

Dec 2002

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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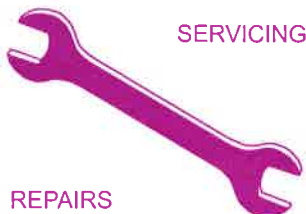
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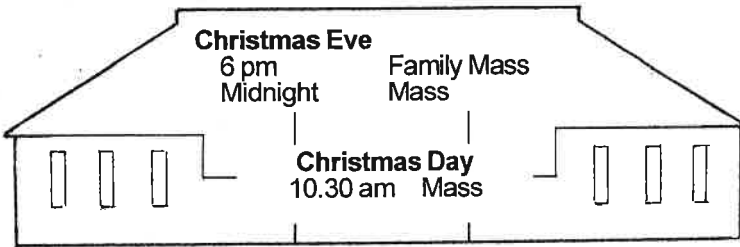
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THIS  
CHRISTMAS



<b>Christmas Eve</b> 3 pm 11.30 pm	Crib Service First Communion of Christmas
<b>Christmas Day</b> 8 am 9.30 am	Holy Communion Parish Communion



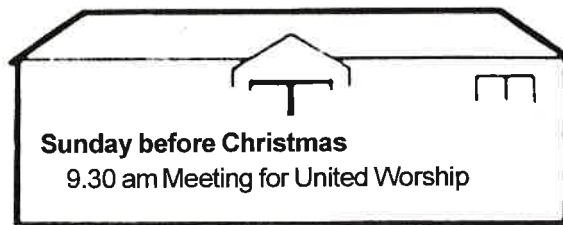
ST JOHN'S C of E



ST THERESE'S RC



UNITED REFORMED



SOCIETY of FRIENDS & METHODIST

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 Advertising enquiries Tel 01279 812797  
 All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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 by 9<sup>th</sup> January for publication on 25<sup>th</sup> January



# SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Clerk** Mrs Anthea Lee  
24 Lea Close  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel 01279 656707

**Meeting** Sunday, 11 am

The CTS Service of Carols and Readings for Advent will be held on Sunday, 1st December at 6.30pm in St John's Church and the CTS "A Celebration of Christmas" Concert of Carols and Christmas Music with Readings and Poetry will be held at St Mary's Church at 4pm on Saturday, 21st December.

On Sunday, 22nd December, there will be a joint service for Christmas with the Methodists at 9.30am

## Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all Men

In late September I was in Saffron Walden helping to celebrate the Tercentenary of Friends' School. The school was founded by a Quaker, John Bellars, in 1702. It was to be "A college of Industry of all useful TRADES and Husbandry, with profits for the RICH, a Plentiful Living for the POOR and a Good Education for YOUTH..."

Friends' School started in Clerkenwell, London, as a combined workhouse and school. It was not the first Quaker School, but is the only one in England to have survived for 300 years without a break. The initial premises in Clerkenwell were unsuitable to continue as a combined school and workhouse so the school moved a short distance to Islington in 1786. As London grew and houses and factories surrounded the school another move was contemplated and in 1825 the 75 boys and 75 girls moved to Croydon, which was then only a small town. However, Croydon grew and the health of the children began to suffer so a search began for a new site. Saffron Walden was chosen, mainly because of a gift of land from a local Quaker and banker, one George Stacey Gibson, who also donated to many other establishments in Saffron Walden. The school on its present site opened in 1879 as separate boys and girls schools, however, in 1910 the schools combined and co-education began. This must have been one of the first co-educational boarding schools in the country.

Part of the celebrations was a procession from the school down through Saffron Walden, then on to the Castle Museum and to the green areas surrounding the Castle. Here a pageant was organised as well as a giant Bar-B-Q to feed the large number of people, who had processed to the Castle. The procession had all the current pupils and staff dressed in Quaker costume, with the youngest Junior School pupils in the oldest costume right through to the current Sixth form in present day school uniform. It created quite a spectacle with the school children carrying banners depicting some Quaker concerns through the ages. The main theme of the banners was that of Pacifism and Peace-making. On that same Saturday there was an

Anti-war march through the streets of London alerting people to the threatened war in Iraq. It was good to think that Saffron Walden was having its own Pacifist and Peaceful march through its streets.

Now with Christmas approaching I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Peter G Burgess

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux, High Lane

**Priest** Father Joe White  
The Presbytery  
St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane  
Stansted Tel 01279 814349

**Masses** Saturday 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am  
Holy Days of Obligation 8am and 8pm  
Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am

**Confessions** Saturday 10 am and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment

The CTS Service of Carols and Readings for Advent will be held on Sunday, 1st December at 6.30pm in St John's Church and the CTS "A Celebration of Christmas" Concert of Carols and Christmas Music with Readings and Poetry will be held at St Mary's Church at 4pm on Saturday, 21st December.

## For Busy People

(Especially during the Christmas period)

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush;  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,  
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.

He leads me in the way of efficiency, through calmness of mind; and His guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,  
I will not fret, for His presence is here.

His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of activity,  
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity; my cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours  
And I shall walk in the peace of my Lord and dwell in his house for ever.

