

March 95

The LINK



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LENT 1995

ETHICS - A COUNTY EAST OF LONDON?
BBC ESSEX COURSE FOR LENT.



drink driving - cheating at games - eating meat - export of live animals - infertility treatment - choosing a baby's sex - embryo research - punishing criminals - Sunday trading - executive salaries - pilfering from work -

All these are moral issues that face us in the modern world. Does the Bible have the answers? Do all Christians agree on the answers? Do non-Christians have a different moral code?

These issues and many more will be discussed at this year's Lent course. Once again we will meet altogether in the Friends Meeting House on different days each week as follows, starting at 8.00pm

WEEK ONE Wednesday 8 March | WEEK THREE Thursday 23 March
WEEK TWO Tuesday 14 March | WEEK FOUR Monday 27 March

There will also be a discussion on ETHICS on BBC ESSEX on The Sunday Supplement Programme starting on Sunday 5 March from 8.00 - 9.00pm. You can find this on FM95.3 and 103.5 and on AM 765



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(INTERDENOMINATIONAL)

3rd MARCH 1995

The Christian women of Ghana invite you to join them in prayer.

St John's Church
2.00pm
Speaker: Rev'd Margaret Booker



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 Cost £2.50 per year, or 25p per issue

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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill
For April issue 9 March 1995
For May issue 13 April 1995

MARCH		
1	8.00 pm	Gardening Club
2	11.00am 8.00pm	Dad's Morning at Rainbow Playgroup Local History Society
3	2.00pm	Womens World Day of Prayer service at St John's Church
4	10.00am 2.00pm 2.00pm 7.45pm	Home made cakes at URC Church Rainbow Table Top Sale Jumble Sale at Mountfitchet School Murder Evening at Bentfield School
8	8.00pm	Lent course at Friends' Meeting House
9	7.45pm	W.I. in St John's Hall
11	10.00am 10.00am 8.00pm	Dad's Morning at Sideways Playgroup NCT Table Top Sale Quiz Evening at St. John's
13	3.30pm	Daffodil Tea in aid of Stansted Guides
14	8.00pm	Lent course at Friends' Meeting House
15	10.00am	Royal British Legion Coffee Morning
17	8.00pm	St Patrick's Night Dance
18	10.00am 10.00am	W.I. Coffee Morning Post Code your Property - Youth Centre
20-23 March		Skip at Crafton Green
21	7.30pm	Public Meeting, St Mary's School
22	8.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting
23	8.00pm	Lent course at Friends' Meeting House
24	7.30pm	RBL Quiz Evening
25	2.00pm 2.00pm	Peter Kirk School Jumble Sale NCT Nearly New Sale AGM TFSR in London
26	2.00am	Change the clocks!
27	8.00pm	Lent course at Friends' Meeting House
28	8.00pm	TFSR

Village News



APRIL		
1	5.30pm 8.00pm 8.00pm	Gardening Club Spring Show Lazer Group Variety Show Belgian Evening Vegetarian Cookery at St Mary's School
2	3.00pm	Grand Opening of Windmill
5	8.00pm	AGM Gardening Club
6	8.00pm	Local History Society
7	6.30pm	V.E. Day Service at Birchanger
8		Craft Exhibition at Quaker Hall
13	7.45pm 7.45pm	W.I. at Quaker Hall Quiz Night at Bentfield School
14		Good Friday Project
16		Open Day at Windmill
17		Open Day at Windmill
24-27 April		Skip at Crafton Green
25	8.00pm	TFSR
26		Coffee Morning-Motor Neurone Disease
27-30 April		Chevetogne Visit
29		Frog Race at Mountfitchet

Good Friday Project

Good Friday this year is on April 14th. This will be my last Good Friday Project and I would like it to be a spectacular. So please volunteer to help and join in the fun we have together. Plans are already being made so please give me a ring on 812284 if you would like to be involved.



Invitations to all children who wish to attend will be circulated in March so watch out for posters giving details.

Marion Johnson



St. Mary's C/E Primary School (G.M.)

St. John's Road, Stansted, Essex. CM24 8JP

PUBLIC MEETING

The governing body of St. Mary's C/E Primary School are proposing to apply for a change of status so that they can extend the educational requirements of the school to cover nursery education.

The meeting will be held in the School Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21st March.

The governors have arranged this meeting in order to inform those attending of their proposals.

STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Day and Community Centre, behind the library, at Crafton Green, Chapel Hill, welcomes all Senior Citizens (60 or over), for tea, coffee, snacks or a cooked lunch, at very reasonable prices, in comfortable and friendly surroundings. Perhaps more importantly the Day Centre offers an opportunity to meet, chat and share the companionship of others.

