

"The water that
I shall give him
shall be in him
a well of water
springing up
into everlasting
life."

—John 4:14

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february

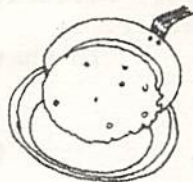
30, Barrack Lane,
The Park,
Nottingham.

Tel: 411383

Our dear Friends,

We are still feeling rather stunned! At the Parish New Year Party, the hilarious concert was followed by a heart-warming word from Bob Marlowe who kindly thanked us and Anne and Judith for our various ministries. He then handed each of us a cheque. We politely said 'thank you' and didn't open the envelope until arriving home late that night. Imagine our amazement - our speechlessness - when we discovered the cheque had been made out for £250! What a love gift! We do thank you for this generous token of love and encouragement. It has caused us to look back over the 5½ years in Nottingham. How greatly God has blessed us as a nuclear family and has blessed the Church family. When we, rather reluctantly, obeyed His call to come to St. Nicholas' six years ago, little did we realise how greatly He would bless ourselves as individuals by drawing us deeper into Himself; nor did we anticipate the immense joy we are experiencing to watch Kevin and Christina discovering their own relationship with the Living Christ. We couldn't have begun to understand the privilege it was going to be to share deeply with so many people in Nottingham. Truly our lives have been enriched through coming here and becoming a part of St. Nicholas'. So, we simply say "thank you". And now we enter another phase of the life of our Church. We are so greatly and ably supported by Anne and Judith and now by Martin and the St. John's students. It is a good experience for us to share the ministry with others.

LENT



Before the month is over, we shall have entered the season of Lent once more. It becomes less and less 'fashionable' to keep the festivals of

the Church's year. I sometimes wonder if, spiritually, we are the losers for that. Lent could have particular significance for many of us this year. We know that many were greatly blessed by the ministry of David McInnes and prayed that they might be clothed with power from on high. It is worth reflecting that when our Lord was baptized, together with the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove, He was immediately led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. And so it may well be with us and we fail to understand this to our cost. When the Holy Spirit is powerfully active in a person's life, Satan will make it his business to be powerfully present too. Expect, therefore to be tempted severely if you are in the front line of service or on the right lines! Do we sometimes fall into the trap of feeling it was easy for Jesus to resist temptation because He was the Son of God? That is not what Scripture implies. He was man; He was tempted at every point as we are - yet He did not sin. At times, for Him, as for us, resisting temptation was a huge struggle. In Gethsemane - He struggled to the point of obedience, in the wilderness, He struggled through to the place of acceptance of the Father's way. So, He is well able to be alongside each of us in our individual struggles. Indeed, that is where He wants to be - May we enter the season of Lent, then, by celebrating the death of our Lord in the Communion Service on Shrove Tuesday; and by meditating on His love for us in identifying with our slow struggle

towards Him. May these thoughts lead us to truly celebrate with joy His Resurrection at Easter.

In that love and joy of Christ,

David & Joyce

WHAT'S THE RUSH!

Some practical words of advice to those of us trying to become saints at 60 miles an hour, as the late Bishop of Stepney, Joost de Blank, so aptly said!

Slow me down, Lord!

Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.
Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me, amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory.

Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations . . .

of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise that I may know that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than measuring its speed.

Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak, and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my enduring destiny.

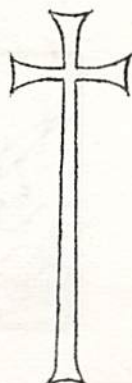


ASH WEDNESDAY

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who
are penitent,
Create and make in us new and contrite
hearts,
that, lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
we may receive from you, the God of all
mercy,
perfect forgiveness and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

(The Collect for Ash Wednesday -
Series III)



The end of the month sees Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. This is an opportunity for us all within the family of the church to reflect upon our Lord's temptation and the forty days in the wilderness. We are reminded of his true humanity, that 'he was in all points tempted like as we are - and yet without sin'. And to us who seek to follow in his footsteps this is surely an encouragement! Our God is not a distant deity who cannot understand our weaknesses - our God has become man and has shared the frailty which we as humans experience. He understands and is able to give us the strength to resist the tempter.