Toki Miyashina after Psalm 23

# UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

## Minister

Rev'd David Simpson  
32 Loompits Way  
Saffron Walden  
CB11 4BZ  
Tel 01799 526618

## Contact

Mrs Janet Townsend  
58 Chapel Hill  
  
Tel 01279 812593

## Preachers for December

1st	10.30am	Rev'd Martin Cressey
8th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson Communion
15th	10.30am	Dr Pamela Cressey
22nd	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson Group Gift service followed by Coffee and Mince Pies
25th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson Christmas Day Worship
29th	11.00am	Group Service at Newport: No Service at Stansted

The CTS Service of Carols and Readings for Advent will be held on Sunday, 1st December at 6.30pm in St John's Church and the CTS "A Celebration of Christmas" Concert of Carols and Christmas Music with Readings and Poetry will be held at St Mary's Church at 4pm on Saturday, 21st December.

## Gift Service

This year at our gift service on 22nd December we will be collecting gloves, socks and toiletries for the street people at Whitechapel Mission. Our monetary gifts at this service and our Christmas Day collection will be for the Essex Air Ambulance Service.

## News of Members

Several members of our congregation are unwell at the present time including the Rev Lydia Rapkin who is in Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge. We remember them and all who are ill in our prayers.

Phyllis Little and family would like to thank everyone for all the kind messages of sympathy and donations of money for the Stansted District Nurses fund following the death of Gerald, also to the doctors, nurses and many friends for their unfailing help and kindness in the last few months. Gerald was known by many people as he had lived in Stansted all his life as had his parents and grandparents before him.

## Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to everyone who filled a shoe box or provided items, gave money or their time to assemble boxes

which enabled us to send 99 boxes to the above Charity. They were picked up on 7th November and are now well on their way in convoys of 4 lorries (loaned by several large supermarkets) with an interpreter in each convoy to deal with the Customs at border check points. We hope to have an evening in the spring when a representative from the Charity will come and talk to us about their work. More details later.

# METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Minister** Rev'd John Graham  
2 South Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel 01279 654475

**Secretary** Mrs Catherine Dean  
49 Reception Ground  
Stansted  
  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email:** [methodists@stansted.net](mailto:methodists@stansted.net)

**All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated**

## Services and preachers for December

1st	Joan Kennett 6.30pm CTS Ecumenical Service of Carols and Readings for Advent at St. John's Church
8th	Jean Hay
15th	Rev'd Ronald Rawlings - Holy communion
22nd	A joint service for Christmas with Friends
29th	Rev'd Jim Gill

We shall be having a Christmas Lunch at the Day Centre on Sunday, 15th. December at 1pm.

On Saturday, 21st December there will be the CTS Christmas Concert, "A Celebration of Christmas", at St Mary's Church at 4pm.





The Parishes of  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
with Birchanger  
and Farnham

**All enquiries**  
are welcome at  
**The Church Office**  
located in the  
Upper Room,  
St. John's Church Hall,  
Stansted CM24 8JP

Monday	Open from
Wednesday	9:00am- 12:00noon
Friday	

(01279) 815243  
<church.office@stansted.net>

*Administrator*  
**Mrs Elizabeth Jennings**

*Church Hall Bookings  
Secretary*

**Mrs Joy Lambe**  
(01279) 817937  
<joy@stansted.net>

*Rector*  
**Revd Andrew Spurr**  
The Rectory  
5 St. John's Road  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
Essex, CM24 8JP  
phone/fax (01279) 812203  
<rector@stansted.net>

*Honorary Assistant Priest*  
**Canon Derek Jackson**  
88 Stansted Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts, CM23 2DZ  
phone (01279) 652664

*Director of Music*  
**Mrs Glynis Morris**  
Wakeley  
Leetes Lane  
Eversden  
Cams, CB3 7HH  
phone/fax (01223) 263640  
<church.music@stansted.net>

*Children's Church*  
**Mrs Marion Johnson**  
(01279) 812284

*Mother & Toddler Group*  
**Mrs Tina South**  
(01279) 814371

## The Enemy Within

Many of us who haven't lived in Stansted for years, have been on a steep learning curve this autumn. I'm talking about the Government's proposals for the development of Stansted Airport.

Some of what I have learned has been heartening. It has been good to be able to spend time with veterans in the business of resisting airport development, hearing stories of past campaigns. I have not yet been able to understand why the following generation of Stansted residents has been slower to move into coherent political action. For many, life is already spun out too thin. The church is not the only voluntary organisation to hear the plea, 'we feel we should get involved but, we haven't got enough time', so too with the Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign, I regularly hear the complaint that there is no time.

A more insidious view is the one which says that the Government's proposals are a done deal; it was all decided years ago. I know these plans have been kicking around Whitehall for decades, but that doesn't mean to say that they are good, right or just. The more people think like this, the more likely is the expansion going to happen.

The second most common view I have heard is that, if life around here becomes intolerable, then we'll simply move somewhere else.

What troubles me about all these responses is the underlying assumption that living in a

community is provisional. We'll stay as long as it suits us, then go somewhere else.

This is ironic when you consider how many of us move out here to raise children, and belong to a place with a sense of community. I don't know where we think the sense of community comes from, but if Stansted is made up of people who want to join a community that someone else has made, and be able to opt in, or out, then very quickly those on the periphery outnumber those who have been here a long time. Before we know it, everyone is here provisionally, and then we start complaining about lack of common life, lack of community, and a feeling that no-one would notice if one of us suddenly disappeared.