If you, your neighbour or friend have not yet visited the Centre, try it - you will be pleased that you have made the effort. If transport is a problem ring B/S 815091 - it may be possible to help.

On Wednesday 26th April, a coffee morning will be held at the Day Centre. The proceeds will be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Society. Make a note in your diary now to support this very worthy charity.



We have three young ladies who live in Saffron Walden who attend the club. Unfortunately their driver has left the area and we are now looking for someone to replace her. Ideally we need at least four people who could then



work on a rota system to transport our members. If you feel that you could spare an hour on a Thursday evening once a month please contact Marion on 812284.

This year our holiday will be at Hunstanton. If you would like to join us we are looking for someone who would act as cook in one of our caravans for approximately six people. We also need a driver to drive the mini bus to Hunstanton and on our various trips during the week. There are four other cooks to give their support and shopping for meals is a shared event. For further details contact Marion.



Next term we have a very busy schedule. There's a 'Dad's Morning' to look forward to, SATURDAY 11TH MARCH, 10 a.m. - 12 noon in St. John's Hall where the children's work will be on display for you all to see (remember grandparents are most welcome).

We will also be having a sponsored 'Ride and Slide', great fun for all the children! And we will be busy collecting for our '1 spy Nature Boards' later on in the term. do come and visit us at play.



STANSTED AND DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

PROPERTY POST CODING

Please make a note in your diaries to bring along all those covetable items to the Youth Centre in Lower Street for postcoding on March 18th from 10.00 a.m. onwards. This free service will be carried out by members of the panel and "Specials".

Many stolen items are recovered by the police but they can't find the owners, so postcoding your property makes sense.

There will be a display of security equipment and systems as well, so a visit to the newly refurbished Youth Centre on Saturday 18th could be worthwhile.

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE



The special carpentry kit which we completed last year should now be en route to Musoma near Lake Victoria in Tanzania, where it will be used by a newly formed group of 15 workers who are endeavouring to earn a living making furniture and other household items. By the time you read this we should have completed another carpentry kit which is destined for a group in Tsholotsho, Zimbabwe.

Some of us are planning to attend the AGM of TFSR which is to be held in London on 25th March. This is open to everyone (although you have to be a member to vote), so if you are interested in a day out please let me know. A hot topic for discussion is how TFSR deals with the large numbers of tools that are unsuitable for sending out to Africa and elsewhere. Locally we have sold gardening tools and other surplus items in order to raise funds to buy refurbishing equipment or pay for transportation; it now looks as though this strategy is going to be made official!

If you have any appropriate tools (hammers, saws, chisels, etc.) to get rid of, then give me a call, or if you want to see what we do, come along to 7 Blythwood Gardens on the fourth Tuesday in the month (28th March, 25th April) at 8 p.m.

Michael Dyer
814059



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

February Meeting

Over 30 members attended our meeting at the Day Centre on February 1st. A special presentation of slides featuring gardens of French Chateaux and Italian Lakes was introduced by Paul Embleton. The members competition - a stem of a flowering shrub - was won by Cliff Kelly - congratulations.

March Meeting

Our meeting this month at the Day Centre is arranged for Wednesday 1st March at 8 p.m. Mr. P. Wilkins will be with us to talk about Daffodil Classification. The members competition will be a pot of daffodils, in a 6" pot. this is the final competition for the current year. The winner will be announced at the AGM on Wednesday 5th April.



Advance Notice

Members are reminded that our Spring Show is on Saturday April 1st - no fooling! The schedules for the show will be available at the March meeting. Entries must be with a committee member by Wednesday 29th March.

Advance Advance Notice

In addition to the business of the AGM on April 5th, our special guests will be Mr. & Mrs. De Jager from De Jager bulbs. they will speak and make the presentation to the winners of the De Jager class in the Spring Show.



Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

Have you any information on the Home Guard in Stansted? If so, Jean McBride would be pleased to hear from you on 812214 to help with her researches on the subject.

Our next meeting on Thursday 2nd March is on Quakerism in and around Stansted with Mair Muir and on Thursday 6th April Ted Pretty will tell us about his time at Audley End. Both meetings in the Day Centre at 8 p.m. Visitors welcome (75p per evening).

For further information please contact Peggy Honour, 813160.



The spring term is progressing well, with projects including birds, nursery rhymes and colours to keep the children busy. We also had a very active 'Chinese Week' recently where the children had great fun making a large dragon costume, eating Chinese food with chopsticks and made 'pig' masks - this being the Chinese Year of the Pig!



The playgroup will be holding a table top sale on Saturday 4th March at 2 p.m. Tables cost £5 in advance and £6 on the day. For details and to book your table please contact Jenny on 812977.