Let us remember too the promise of God as it is recorded in Paul's letter to the Romans that 'we will not be tempted above that we are able, and God will with the temptation offer also a way of escape, that we may be able to bear it'.

Jesus himself was tempted, yet without sin. We will certainly be tempted too - we will doubtless on occasions fall into sin - let us be quick to seek forgiveness. And let us remember that temptation is not sin, for Christ was tempted

and Christ was sinless. Rather let us claim the strength which is offered to us in the power of the Holy Spirit of God to resist the tempter when he comes to us.



TEMPTATION

by Michael Quoist

When a Christian has chosen to live for God and for others, the devil is not pleased. At certain times the din of temptation, covered for a while by the song of love, returns more strident than ever.

God allows this trial, and is sometimes even deaf to the appeals of his child, in order to test him and to bring him to greater trust. Only when the Christian expects nothing of himself and everything of God, can he be at peace.

One must be very little to be carried by God.

I'm at the end of my tether Lord.
I am shattered.
I am broken.

Since this morning I have been struggling to escape temptation, which, now subtle, now persuasive, now tender, now sensuous, dances before me like a glamour girl at a fair.

I don't know what to do.
I don't know where to go.
It spies on me, follows me, engulfs me.



When I leave a room I find it seated and waiting for me in the next.

When I seize a newspaper, there it is, hidden in the words of a harmless story. I go out, and see it smiling at me on an unknown face,

I turn away and look at the wall, and it leaps at me from a poster.

I return to work, to find it dozing on my files, and when I gather my papers, it awakens.

In despair, I take my poor head in my hands, I shut my eyes to see nothing, But I discover that it is more alive than ever, comfortably settled within me.

For it has broken my door open, it has slipped into my body,

my veins, to the very tips of my fingers.

It has seeped into the crevices of my memory

And sings into the ear of my imagination.

It plays on my nerves as on the strings of a guitar.

I don't know where I stand, Lord.

I don't know whether or not I want this sin that beckons to me.

I no longer know whether I pursue it or am pursued.

I am dizzy, and the void draws me as it draws the rash mountaineer who can neither advance nor retreat.

Lord, Lord, help me!

Son, I am here.

I haven't left you.

How weak is your faith!

You are too proud.

You still rely on yourself.

If you want to surmount all temptations, without falling or weakening, calm and serene,

You must surrender yourself to me.

You must realize that you are neither big enough nor strong enough,

You must let yourself be guided like a child,

My little child.





family news

baby's arrival

We rejoice with Malc. and Irene Offord on the safe arrival of the latest member of their family: JESSICA. Our love to all the family at this time.

We send congratulations too, to MR WHELDON who will be 94 this month. Mr Wheldon has had long associations with St Nicholas' and we are so sorry to hear that he has been unwell of late.

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year will be held on Friday, March 2nd and the Central Service will be held in St Andrews with Castle-gate U.R.C. Church, Belgrave Square at 10.30am. The service, which has been compiled by African Christian women, takes as it's theme: SPIRITUAL GROWTH. It is a moving service and it would be good if as many women as possible from St Nic's could be part of this wave of prayer which will be sweeping over the world on that day. If you can't manage the morning service, there are several other services in various parts of the city.



Janet and Tony Hills are keen to organise sending paperback books to Barry and Anthea and their children in Peru. If you feel you would like to send some, please ask Janet for further details.

The Valedictory Service in Church for Fay Rumley just before she flew to Uganda was as much a Reunion as a farewell. It was so good to have many past members of the Church with us for that occasion and their presence was a great encouragement to Fay. As she settles to her new work, new surroundings and new responsibilities, may we not forget to pray.

It was good to hear from David and Chris Tully recently. They are beginning to settle to their teaching posts in Cheshire, but it sounds as if they miss St Nic's as much as we miss them. They hope to come to Nottingham for a visit soon.