I have buried enough people in my life to know that, at the end of our days, we can be measured in terms of what we have given to those around us, and the stories that can be told about us, if we stay in one place long enough for people to know who we are, know our good and bad sides, and still be able to celebrate us when we are gone.

We can't live without belonging to someplace, and to some people. This is why we have to make the effort to ensure that we have a decent future here, and admit the possibility that we may belong here. AS

### St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion said
	9:30am Parish Communion sung
November	11:00am Open Door Service on the 3rd and 17th of November
	6:30pm Evening Prayer said
Wednesdays	10:00am Holy Communion said followed by coffee
	7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

**Children's Church** meets at 9:30am on Sundays in the Church Hall. **Tiny Tots** is a mother and toddler group that meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons in term-time. **Laser Group** is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church. Contact the Rector. A house-group meets fortnightly currently studying

### Advance Notice

## Charity Rock Concert

In aid of the victims of the  
famine in Malawi

St John's Church  
Friday January 31st 2003

### Advance Notice

## Service of Confirmation

The Bishop of Colchester, the Rt Revd Christopher Morgan will be making his first visit to the parish for a Confirmation Service on Easter Eve, 8:00pm 19th April 2003. Confirmation classes will begin at the Rectory at the end of January. Candidates for Confirmation, of any age, are welcome and should speak to the Rector or phone the Church Office.





*(continued)*  
**From the Registers for October:**

**Baptism:**

20th Sebastian David Ockwell-Smith

**Funerals:**

22nd	Gwen Wise	age 89
24th	Antoinette Connor	age 56
25th	Joan Garrett	age 78

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**Sunday, 15th December** at 3pm in St John's  
**Christingle Service**

**Saturday, 21st December** at 4pm in St Mary's  
**CTS "Celebration of Christmas"**  
with Carols, Music, Readings and Poetry for the  
Christmas Season.

**Christmas Eve at St John's**  
**Crib Service** at 3pm  
**First Communion of Christmas** at 11.30pm

**Christmas Day at St John's**  
**Holy Communion** at 8am  
**Parish Communion** at 9.30am



**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

There will be an Ecumenical Service of Carols and Readings for Advent on Sunday, 1st December at 6.30pm in St John's Church, Stansted. The service will be led by the clergy of the Stansted Christian Churches and will be followed by refreshments.

**A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS**

**Saturday, 21st December at 4pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Stansted**

There will be a Concert of Carols and Christmas Music with Readings and Poetry at 4pm on Saturday, 21st December at St Mary's Church, Stansted. There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid and The Churches Conservation Trust. As in past years, car parking will be available at the Church and at The Mountfitchet High School.

The Benefice Choir invites singers from all local churches to join them for the musical items. Rehearsals will be from 8 - 9pm on the following evenings at St John's Church, Stansted:

Wednesday, 4th December  
Thursday, 12th December  
Monday, 16th December

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir for this event, please let me have your name and voice part as soon as possible. We do need to have these details in advance so that we can arrange to have the appropriate number of music copies available for the first rehearsal.

Glynis D Morris  
(01223 263640 or  
benefice.music@stansted.net))

**CAROL SINGING**

This year we shall again be carol singing around the village and collecting for Christian Aid.

We meet at 7.30 pm on Sunday 22nd by the entrance to St John's Church in St John's Road, and on Monday 23rd at the corner of Croasdaile and Cambridge Roads.

Everyone is most welcome to join us for a good sing followed by seasonal refreshments.

If you can bring (and play!) a musical instrument, please discuss your music requirements with Marion on 814059.

**REGULAR AID FOR THE POOR (RAP)**

Francis Mercer is retiring from the post of Treasurer.

It is with much gratitude that I commend Francis Mercer for his hard work and commitment to RAP for the past 8 years. Not only has he acted as Treasurer collecting the envelopes every month from the Post Office, producing balance sheets, sending off cheques to the three charities, but he has made good relationships with the local branches of the charities and kept up correspondence with them.

Francis has certainly taken the cause of RAP to his heart through his dedicated service and will be always part of this worthy cause.

David Morson  
Chair RAP

**Future CTS Events for Diary:**

**Friday, 31st January 2003 - The Best Rock Band** ever at  
St John's Church.

Funds for Malawi RAP

**Friday, 14th February 2003 - Jazz Mardi Gras** evening at  
Mountfitchet High School.

All funds to Corrymeela Reconciliation Centre.



**SHALOM**

**December Meetings:**

Monday, 9th December - An Advent Meditation led by  
Rev'd Chris Bishop at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Monday, 16th December - Christmas Party with a  
bring and share supper at Jim's house  
in Bentfield Causeway.

All meetings start at 8pm and all are welcome.

## A LETTER FROM OLD FRIENDS

On a recent visit to Stansted we were able to pick up a copy of 'The LINK' from Jan at the Rose and Crown. It was great to read all about the happenings in Stansted and I remembered how I miss everyone. The LINK was an important part of my life for a few years, so it was interesting to see the adverts as well as the copy. There is nothing like it here in Downham Market. We also picked up the Council Newsletter. There is nothing like that here either. The Council is Downham's best kept secret! Very little is reported and the newsletter is a four page effort about twice a year. Politics have no mention at all. It will be very interesting to see what happens on the approach to next May!!

We belong to the "Amenity Society", a monthly meeting of people interested in Downham - like a civic society really, get to know about planning applications and the like. We also belong to an Outings Group. We have a couple of trips out a month to the theatre in Norwich and Bury St Edmunds and to visit Stately Homes.