We are also holding a Dads' Morning on Sunday 2nd April from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. where all playgroup children are invited to bring along their dads, and brothers and sisters, to show off what they do at playgroup. Mums also benefit from an hour or so of peace and quiet!!



A big **'Thank You'** to all those who supported our recent quiz evening. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all. It also helped raise over £200 for the playgroup which will help purchase new fencing for a playground area at the centre.



**Stansted
Liberal Democrats**

We shall be holding a Supper Club on Saturday 4th March at 7.30 p.m. at the Day Centre. We hope to have a speaker on the subject of housing, so come along to what should be an interesting and entertaining evening.

The Monthly Ploughman's Lunch will be on Saturday 11th March at the Day Centre - 12 noon - 2.00 p.m. All welcome.

For further information contact:
Jane Freeman 814084
Frances Spalding 813432
Steve Riley 815455



Mountfitchet School Hall was bulging at the seams with 25 teams taking part in the Carnival Quiz. This was the third year that the quiz has been organised and it was great to see teams from local pubs, clubs and schools competing for the cup. This was in fact won by a group of local quiz buffs who call themselves "Edith PF" (and only they know why!).

Mountfitchet School is the venue again on April 29th for a "Frog Race", a variation on a horse race and great fun for all the family. Ticket enquiries please to The Secretary on 814654.

June 24th is the date for the Carnival - if you would like to enter a float don't forget that hiring a huge lorry is not always necessary. A pick up truck or open top car would enable you to enter with minimum cost. The theme this year is "Nursery Rhymes" so please complete the form below should you wish to join us:-

FLOAT ENTRY FORM

Name of Organisation / school / trader

.....
Person to contact

.....
Address

.....
.....

Tel. No.:

Please return to Mrs Osborne, 9 Rainsford Road, Stansted, Essex. *Tel: 654423.

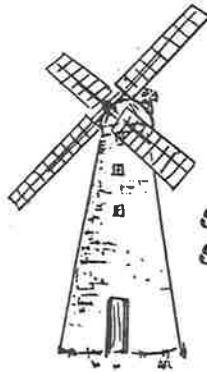
(This form may be copied to avoid damaging your copy of "Link")

A FREE STALL at the Carnival will be available to each float entrant and for the first time this year we will be issuing all participants in the procession with a "Certificate of Entry". Think how nice this would look on your club/pub/school wall!

STANSTED WINDMILL

Here's a wordsearch. Find the listed words hidden in the grid running horizontally, vertically or diagonally, up, down, forwards and backwards. The unused letters will spell out an important message connected with the windmill! The # indicates the end of a word in this message.

If you are not sure why some of the words are associated with the windmill you had better come along on an open day and find out!



Next Open Days:

Sunday April 2nd (Grand Re-Opening)
 Sunday and Monday April 16th-17th

G N U T O R G A N M S T O N E
 L P A G N R O C L I N S E L L
 E D E R A T A V F L O U R S O
 E E W I N D M I L L B U R R R R
 H L N N # R L T N W I E O E D
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 E I I I F A N T A I L P E N L
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 R E T I E D C # W T I B K N H
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 I L N I A M G E A R # S E N E
 K C O T S C W O R M O B N D D

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| BELT | MILL BILL (2 WORDS) |
| BIN | MILLWRIGHT |
| BRAKE WHEEL | NUT |
| BURR | OGEE |
| CAP | POSTMILL |
| CORN | RAIN |
| FANTAIL | ROPE |
| FILE | SACK |
| FLOUR | SMOCKMILL |
| GAP | STOCK |
| GRAIN | STONE |
| GRINDING | TOWERMILL |
| HOIST | WEDGE |
| HOPPER | WIND |
| IRON BAND (2 WORDS) | WINDMILL |
| JOSEPH LINSELL (2 WORDS) | WORM GEAR (2 WORDS) |
| LORD BLYTH | VAT |
| MAIN SHAFT (2 WORDS) | |

(For further information contact Malcolm Binder, tel: 814069).

**STANSTED
 CONSERVATIVES**



The Ladies Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th March at 11 a.m. at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill.

The Main Branch A.G.M. will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill, at 8 p.m. on Friday 17th March.

Later this month on Wednesday 29th March, the Ladies Branch hold their Annual Luncheon with a guest speaker at 11 a.m. at the Day Centre.

All members are welcome.

Philip Duly
 816053

CALLING ALL AUTHORS

It has been decided to run a short story competition in the Link for authors of all ages to have a chance of seeing their names in print. Stories can be real or imaginary and on any subject that you choose, but it would be nice to have a Stansted connection, and ideally be about 300 - 350 words long.

Prizes will be awarded for the stories which we publish and they will be judged in the following age groups:

1. Primary school age
2. Secondary school age
3. Adult



Contributions should be delivered to Chapel Hill by 13 April, with details of Name, Address and Age if in the first two groups. (You can use a "pen-name" if you prefer but we need your real name as well, not necessarily for publication!)



