to operate frogs and bets placed hopefully on the winner!

The theme for this years Carnival will be "Nursery Rhymes" and we hope as many organisations as possible will be able to enter a float. As an incentive this year we are offering a free stall at the Carnival site for every float entered. Among the attractions provided will be a "Gladiator Challenge" for adults and children alike, Bunjee Run plus lots of family games in the arena.

For any further details regarding purchasing of tickets or float entry forms please ring the Secretary on 0279 814654.

Sally Bowie

Stansted Evening

In spite of absolutely dreadful weather with gales and torrential rain, we mustered just about a full house for our December meeting.

It may have been the lure of the mince pie and wine before the meeting, but more likely the prospect of an interesting speaker and demonstrator in the form of Gill Romanowski. She had come to get us in the right frame of mind for Christmas with her ideas for seasonal flower arrangements in the English and continental styles. These were not flower arrangements in the usual sense, but incorporated other materials as well as nuts and fruit. She also gave us a few tips when we have a go at home!





During her talk Gill had extolled the beauties of the Keukenhof flower gardens in Holland and it was suggested that an outing might be arranged some time in the future. Who knows? It might not be that unlikely!

Our last trip to Tunbridge Wells for Christmas Shopping had proved to be both enjoyable and successful. Ann Johnson, our President, also reported that the recent quiz had raised over £200 and that the two bursaries for Denman College had been increased in value to £70 each. the "Romania box" made its last appearance at this meeting and finished up overflowing with a few of the things in sort supply in that country.

January is our traditional party meeting when we shall have entertainment put on by members and food by the new catering group. visitors are welcome - admission £1.20 on the night. Look out for the report next month and in the meantime we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Pearl Wellings 813614



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

The Rev'd Margaret Booker Moorlands Cottage, Burton End

Tel: 812684

Weekly Services: Holy Communion Parish Communion

8.00 am 9.30 am

(Creche, Children's Church

and Lazer Group)

Evensong

6.30 pm

Holy Communion is also celebrated on:

Monday Wednesday Friday 7.30 pm

10.00 am 9.00 am

The following services are held monthly:

1st Sunday 2nd Sunday Holy Communion (1662)

12.15 pm 4.00 pm

3rd Sunday

Holy Baptism Family Service

4.00 pm

CONFIRMATION 1995

Bishop Edward will be coming to St John's, Stansted on Sunday 7th May 1995 at 10 a.m. He will preside at Parish Communion and Confirmation. We are planning three preparation groups for Confirmation:

Juniors (i.e. final year (Year 6) at Primary School and others age 10-12 inclusive) on Wednesday evenings 5.45 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. starting 11th January (for further details, please speak to Brenda, 812203).

Teenagers - for details, please speak to Fr Richard (815025).

Adults - for details, please speak to the Vicar (812203).

DIARY FOR JANUARY

3	8.15 pm	Prayer Group at 43 Gilbey Cresent		
4	11.15 am	Service at Broome End		
6		EPIPHANY		
	9.00 am	Holy Communion		
	10.30 am	Service at Norman Court		
	8.00 pm	Parish Communion		
10	10.30 am	Service at Mead Court		
	2.00 pm	Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close		
	2.15 pm	Tiny Tots		
15	11.00 am	Family Service		
22	6.30 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity		
		Service at St Theresa's		
		NO Evensong at St John's		
23	8.00 pm	P.C.C. in the Upper Room		
24	2.15 pm	Tiny Tots		

REGISTERS FOR NOVEMBER

Baptisms

13 November

Jacob Thomas Eric Mervyn Adams

Gemma Claire Armorgie Ryan Arthur Ronald Holden Rebecca Carly Louise Pinner Lewis Michael Kenneth Wood

BISHOP OF COLCHESTER

The Rt Rev'd Edward Holland, currently Assistant Bishop of the Diocese in Europe, will be installed as Bishop of Colchester on Wednesday evening 25th January at St. Botolph's Church, Colchester. Please pray for him as he begins his ministry in this area.



OUIZ NIGHT

In St John's Hall
On Saturday evening 11th March
For details, see next month's "Link".

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

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

A HEALING WORKSHOP - "HEALING AND THE CREATIVE PRINCIPLE" Will take place at the Quaker Meeting House on January 21st 1994.

Barbara Siddall, one of the two leaders, is a counsellor and psychotherapist who has worked at the Bristol Cancer Centre for 11 years, leading residential groups in exploring their own creativity and healing needs.

Margaret Holman, who will lead the afternoon session, believes that we should grasp all the resources available to us on the path to wholeness. Margaret is a Healer Member of the National Federation of Spiritual Healers and runs workshops in self-awareness and healing, drawing on a wide range of creative techniques.

(PLEASE RING 0279 656707 FOR DETAILS).

HOLISTIC HEALING AT THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

Every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. trained healers are offering individual holistic healing on a donations only basis. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly.

(PLEASE RING 0279 656707 FOR DETAILS AND APPOINTMENTS OR CALL IN ON THE APPROPRIATE EVENING).



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 JANUARY

1st 11.00am Rev Martin Cressey of Westminster College Cambridge

8th 11.00am Rev M McKay

15th 11.00am Rev M McKay Communion

22nd 11.00am Rev L Rapkin

6.30 pm Christian Unity Service St Theresa's

29th 11.00 am Rev M McKay

There will not be a cake stall on 7th January. We expect you will still be eating your Christmas goodies. The next one will be 4th February at 10 am when we hope the weather will be better than in December. Which brings me to a question - Has anyone got a caravan awning tucked away in the attic they don't use or something similar suitable for us to erect over our stall at the gate in bad weather? If so please ring 812593. Our cake sellers would be very grateful.

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 Marion Dyer

7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted, Essex

CM24 8HG

Services:

Morning Service

9.30 am

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or need ASSISTANCE

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Wednesday 11 January 1995 St. John's Hall 8.15 - 9.15 pm

All Welcome to a safe - effective - fun class with a fully qualified R.S.A. Step Reebook Instructor Tel. 0799 541506 for details.



KNEELERS



I feel it is time I wrote from St John's to say how much we have appreciated all the hard work that has gone into making the Church look so much brighter and welcoming as a result of all the kneelers, worked often in memory of family or friends.

My first aim was to get the centre aisle chairs all covered with kneelers - that has now been achieved and we have started on the side aisle. It is good to see village activities represented, the Royal British Legion, the W.I., Guides and Huw Johnson Club. there are also kneelers in the choir stalls and Lady Chapel given by the choir and Mothers Union. Well done!

Thank you all very much and keep up the good work.

Margaret Booker



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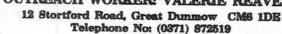
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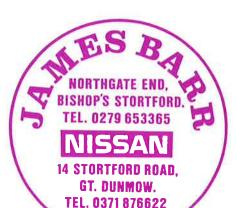
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