We have been here for over three years and love it. I gave a talk recently on "Why we chose Downham". It's very convenient, the main line railway gets us to Cambridge in half an hour, Kings Lynn in ten minutes and Ely, London in 1 hour 35.

The shops, doctors, dentist and all we need is a matter of 5 minutes walk. We have space, we have the Fens, we have breathtaking skylscapes.

After 15 months in a wheelchair I had a knee replacement and I now walk very well. David is also well. I am in the R.A.F.A. and the branch has a close affiliation to RAF Marham. We are invited to 'Family Days' and 'Battle of Britain' events; 2000 bods and VIPs on Parade! We get the Tornados dashing about the sky but it doesn't worry us. No commercial flying around here at all.

Our very best wishes to everyone.

Sheila and David Parry

*Sheila dealt with Link Advertising and David was a Parish Councillor when they lived in Bentfield Causeway. Ed.*



HEAL broke new ground on 16th November when they held an Antiques Evening in the Day Centre. Mr. Miller from Saffron Walden first spoke on ancient firearms then accompanied by a colleague, Mr. Lee, examined articles brought by the large audience. A competition on dates and values of other items excited interest and widespread participation. It was won by Mrs. Pearl Wellings. Richard Thomas said that he was greatly encouraged by the event and would probably consider another at a future date. A good evening all round!

Derek Honour



A further reminder that our second concert of this, our seventh season, is on 8th December when we shall welcome flautist, Min Park and pianist, Zoë Mather to Stansted. The programme is expected to be as follows:

Chopin – Variations of theme by Rossini '12 Doppler – Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise' 13

Prokofiev – Sonata in D Major, Op 94

and, in addition, Zoë will be playing

Chopin – Ballade in G Minor

Liszt – Les Jeux d'Eau (from book 3 Annees de Pelerinage)

The concert, which is sponsored by The Countess of Munster – Recital Scheme, is at St John's Church, Stansted on Sunday afternoon, 8th December beginning at 3pm.

Tickets are £8, Concessions £6, Children £3, and children of members £1. Available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; Options Hairdressers, Elsenham; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282).

The first concert in the New Year is on Sunday, 19th January at 3pm when we welcome Gary Ryan (guitar) and look forward to an exceptional concert of music for the classical guitar.

On Saturday, 8th March at 8pm, the final concert of the present season features Collegium Regale - a performance given by Choral Scholars of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge.

Alan Corbishley

## A NOTE TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Please note that copy for the next edition of The LINK has to be submitted early by **Thursday, 5th December** to enable us to edit, process and have printed the January 2003 edition notwithstanding the Christmas Holiday shutdown.

**Late copy will not be accepted.**

As usual, texts (preferably in MS Word format) are welcome by email to 'stanstedlink@aol.com' or on floppy disk. Please do not use any other email address when submitting copy by email.

Well typed hard copy, legible hand written copy, floppy disks & graphics may be left, marked LINK, at Janet Townsend's house, 58 Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Editor and Staff of The LINK



Bentfield Primary School  
CHRISTMAS FAIR  
2 - 5 pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Santa's Grotto ~ Raffle ~ Crafts  
Cake Stall ~ Toys ~ Refreshments  
Games Galore ~ Plants ~ Tombolas  
Christmas activities  
Entertainment & much more  
Come along and join the festive fun!

St Mary's School, Stansted  
CHRISTMAS  
FAYRE

2 pm - 4 pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Santa's Grotto ~ Face Painting  
Amazing Prize Raffle  
Silent Auction ~ Tombola  
Homemade Cakes ~ Refreshments  
Do come along - you'll be most welcome!



STANSTED  
MILLERS

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good Christmas presents -  
**but where to get them  
when the Mill is closed?**

Mill Goods Stall

under the porch of  
Savages, Lower Street  
by kind permission of Kay & Peter Jones

9 am - noon

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> December

If you cannot get there or want a  
last minute gift, ring  
Peggy Honour on 647213  
who keeps some items at home

VILLAGE EVENTS

December

4	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Sat	Windmill Christmas Stall Christmas Fair Christmas Fayre	'Savages' Lower St. 9 am - noon Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm St Mary's School 2 - 4 pm St John's Church 3 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
8	Sun	Village Music Club Concert	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
9	Mon	Shalom Group	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
9 Mon -13	Fri	Amenity Skip	St Mary's School 7.30 pm
12	Thu	WI	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
13	Fri	Huw Johnson Club Concert	Jim's, Bentfield Causeway 8 pm
14	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Quaker Meeting House 10 am
16	Mon	Shalom Party	St Mary's Church 4 pm
17	Tue	NCTea	outside St John's Church 7.30 pm jnct Cambridge/Croasdaile 7.30 pm
21	Sat	A Celebration of Christmas	
22	Sun	Village Carol Singing	
23	Mon	Village Carol Singing	

January

2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
19	Sun	Village Music Club Concert	St John's Church 3 pm

THE VILLAGE MUSIC  
CLUB

3 pm Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December  
St John's Church

Min Park ~ Flute

Zoe Mather ~ Piano

Chopin \* Prokofiev \* Liszt

3 pm Sun 19<sup>th</sup> January  
St John's Church

Gary Ryan ~ Guitar

Tickets from  
Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill 812019  
Nockolds Bishop's Stortford  
Options Hairdressers Elsenham  
Sonia Levy 815282 and at the door  
£8 adults £6 conc £3 school children



Carol  
Singing

You are warmly invited to join  
in singing round the village

Meet at 7.30 pm

Sun 22 by Church in St John's Road  
Mon 23 corner Cambridge Rd/Croasdaile

Followed by refreshments  
All are welcome  
Hope to see you there!