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 - expectant mums and under 1's

Wednesdays - toddlers

Fridays - pre-school

March

Wed	1st	Elaine	Elsenham	813706
Fri	3rd	Sue	Elsenham	647343
Tues	7th	Ann	Stansted	813884
		BABIES ONLY PLEASE		
Wed	8th	Rachel	Ugley Green	815745
Wed	8th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT Crafton Green Centre, Stansted 8pm. Talk by Sue Amphlett of Parents Against Injustice.		
Fri	10th	Melanie	Stansted	814231
Tues	14th	Anna	Stansted	814503
Wed	15th	MESSY PLAY for toddlers and pre-school children in Henham Church Hall 10am onwards - £1 entrance.		
Fri	17th	Jackie	Elsenham	813206
Fri	17th	WORKING PARENTS EVENING - a coffee evening for mums or dads who work. Melanie Stansted 81423 8pm		
Tues	21st	Christine	Birchanger	812544
		BABIES ONLY PLEASE		
Wed	22nd	Anne	Henham	850564
Fri	24th	Mandy	Stansted	816895
Tues	28th	OPEN HOUSE WITH BRING AND BUY Please bring cakes to sell - a chance for all the groups to get together. Isobel Henham 850354		
Tues	28th	TALK ON 'SHIATSU' by Marilyn Hunt. 8pm £1 entrance 21 Vernons Close, Henham 850497		
Wed	29th	Joan	Elsenham	812675
Fri	31st	Michaela	Stansted	815796



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

For V.E. Day we are joining Birchanger Branch for an evening service on Sunday 7th May at 6.30 p.m. at Birchanger Parish Church. The Service will be taken by the Rev. Bob Wallace.

J. L. Segar

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

WINDMILL RE-OPENING

The official re-opening will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday 2nd April 1995 at the Windmill. We hope that Lord Blyth will officiate, and that as many parishioners as possible will come along to see the work that has been carried out. You are all then more than welcome to join us for a cup of tea afterwards at the Day Centre, Crafton Green.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

A last reminder that the chief constable of Essex Constabulary, John Burrow CBE, will be addressing the Annual Parish Meeting. Please come along to the Day Centre at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd March 1995 to hear what he has to say, and to find out the Parish Council's achievements over the last year, and plans for the next!



ABOUT RELATE

Relate, formerly known as marriage guidance exists to help anyone suffering with a relationship problem.

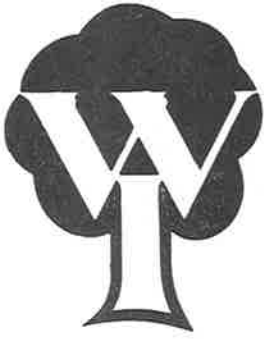
Life is rarely as smooth as a mill pond, and difficulties in relationships can have far reaching repercussions beyond the couple themselves, at work, in the extended family, with children in their education, health, job prospects and so on.

We are based in Harlow, but counsel clients in Epping, Bishop's Stortford, and Saffron Walden, a total catchment area of some 250,000 people.

Besides counselling we have trained psychosexual therapists, and trainers to run specialised courses. Our daytime waiting lists are only a few weeks. If you would like a daytime appointment or more information ring Harlow 423655.

Relate is playing a vital role in the welfare of our society, supporting family life in the face of pressures and stresses of today's world.

Alan R Row (Manager)



Stansted Afternoon

After the singing of Jerusalem and the presentation of just one posy for February, the meeting continued with normal business. Names were taken for the Spring Group meeting at Little Hadham and the County Style Day to be held at Mountfitchet School. The Treasurer presented her budget for 1995, stating that our funds should be sufficient for our requirements this year, with no need for fund-raising on our own behalf. However, she warned that the position could be different next year.



Our speaker, Mr. Griffiths, dressed as a milkman from the early part of this century - entertained us with anecdotes of his life as the son of a Welshman who set up in business as a milkman with a dairy in North London. For

some of us it was reminiscent of our own childhood as he showed us the cans which were attached to the hand-carts and delivered on the doorstep between 4 and 8 a.m. No hygienic washed bottles in those days; but he did show us one of the wide-necked bottles, the first of its kind, which some may recall had round cardboard insert lids. He described his life with his three brothers and the games they played in the street during the 20's and 30's. To some it may sound like life on another planet, but there were those for whom it revived many memories of a bygone age.

Stansted Evening

Due to the cancellation by our speaker for February we welcomed Dan Johnson, a retired Station Officer from the Essex Fire Brigade. He gave a most interesting insight into the work of the Fire Service with details of the courses at the Fire Training Centre at Moreton in the Marsh, aspects of fire prevention, and the rather sobering detail that 2,500 people die every year due to electrical faults of some kind.