David Taylor writes long and enthusiastic letters from Scotland where he and Nicola have settled very happily. His wife Jean, has been appointed to the same staff as David and so very soon they will all be united. Great Day!

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the New Year Party a success. Despite the cold, many came and it was a most enjoyable evening.

MRS FORRYAN

My first memory of Elizabeth Forryan goes back to the kitchen of our home on Maid Marian Way nearly six years ago. Elizabeth and I spent the afternoon together peeling a mountain of potatoes in preparation for the Harvest Supper. During that afternoon, a friendship was born for me. I felt we understood one another. For many in the church, their friendship with Elizabeth goes back over many more years. There has been much pain for her - the pain of bereavement when her husband died, the pain of alone-ness; the perplexity of her move to Letchworth. For all of us, it had felt so good to have her back in Nottingham just four weeks ago. She settled back into the life of the Church and the warmth of Women's Fellowship just as if she had never been away. It really felt as if she had come "back home."

And now, she has left us once more. She suffered a stroke, quite unexpectedly, without warning and Bob Marlowe and Gordon Walker found her in her home. Her two days in the hospital were very peaceful. As we stood with her on that mysterious, unfathomable margin between life and death, facing the unknown, there were two words of reassurance from our Lord: "I am He Who stands at the right hand of the Father praying for her. I AM the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me shall never die but shall live a new life." Elizabeth has entered into that new life where there is no more pain and no more suffering and we rejoice for her. Her daughter and her husband have suffered profound shock and loss and our hearts and prayers go out to them at this time of grief and bereavement. May we pray that the peace of God which supported their mother through death, may penetrate their hearts also.

Joyce Huggett.



We continue to
precis some of
the teaching
given by the
Bishop of
Pontefract at
the Parish week-
end at Swanwick
in December.

THE SPIRIT CAME



The Charismatic Renewal and Evangelism

The Charismatic Renewal appears to some to be little more than an arm-waving, hand-clapping, tongues speaking, hallelujah singing, exorcising, liturgical whoopee --!! That is part of it!

BUT basically, it is not even about the spiritual gifts - basically it is about LEADING OTHER PEOPLE TO JESUS -

EVANGELISATION: based on the priesthood of all believers, Christians lead each other by means of a personal witness to the faith into an encounter with Christ Himself. It is the witness of other people more than anything else which has led people to see the reality of our religion.

Renewal and Witness You can be a Christian without being an evangelist, but you cannot be a Christian without being a WITNESS. "Stay in Jerusalem" said Jesus: "Wait!" He said to the disciples, because you are going to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, and you will receive POWER from on high. THEN ... you will be my witnesses. That is what the power





from on high is for -
to witness for Jesus,
and it is foolish to
attempt to witness
in any other power
than His. Power
from on high is not
for our own enjoy-
ment, or the astonish-
ment of our friends -
but to witness to
Jesus and lead other
people to Him.

KNOWING THE TRUTH

It is possible to know the answers (to know about Christ, to know about God, to attend Church regularly) for years and years and years, but that is not the same as knowing the Truth. Knowing the TRUTH is not knowing the answers; knowing the Truth is knowing Jesus - it means a personal living relationship with the Lord. There are people who have been ministering the word for years who have never had this personal encounter with Jesus - When they do so, they participate in: **THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD!**

The Coming of the Holy Spirit to converted people.

It is possible for converted people, Christians who have known Jesus as Saviour for a long time never to have proclaimed, in the Power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus as Lord. We are not saved by Charismatic Renewal, we are saved by the blood of Jesus. There is no question about that. But you will receive power from on high if you seek it. If we seek His power in order to witness, we shall not be refused. (We might well be refused if we are simply seeking the spectacular!)

In a book entitled "Charismatic Theology" by a German theologian, Müllen, the following definition of the Charismatic Renewal is given! "The Charismatic Renewal is a form of evangelisation, based on the common priesthood of all believers in which Christians lead each other by means of a personal witness to the faith, to an encounter with Christ Himself. It's essence is that conversion is a pre-requisite for baptism, a missionary liturgy and renewal in spirit."



postbag . . .