Collecting for Christian Aid

Recorder, flute & clarinet players  
also welcome

Please tel 814059 to arrange music



A Celebration  
of Christmas

Congregational Carols,  
Christmas Music, Readings,  
and Poetry



4 pm Sat 21 December  
St Mary's Church  
(parking at Church & Mountfitchet School)

Everyone Welcome

Admission Free

Retiring collection for Christian Aid

Do you have a special  
event that you would like  
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(note early date) to  
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**Royal British Legion  
Stansted & District  
Branch**



**Royal British Legion  
Women's Section**

**Poppy Appeal 2002**

As always the Women's Section started off our collection with a magnificent donation.

We decided to hold a tea party on 30th September in aid of the Appeal and the ladies of the Women's Section immediately offered and made all the arrangements, did all the catering and serving **and** washing up, and the event raised £233.77p.

The Women's Section also form a major part of the House to House collection and assist on the airport stand.

Our most grateful thanks go to all the ladies for all they do for the Legion and for the Appeal.

I also wish to thank all the others who have helped with the Appeal - the commercial organisations, pubs, shops, etc. and their customers for all the donations.

This year has been atrocious as far as the weather was concerned so I am particularly grateful to all those who turned out for the House to House and Street Collections so willingly.

The money is still being counted. In due course the final figure will be published in the Link and everyone will be advised of their individual collection.

John L Segar  
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser

**Lest We Forget**

A strong turn-out on the Parade, despite the weather, a crowded Memorial Gardens, a full Church, as once again we remembered the **many** who gave their lives in two world wars and other conflicts. Is it not then a great shame that we seem to forget the **FEW**. The few I refer to are those nine whose War Graves lie neglected and overgrown in our Churchyard. The grant that the P.C.C. receives is insufficient to pay for regular maintenance of these graves, but I do not think that money is necessarily the answer.

Surely amongst the 6,000 or so residents of Stansted there must be some who care enough to get together to spend a few hours on a regular basis rooting out the weeds and cutting the grass so that what funds the P.C.C. does receive could be spent on professional cleaning of the Gravestones. We in the R.B.L. have attempted the task but now we are few in number and ageing fast and can no longer cope. If you can help please contact either the P.C.C. or myself (01279 815183).

David Challis,  
Chairman  
The Royal British Legion  
Stansted & District

We have said it before and we say it again - AGM's are not popular. However, a goodly number of our members - two coming hotfoot from a coach outing - came to hear our President, Margaret Gabb, thank our Chairman, Janet Hollis, and all officers for yet another very successful year financially and for keeping our Branch running so efficiently. Highlights had been our Jubilee Dinner in June, two successful coffee mornings and donations totalling £800 to RBL Charities.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports confirmed that we had had a particularly busy year. Among the memorable events were interesting speakers, quizzes, a County Luncheon and an Autumn sale. Our Chairman thanked our President for her tremendous support and unfailing generosity and our Secretary for her unstinting service. Janet thanked Vera and Janet then told us that she had been a most wonderful Treasurer since 1948 - 54 years - surely a record! The Committee and many members were thanked individually including Harold Thistle (our liaison committee member with RBL) of whom Janet said that he provided a "Gold Standard Taxi Service" for our members.

Officers elected are:-

- President: Margaret Gabb
- Chairman: Janet Hollis
- Secretary: Cath Whall
- Treasurer: Bessie Blyth
- Committee: Doris Bemment, Pat Clower,  
Margaret Patmore and Doris Thistle.

We have no meeting in December or January and our next meeting will be on Thursday 20th February 2003 at 7.30pm in the Day Centre when we shall hope to have Edna and Alan Wright.

The Annual RBL CAROL SERVICE will be in Littlebury Church on Sunday 8th December starting at 6 pm. All to be seated by 5.30pm.

We wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2003.

Pat Clower

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Clerk Ruth Clifford  
Office Hours  
10 am - 1 pm  
Monday - Friday



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964



The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

### Stansted Airport Proposals

We were pleased with the turnout at the public meeting last month - not huge numbers, but more than we have ever managed to entice out before! Those present supported our document "Living with the Largest Airport in the World" and we are now preparing to forward this, with a covering letter, to Alastair Darling and other MP's.

If you have not already done so, please send your comments off to the Government NOW - the deadline is 30 November. You can use the questionnaire which accompanied the consultation document (there are some spare copies in the Council Offices) or send your own letter. Either way, it is essential that our voices are heard in Westminster.

### Bonfire & Fireworks

Unfortunately, our annual event on 2nd November had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the rain - the entrance to the field had become very wet and there were public safety concerns. Our apologies to anyone who braved the weather to come along.

However, all is not lost, and we shall now hold the event on 30th November to tie in with the above deadline date. We are going to link with Stop Stansted Expansion, and possibly even send Mr Darling up in smoke on top of the bonfire!! Venue is Elms Farm, pedestrian entrance via the track under Archway Cottage. Please note that the gates will open and bonfire will be lit at 5pm and the fireworks will start at 5.30pm. The change in time is to avoid clashing with the St John's Church Hall Quiz Night later in the evening. We hope that both events will be well supported. Bonfire and Fireworks entry fee is adults £3, children £1. Refreshments will be available.