He emphasised that when a fire occurs it is the smoke which kills and that it is of the utmost importance for plugs, flexes and wiring in the home to be thoroughly checked by a professional. Some practical advice on dealing with chip pan fires and what to be wary of in holiday accommodation whether ashore or afloat should stand us in good stead for the future. His talk was punctuated with stories and anecdotes, mostly with a humorous twist - it all made a most entertaining evening.

Our visitor Barbara Ball, V.C.O., had brought a selection of W.I. books to sell and a display of crafts in order to inspire us to take up one or more of these over the next few months.

The business meeting dealt with future events such as the Jumble Sale, Coffee Morning, Caribbean Country Style Day and shopping trip to Oxford.

We shall be going to Oxford on May 13th with an optional tour of the Colleges led by a blue badge guide. Costs at this stage are a "guesstimate" at £5 for the coach and £3 for the tour. Anyone is welcome - please phone Pearl Wellings, 813614.

STANSTED EVENING W.I. DIARY DATES

March 9	7.45pm	W.I. Meeting, St. John's
March 18	10-12.30	Coffee Morning in aid of Meningitis Research
April 13	7.45pm	W.I. Meeting, Quaker Hall - Note change of venue
May 13		Coach trip and tour of Colleges, Oxford

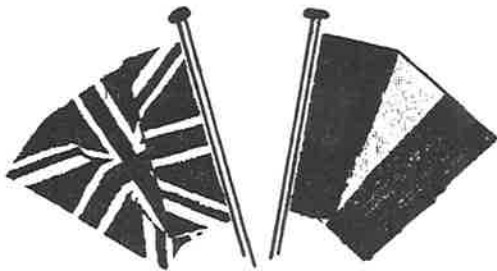
A FOND FAREWELL

This month the Reverend Margaret and Geoff Booker are moving from Stansted to return to the part of Cambridgeshire where they formerly lived.

They came to Stansted in 1973 and have played a central role in the life of St. John's Church throughout that time. Margaret was already a Lay Reader when she arrived; in 1983 she was made a Deaconess and then Deacon some six years later. In 1994 she achieved what at one time seemed an unattainable ambition - that of being ordained Priest. Those who attended the Ordination or her first Eucharist in Stansted will have some idea what this meant to her, and we also know how much has flowed from her to many friends in the three villages in which she ministered.

Margaret has seen her faith as being indivisible from village life. This led her into an active role within the (then) Stansted Association of Christian Churches, including a period as Chairman. She has been Enrolling Member for the Mothers Union, chairman of Helpline, and Chairman (and activist) of the Link committee. Latterly she was a helper and unofficial counsellor at the Day Centre. She has loyally served with three Vicars and earned the love of the whole of Stansted parish for over two decades. The beautiful kneelers in St. John's which she initiated will be her lasting and tangible memorial.

The visit of our friends from Chevetogne, Belgium, will take place from 27th-30th April this year. If you are able to help in any way, or to provide accommodation, please contact Eileen Quinn (812109) or Francis Mercer (813945).



A Belgian evening to raise funds for the visit will be held at the Day Centre on Saturday 1st April at 8 p.m. with Belgian food, music, singing and a quiz. Everyone is welcome - tickets £4.00 each from Eileen Quinn (812109) or Margaret Whitelaw (815388).

Geoff came to Stansted to take up the appointment of Head of Modern Languages at the Mountfitchet School. Since his retirement he has been a governor of St. Mary's School, and was Deanery Organiser for the Church's Sponsored Cycle Ride. Readers will know from last month's Link that Geoff's great love has been music, both instrumental and vocal. He has, of course, been a steadfast member of the church choir. Many, some no longer young, have cause to be grateful for the prowess with various instruments that he made readily available to the young people in Stansted throughout his time with us. This has culminated in the formation of the Band which has so ably played at services and social events in recent years.

Margaret and Geoff's last service at St. John's will be the 9.30 Eucharist on Sunday 2nd April. We hope that their many friends will be able to come on that morning. We will be joined by congregations from Farnham and Birchanger, as well as by members from all other churches in Stansted with whom Margaret has a particular joy in worshipping.

Parting is inevitably a sweet sorrow, but there can be a few departures which leave such a fund of goodwill and loving memories. Fortunately Ramsey is not so many miles in either direction.

May both Margaret and Geoff find happiness in their new surroundings, and may God's blessings be upon them.

STOP PRESS:

The Reverend Margaret and Geoff Booker are actually moving during March, but the service arrangements are unchanged. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to their presentation are asked to give to the Vicar or Church Wardens if from C of E or to Catherine Dean if from other C.T.S. Churches.





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.

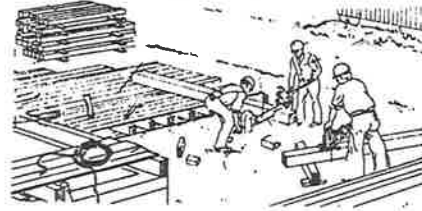
PREACHERS FOR MARCH

5	11.00am 6.30pm	Mrs. C. Bonner Family Service C.T.S. Service at Quaker Meeting House
12	11.00am	Rev. M. McKay Communion
19	11.00am	Rev. S. Evans of Cambridge
26	11.00am	Rev. L. Rapkin

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH STANSTED

For some time now the congregation at the United Reformed Church has been considering its future in its present buildings. With the other two churches which make up the Stansted Group of the United Reformed Church we have considered how the congregation may best use its buildings to its own advantage and to the advantage of the village community as a whole. At the moment, we meet for a service once a week in the church and the Lecture Hall is used regularly by various organisations including a youth club, Stansted Guild, the Women's Own and occasionally by quite a number of other groups. We want to make much greater use of the church building and be able to offer more space and facilities for others to use.

At one point we considered whether we could base such a development on our ecumenical relationships with the other churches in the village but this has not proved possible. The important decision was taken at the beginning of February when we looked at various suggestions for how the church building could be converted to provide a church, hall, meeting room, kitchens and cloakrooms. We have decided to look to the future and attempt to carry out the most ambitious scheme put before us which involved dividing the present church building horizontally, putting the church on the first floor and having a hall on the ground floor. The vestry at the rear of the present building and the Lecture Hall will in due time be demolished to make room for more parking. We have now to get more detailed drawings, apply for planning permission and fund-raise. We shall be attempting to carry out the work in a series of phases so at best the work will take quite a number of years unless the funds come pouring in!



In this way we hope the United Reformed Church will continue its long tradition of living at the heart of the life of the village. And it is a long tradition.



The first church of the reformed and non-conformist tradition was built in Stansted in 1698 on the present site. Already there had been a tradition of puritan churchmanship in the village as the vicar of Stansted during the Cromwellian period, Robert Abbot, was an avowed Presbyterian and the parish church at that time sent two elders to the Presbytery of Uttlesford and Clavering. Abbot was ejected from the parish church after the bishops came back with the king in 1660. Those of Abbot's persuasion who could not accept the demands of the returning Royalists joined others in the area to meet in Arkesden. Eventually, they formed an independent congregation at Stansted. It was for this group that the first Independent chapel on Chapel Hill was built after William and Mary brought toleration for the non-conformists. The present building replaced the seventeenth century one in 1865 and was renovated and refurbished in 1877. The Independents formed part of what became the Congregational Church which in turn joined with the Presbyterian church of England in 1972 to form the United Reformed Church.

"SUMMER WINE" at the URC

Saturday Evening, February 11, saw Stansted United Reformed church packed to capacity as almost 250 people braved the wet and windy evening to attend a musical evening in aid of the Church Repair and Redevelopment Fund.

The programme commenced with a Panoramic View of the Lake District in colour with slides and music presented by Brian Tulley, followed by "A Taste of Classical Music" featuring a group of talented young musicians including Katie Blurton (Flute), accompanied by Ellie Morrow, Laura Dockerill and Emily Winter (Voice) and John Williamson and Raj Whitlock (Piano). The "Summer Wine" concluded the programme with a wide repertoire of folk, ballad and sacred songs.

Richard Thomas, Caroline Halliwell, Valerie and Peter Trundle had formed the Group at a church function in 1975 and it was fitting that they should return to give a repeat performance some twenty years later. Caroline was unable to sing with the group on this occasion having moved to Lapp Norway some ten years ago.



The evening was organised by Mr and Mrs Ivor Thomas; Lighting and Sound, Richard and Luke Thomas; Stage Management, Joy Thomas; Stage Hands, Andrew and James Bonner; and Refreshments by the Ladies of the Church.

A sum of nearly £650 was raised for the Redevelopment Fund.



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 MARCH	
5	The Revd. Michael Giles 6.30 pm United Service for First Sunday in Lent led by Revd. Michael Hayman
12	The Revd. Michael Hayman, Holy Communion
19	The Revd. Ronald Rawlings
26	Mothering Sunday: Ms. Elizabeth Good

We look forward to the United Service where we will launch the Lent Study for this year.

Our Church Fellowship meets on Friday, 24th March. The theme: 'Belonging' - do you have to come to church to be a Christian?