### Remembrance Sunday

A big thank you to everyone who turned out to support the annual Parade and Wreath Laying Ceremony on 10 November - it was one of the best attended, despite the awful weather.

### Christmas Tree

We shall be erecting a tree again this year at the end of Crafton Green Road. We hope to beat the vandals who usually smash or steal our light-bulbs, but hopefully the CCTV system will deter them!

May we take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



Ruth Clifford,  
Clerk.

December is a very busy month on the NCT calendar for all members of the family. The children begin December in true Christmas spirit with a party on the 4th at St John's Hall. They'll be enjoying food, Christmas activities and games, as well as a visit from the man in red! The festive activities continue throughout the month with a Christmas craft and messy play session on the 6th in Henham, a ride on Santa's Express at Audley End, a Christmas music session and an TCTea morning at the Quaker Hall on the 17th of December. This promises to be a fun morning for children of all ages with mince pies for the grown ups and a raffle to raise funds for the NCT. Come along and join in the festive fun! And finally, just to prove that Christmas is not just for the children, the mums will have a chance to let their hair down on the 12th of December with a Christmas party at Bury Lodge - dinner, dancing and dads on duty the next morning!!

Our regular weekly coffee events continue until 18th December and then resume again after the Christmas holidays on the 6th January 2003. The times are as follows:

Monday	10.00 - 11.30am	Toddlers
Wednesday	10.00 - 11.30am	Tiddlers and Tums (expectant mothers and under ones)
Friday	1.30 - 3.00pm	Pre-School

These are held in members' homes and cost just 50p towards refreshments. All parents/carers are most welcome. Please come along and meet new people, or catch up with those you already know. For full details of venues, and other events organized by the NCT, please see the village noticeboards.

If you think you'd like to join in with what we're up to, please don't be shy. You don't have to be a member to come along and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Call Sarah on 01279 647022 to get your free information pack which includes a free diary sheet of events.

We also offer antenatal classes to all local parents whether this is your first or subsequent baby - book early for classes by calling Rachel on 01279 718632. Breastfeeding support from a qualified counsellor, is available by telephone from 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year, by calling 0870 444 8708.

Marnie Tait



STANSTED &  
DISTRICT LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches will be on:

Saturday, 14th December 2002

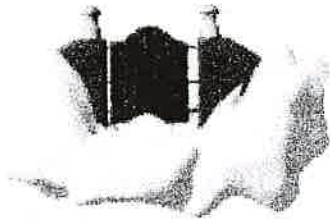
Saturday, 11th January 2003

Both at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2pm.

All are welcome.

Ruth Rawlinson

# THE LOST CHAPTER OF GENESIS



Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely.



So God asked him, "What's wrong with you?"

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.

God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.



He said, "this pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you."



She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will praise you!



She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them.



She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it."



Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?"



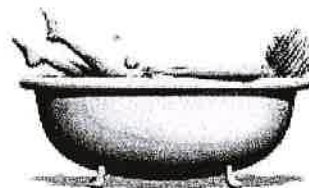
God replied, "An arm and a leg."



Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"



Of course the rest is history....





I can't believe the Autumn Term is nearly over, as always it has been a very busy one! We have had lots of new children starting this term and, after a few hiccups (e.g. Chicken Pox!), all have settled in well.

We started the new school year welcoming old and new pupils by enjoying a topic all about ourselves. The children took photographs of each other, and brought in some baby photos to find similarities and differences. We made self portraits on paper plates, concentrating on hair, skin and eye colour, by mixing paints until we got the right tone. We found out who were the tallest and shortest people in nursery. Some of the older children learnt how to write their names, and the younger ones attempted to trace theirs.

After half term we looked at Winter Weather, Colours and, of course, Christmas. The children explored colour and texture when they made firework pictures using chalk and / or glitter on black paper. They cooked some tasty pasties to learn about measuring and food to keep us warm and healthy. We have planned a walk in the woods to show the children the differences in the seasons, and we are all looking forward to the activities that surround Christmas - The Nativity Story, making cards, calendars, party, songs for the concert and meeting Father Christmas!

So, as well as having fun and playing, the children are all working towards achieving the Early Learning Goals in Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication, Language and Literacy; Mathematical Development; Creative Development; Physical Development and Knowledge and Understanding of the World!

We have had lots of work done on our building this term, 'Bob the Builder' has been fixing the windows and the woodwork, and some very kind parents have been tidying and painting - thank you all!

We have also managed to get a grant for the safety flooring for our outside classroom.

The things they say:- A child was asked what sound the word firework begins with (hoping for 'fff') - they answered "BANG"

We are open Mon - Fri, from 9.15 to 12.

Telephone 07773730754 (Nursery) or 01279 814037 (Admissions secretary) for more information, or to put your child's name on our growing waiting list.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Carol Bullock (Nursery Manager)

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St Mary's C of E Primary 812212  
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## DAY CENTRE

Next year, Stansted Day Centre will celebrate 20 years of service by having a splendid tea party. For all this time it has been run entirely by volunteers, who have enjoyed their work and the comradeship it has brought between them and the members, who also have contributed to its smooth running.