Shalom

- 6 March Kathleen Allen to speak on her training for the Methodist Ministry
Venue - Jim Collins', Bentfield Green
- 20 March A Debate
Venue - Judy Goddard's, Burnells Way
- 3 April A Lent Meditation
Venue - Eileen Quinn's, Greenfields

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)

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting for 11.00 am
Worship:



COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

In January Mary Rice and I attended a meeting in Chelmsford to hear about the Council for Christians and Jews - an organisation founded during the Second World War when what was happening to the Jews in Europe was beginning to emerge. Its aim is to foster mutual understanding and to fight discrimination.

The first speaker was John Levy from the Friends of Israel Educational Trust. He described very graphically what it felt like to be an English Jew: although in so many ways he, and his family, are completely English he feels a very strong bond with Jews and their history throughout the centuries - and with Israel as the centre of this tradition. It is a tiny country with supporters and citizens all over the world. Jews feel that, after they were dispersed, they became the Dick Whittingtons of history; always moving on, but in their minds Israel remained the centre of their religion, and they felt - through all the persecutions - that eventually they would return.

The land was very neglected over the years but now "is abundant with life, a land flowing with milk and honey". with people now returning from all over the world (half a million Russians in the last 10 years) it is a power house of intellectual activity. Immigration of Jews is unlimited. John Levy was questioned on this - how could a small country continue to absorb large numbers without damage to the environment and quality of life? He maintained that it was possible, but I think that that must remain a question mark.

Some of the inhabitants are deeply religious, some attend the synagogues only at major festivals (similarity with Christians here!), some are not religious at all. It seems that Christian Jews are not thought of as Jews at all and have no automatic rights of citizenship. It's better to be a secular Jew!

He was also questioned on Arab 'destiny'. He was very aware of the conflicts and the dark side, but felt these could be resolved by the peace negotiations as they inched forward. The violence that is used to control difficult situations was not discussed.

The second speaker, Beryl Norman, a Christian member of the Council, talked about the reservations Christians have about the establishment of the State of Israel - partly on theological grounds, and partly because of the plight of the Palestinian Arabs. But she feels we cannot ignore the fact that to the Jews, the land and the religion are indissoluble.

Beryl Norman organises tours of the Holy Land, which sounded very interesting: as well as visiting all the usual places associated with Jesus and his ministry, the groups visit both Jewish and Arab communities, and have a sojourn in the desert in Bedouin tents. During her last tour, the desert visit was abruptly ended by a severe sandstorm!

Both speakers made one very aware of the depth of Jewish feeling for the State of Israel.

Katharine Hurford



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

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	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 JANUARY

Baptisms

8th Michael William David Harry South
Bethan Sian Yeo

Funerals

9th Kenneth Cecil Turner, aged 88
18th Charles Douglas Shaw, aged 74
23rd Ivy Maud Dulieu, aged 87



On Saturday April 1st in St. John's Church at 5.30 p.m. the LAZER Group and friends will be staging another variety show. There will be music of all sorts and sketches too!



Profits are to go towards a local charity so do come and support us.

Tickets £2 for adults, 75p for concessions, (£5 a family ticket), from Ragni Whitlock, 38 Bentfield Road, or Katy Dockerill, 22 Bentfield Road.

DIARY FOR MARCH		
1	10.00am 11.15am 8.00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion Service at Broome End Parish Communion
3	10.30am	Service at Norman Court
6	8.00pm	PCC in the Upper Room
7	8.15pm	Prayer Group at 62 Chapel Hill
11	Evening	Quiz Night (see note)
14	10.30am 2.00pm 2.15pm	Service at Mead Court Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close Tiny Tots
25	9.30am	ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BVM Holy Communion
26	11.00am	MOTHERING SUNDAY Usual Services, and Family Service (nb 4th Sunday this month)
28	2.15 pm	Tiny Tots
31	8.00 pm	Election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (in the Hall)
DIARY FOR APRIL		
1	Evening	Lazer Group Concert
2	9.30 am	Parish Communion - Margaret Booker's final service at Stansted - followed by a reception in the Hall



Quiz Evening
on Saturday March 11th
in St. John's Hall
at 7.30 for 8 p.m. prompt start
Tables of up to 8 people (max. 14 tables)
Ploughman's Supper
Reserve your table now
Tickets £4 (conc. £2.50) from the Vicarage



On Mothering Sunday, We thank

God
for our
MOTHER.
and our Mother
the
CHURCH.

QUIZ NIGHT
Peter Kirk School
 3rd March 1995
 7.30pm for 8.00pm
 Tickets £3.50
 Teams of 6 - 8 people
 Supper : Bar : Raffle

CANCELLED



Homemade Cake Stall
 10.00am
 1st Saturday of each month
 outside the
United Reformed Church
 Chapel Hill
 (In church porch if wet)

Rainbow Playgroup
Table Top Sale
 Saturday 4 March
 2.00pm - 4.00pm
 Youth Centre, Lower Street

Mountfitchet High School
JUMBLE SALE
 Saturday 4th March
 2.00 - 4.00
 Admission 20p
 Jumble may be left at the school

DAFFODIL TEA
 DAY CENTRE, STANSTED
MONDAY 13 MARCH
3.30PM UNTIL 5.30PM

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MURDER EVENING
 Saturday 4 March

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Tickets £3.50 to include light supper. Please bring your own drink.

Tickets from: Mrs S Coke (813800) Mrs M Gilbert (812743)

Stansted and District
National Childbirth Trust

INDOOR TABLETOP SALE
 Ugley Village Hall
 Cambridge Road, Ugley
Saturday 11 March 1995
 10.00am to 2.00pm
REFRESHMENTS
 Tables £5.00 (prebooked only)
 Tel. 01279 813907

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT DANCE
Friday 17 March 1995
 in aid of
CORRYMEELA RECONCILIATION CENTRE
IN NORTHERN IRELAND

at Stansted Mountfitchet School
 8.00pm - 11.15pm

Dancing to the WICKERMEN

BAR **RAFFLE**

Tickets £5.00 (£3.50 for O.A.P.s, Unwaged, Children)

Further information and tickets from:
 David Morson 850209 Helen Baker 814885

WOMEN'S SECTION

COFFEE MORNING
Wednesday 15 March
 10.00am
 Day Centre, Crafton Green
 Admission 50p

Cakes Tombola
Bring and Buy

"MISSING YOU" by Philip Duly

I shall miss your mellow sunrise,
At the dawn of each new day,
I shall miss the morning chorus,
That I heard throughout my stay.

I shall miss the skylarks singing,
Their beautiful morning song,
And your enchanting fragrance,
That lingers all day long.

I shall miss the sound of distant lambs,
And being woken by hungry geese,
Yet nothing disturbs your beauty,
Or your sleepy rural peace.

I shall miss those early morning mists,
That smother you in dew,
I will miss the peal of your church bells,
That echo all around you.

I will miss your green and wooded folds,
And the view from your church door,
I shall miss the stags I often see,
As I approach you across the moor.

I shall miss your packhorse bridges,
And your brook that gently flows,
I will miss your charming cottages,
Your winding lanes and hedgerows.

I shall miss your scarlet sunsets,
And your starlit sky at night,
with the ghostly hoots of nearby owls,
So close yet out of sight.

But most of all, I shall miss the way,
You made me feel each day,
That's why I know for certain,
I shall be back again to stay.



Don't forget
to alter your
clocks on
26 March



Mountfitchet High School
CARBOOT SALE
Sunday 19th March
9.00-1.00pm
£6.00 on the day £5.00 in advance
Refreshments available

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National Childbirth Trust
NEARLY NEW SALE
St John's Hall
St John's Road, Standed
Saturday 25 March
2.00pm to 4.00pm
40p entrance
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and equipment**
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please telephone 01279 850497

Stansted **W** Evening
COFFEE MORNING
with **CAKE STALL**
Saturday 18 March
10.00am - 12.30pm
Stansted Youth Centre
Lower Street
in aid of
Meningitis Research

??
? Stansted & District ?
? **QUIZ EVENING** ?
?  ?
? The Memorial Hall, Elsenham ?
? Friday 24 March ?
? 7.30pm for 8.00pm ?
? Tables (teams) of 6 ?
? Tickets £4.00 per person to include ?
? Fish and Chip Supper ?
? All Welcome ?
? Please contact Bob Stoddart (814015) ?
? or John Segar (813289) ?
? or Mrs K Stevens ?
??

GRAND JUMBLE SALE
Saturday March 25th
PETER KIRK SCHOOL
CHAPEL HILL, STANDED
GATES OPEN 2.00PM
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LARGE SELECTION OF STALLS!
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Saturday 1 April at 8.00pm

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Everyone welcome

Tickets £4.00 each from

Eileen Quinn (812109) or Margaret Whitelaw (816385)

In aid of funds for the Chevetogas visit

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
Ragni Whitlock, 38 Bentfield Road
Katy Dockerill, 22 Bentfield Road



Vegetarian Cookery Demonstration

by

Mr Leon Lewis

Saturday 1 April

at 8.00pm

Admission £5.00

Advance bookings only
Tickets from Linda Berry 812100
In aid of St Mary's PTA.

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 26 April
10.00am - 12.00noon

at

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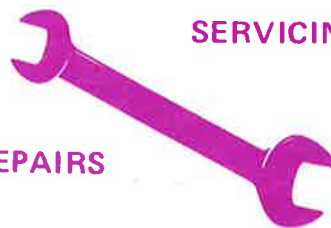
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