We are always looking for new people to join in with the fun, come for a chat or a cuppa - maybe have lunch or just come for social activities, beetle, bingo or whist.

We are now looking for a paid organiser and would be delighted if anyone who is interested would answer the advertisement in this issue of The LINK.

Brenda Scarr

### STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

*We require a paid organiser for 3 hours on each of Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.*

*Training would be given.*

*Starting pay is £5 an hour for a 9 hour week.*

*Contact Janet Hollis on 812073 or  
Brenda Scarr on 813080*



## St Mary's Primary School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association



We have had an action packed start to the school year, and with Christmas just around the corner, it can only get busier! The PTFA organised a Christmas Shopping Evening on the 17th October, we were pleased to see so many people browsing the numerous stalls, where you could buy presents of chocolate, candles, wooden toys, plants and much more. There were Christmas cards, decorations, and you could even order your cake! There was a fantastic atmosphere all night, and it was a great way to start the Christmas shopping. Judging by the number of bulging bags leaving the venue, many people did just that!

Our Halloween Disco was well attended by ghosts, witches, mummies and skeletons to name but a few. This motley crew enjoyed the dancing, and games such as bowling pumpkins at witch skittles, throwing ghosts into bags, and the more traditional apple bobbing. There were some excellent entries for the pumpkin and costume competitions. The event was covered by The Observer and raised nearly £300 which will go towards PTFA projects.

We are proud that St Mary's has been awarded a Healthy Schools Award, which is the culmination of a two year project focussing on positive attitudes to health, and encouraging our children to lead healthy lifestyles in the future. Two pupils attended the awards ceremony with Jean Cashman and Rosemary Minshull.

The week of 4th November was Science Week, and Chelmsford Museum brought us 'Science on Wheels', which is part of the Engine House Project based at Sandford Mill. The children were able to conduct some interesting and challenging experiments linked to the National Curriculum, including Sounds Amazing, Mr Grinlings electrical problems, Mid Air Challenges (gases) and experiments to do with friction, and structures and materials.

The children have been involved in the Operation Christmas Child project, and have managed to make up an amazing 93 boxes. Each shoebox is filled with practical items such as toothbrushes, gloves and stationery items, and small gifts and toys. The boxes are then covered in Christmas paper and distributed to needy children here and abroad. It is very rewarding and helps to remind us at this time of those who are less fortunate.

The Remembrance Day Parade and service was attended by a good number of St Mary's pupils, and a wreath was laid at the memorial.

The Football teams have had a good start to the season, the A-team beat Little Hallingbury 3-1, and drew 4-4 against Henham, and the B-team beat Henham 4-1. The Netball teams also played Henham, with the B-team drawing their match. Well done to all those who have participated.

During November the whole school participated in Road Safety week. Key Stage 1 children took part in a road safety walk, whilst KS2 looked at speed and reaction, and Years 5 & 6 were involved in some radar gun work.

We will be having a Uniform Sale on Thursday 28th November after school, where there will be good quality clothing at bargain prices. We are always on the look out for uniform items; please drop any donations into the school office, thank you. We are looking forward to our Christmas Fayre, which takes place on Saturday 7th December between 2pm and 4pm. It promises to be a very enjoyable event where you can see Father Christmas, and get busy in Santa's Workshop, as well as stalls, games and refreshments. Why not come along, we would love to see you there!



Nicki Kelly  
PTFA Vice-Chair

## Bentfield Primary School PTA

This term has been a very busy one for the Bentfield PTA. We began with a hugely successful Music Quiz Night where parents and staff enjoyed a fun-filled evening of eating, drinking, dancing, oh, and answering the odd question or two! The evening raised £500 which was a fantastic bonus.

We celebrated bonfire night with our annual Sparkler Party on the 5th November. The children had a great time bobbing for apples, munching doughnuts, getting extremely gooey at the dare boxes and taking part in the cauldron challenge! As usual, the supervised sparklers proved a huge hit with the children, whilst the mulled-wine warmed the parents up nicely! The event raised over £400, so thank you to all those who helped and supported us.

With December now upon us our thoughts turn to Christmas. On 7th December we will be holding our annual Christmas Fair from 2 to 5pm. This event is sure to get you in the festive mood, with Santa's Grotto, raffle, tombolas, toys, crafts, plants, cakes, entertainment and games and activities galore. It promises to be a fantastic afternoon, so do come and join in the fun and get the season off to a great start!

Marnie Tait



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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Much discussion is taking place over the future of Stansted Airport. However, at our meeting on 7th November, Mr Richard Hauls, a Senior Archaeologist of Essex County Council, told us something of what has happened there over the past 15 thousand years. Traces of early hunters, enclosures from the Bronze and Iron Ages, Roman settlements and Medieval remains have all been discovered, although no evidence of the Saxons. One theory is that we are today living in villages which have grown from the earlier Saxon settlements.

Prior to any building at the airport the archaeologists have, for nearly 20 years, examined the ground for previous uses of the land. BAA retains a firm of specialist archaeological contractors to work with the County's experts and many interesting (and occasionally valuable) discoveries have been made. Many of the finds are in the safe-keeping of Saffron Walden Museum.

Next month we return to more modern times when Mrs Olive Bunting will be speaking on "the Stansted Post Office". This will be at 8pm on 5th December at the Day Centre - see you then.

Ian Seavers

### REMINISCENCES

Mr, Edward Laird of Water Lane has numerous recollections and friends from Stansted's past. He has written to remind older residents of the redoubtable Mr I G Mitchell, who was headmaster of the Boys section of the British School in Chapel Hill from 1925 to 1943. He keeps in touch with his son Robin, an old Newportian, who although now retired, writes and publishes on Maori issues in New Zealand, as well as raising Clematis hybrids, some of which have been exported to this country. He also recalls a cousin of the Mitchell's, Mr Torey, one time self taught organist at St. John's Church, who had a family grocery business in what is now a Chinese Takeaway on the west side of Station Road.

Another historical chronicle has been brought to our notice by Susan Bone, nee Robinson, which records the adventures of a relation, Thomas Jordan, in the mid-XIX century. He too ended his days in the Antipodes. The Local History Society has the opportunity to analyse his life, which was spent between milling and being a sailor.



## STANSTED HALL CRICKET CLUB - JUNIORS

The Under 13s and Under 15s are competing in the Indoor cricket league at the Herts and Essex Cricket Centre with little success at the moment but it will get better. With just 12 overs to bat there's no time to waste in either chasing or compiling a decent score. Batting has to be inventive and bowling accurate, useful practice for next summer.

At the club's AGM Dave Mickelborough stood down as Youth Development Officer after 7 years and handed over to David Sowter, ex-club player and Level I Coach. David's number is 01371 856396 (H).

We shall be running some coaching sessions at half-term in the New Year so if you are interested call David Sowter.



Dave Mickelborough

### AUTUMN QUIZ 2002

Welcome To The St Clare Hospice Autumn Quiz

This year's Quiz is based upon  
Proverbs, Sayings & Phrases

We will give you clues to 72 proverbs, sayings and phrases where each capital is the first letter of a word to complete the answer, eg. S A S Goes = Steady as she goes.

Don't delay entering because to have a chance of winning you have to obtain an entry form from the hospice (tel: 01279 413590, email: enqs@stclare-hospice.co.uk) and then return your completed entry with the £5 entry fee by Friday, 13th December. All the proceeds will benefit our charity.

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## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Stansted Airport Update

Many thanks to all those readers who voted in the referendum. It was a fantastic result. In total, 69% of ballot papers were returned with a massive 89% supporting the Council in its opposition to more runways. The referendum results will be handed into 10 Downing Street and the Department of Transport on Tuesday 19 November.

The Council's Airport Advisory Panel, of which Alan Dean and I are members, has been meeting weekly in preparing a response to the SERAS consultation document.

At the last full council meeting all councillors signed a pledge card which committed them to campaign for no more runways at Stansted. The card details six reasons for the council's opposition. It would mean:

- A monster airport twice the size of Heathrow;
- Bulldozing the countryside. Thousands of acres would be lost;
- Concrete from London to Cambridge. If expansion went ahead it is estimated that a town twice the size of Chelmsford would need to be built in the countryside;
- Unacceptable noise pollution;
- Overheating the local economy. The monster airport will further overheat the local economy at the expense of other regions;
- More aircraft cramming into increasingly congested airspace. Airspace over London and the South East is already the most congested in the UK. Adding thousands more flights to this crowded area will increase the risk of accidents, the need for stacking of aircraft and levels of pollution.

### The future of council housing in Uttlesford

Uttlesford is the largest landlord in the district and owns approximately 3,200 dwellings of which some 250 are in Stansted. The question of whether Uttlesford should continue to be a landlord was discussed at our last full-council meeting. The Conservative/Independent Administration believes that the housing stock should be transferred to a housing association. With proposed changes to capital receipts from right to buy sales they feel that the Council will no longer be able to afford to maintain the stock. Opposition members however feel that such a move was premature and needed greater examination. Our tenants are happy with the Council as their landlord and have repeatedly expressed their opposition to a transfer. Housing Association rents also tend to be higher than a Council's. The Administration's proposal to start the process of transfer was defeated by 18 votes to 16. Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors together with one Independent opposed the motion.

My position remains clear. As stated in The Link October 2000, I would only support a stock transfer if it could be shown to be in the interest of tenants.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell  
Tel: 01279 815925  
Email: [cllrSell@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrSell@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Readers will by now be well aware of the actions in hand to resist the development of the airport and very probably will have given their vote for or against.

Presently and in support of this, the County Council is actively involved in exploring the arguments which can be advanced to persuade the Secretary of State that the airport should not be enlarged. Already the subject has been debated in Committee and will be debated again at the end of this month, after the reports of the experts retained by the County in conjunction with Hertfordshire have been received. Finally, the County Council itself will debate the matter again on 10th December prior to the County's report and opinion being submitted to the Secretary of State. Readers cannot claim after this anything other than the subject has been carefully and comprehensively discussed and reviewed, and that the matter has been fully explored. At this time it would be wrong to outline details of the likely lines of the opinion, and what will be recommended to the Secretary of State, but again readers must remember that the subject is a matter for decision under planning and environment law. Therefore, and for this reason, the result of the deliberations must be based on these principles and to say merely that it should not happen is not good enough.

Readers can be assured that the defence will be as soundly based as possible in order that the Secretary of State is persuaded that no future development should take place.

Should anyone wish to discuss this subject further they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division



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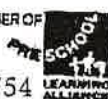
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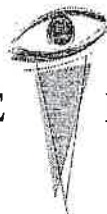
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