I would like to thank most sincerely the Ladies Fellowship, and particularly Mrs. Wright for the lovely party they gave to celebrate my 90th birthday and nearly 60 years connection with St. Nicholas Church. The lovely cake and flowers and the kindness of all concerned will remain a treasured memory always.

Evel Smith



Prayer Diary



February

- Mon. 5th - Joyce speaking
at Women's Fellowship
- Tues. 6th - Staff Meeting to-day
- Wed. 7th - P.C.C. Meeting this evening
- Thurs. 8th - Joyce speaking at Derby Rd.
Methodist Church.
- Fri. 9th - Linkmen's night away together
- Sat. 10th - Christian Union activities at
University.
- Sun. 11th - Missionary Sunday activities.
- Mon. 12th - Martin, Sue., Hannah and Benjamin
- Tues. 13th - Parish Fellowship tonight
- Wed. 14th - Coffee Club to-day
- Thurs. 15th - Those preparing for marriage
- Fri. 16th - Betty Stanislaw has an operation to-day
- Sat. 17th - Baptism of Nicola Brown tomorrow
- Sun. 18th - Worship Workshop and Anne as they
lead our worship.
- Mon. 19th - Anne Kerwan leading Women's Fellowship
to-day.
- Tues. 20th - The lonely, the bereaved, the house-
bound.
- Wed. 21st - Barry and Anthea in Peru
- Thurs. 22nd - Lyn and Elaine in Nigeria.
- Fri. 23rd - David speaking at Loughborough
University.
- Sat. 24th - David and Joyce speaking to students
at York University
- Sun. 25th - Confirmation Service to-night
- Mon. 26th - Work of Chinese Fellowship
- Tues. 27th - Fay working in Uganda
- Wed. 28th - Pray for the right use of Lent.

March

- Thurs. 1st - Joyce speaking at the University
- Fri. 2nd - Women's World Day of Prayer Services
all over the world.
(Joyce preaching at Carlton and
Sutton Bonnington).

John and Kate Arkell

Beth



11 Montague St.
READING
Berks.

At the New Year Party, and on the following Sunday, we said a sad goodbye to John and Kate Arkell. They have written for the magazine to explain their unexpected move to Reading.



Over the last few years, we have been thinking about the spiritual state of our nation, and eighteen months ago, began praying that God would work a miracle in Britain, in turning thousands of people back to Him by the end of this decade. Along with this prayer, we have been asking God to involve us in His plan, in His way and in His time.

Many of you know that we had the opportunity to go to America early last year. The generous giving of many of our friends (including friends at St Nicholas) enabled us to make the trip - more than the £700 needed to make the trip was supplied in less than four weeks! The main purpose of our visit was to learn more about

equipping men and women in evangelism and to see some results of an evangelistic project called "Here's Life", which took place in cities throughout America during 1975 and 1976.

WHAT IS 'HERE'S LIFE'?

"Here's Life" seemed especially effective in cities where churches were united in praying for their city and were committed to a growing emphasis on evangelism. The project has been adapted in many cities throughout the world - in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Nairobi and many cities in Latin America. Many thousands of people have come to Christ through the witness of the Church.

Many Christians in Europe have been thinking and praying about using the idea behind the project. Barcelona and Tampere in Finland had some exciting results last year. This spring, Giessen, in West Germany have a "Here's Life" project.

Here's Life" depends on :

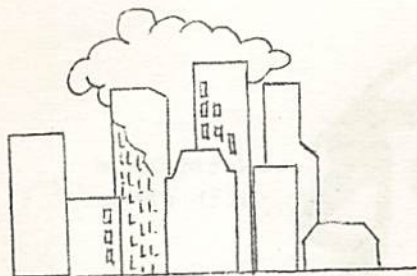
1. The united, specific prayer of all God's people in a community.
2. Churches in a city co-operating together to proclaim their faith.



3. Christians learning to explain their faith.

4. Creating an environment (by using widespread credible advertising) such that non Christians who want to know more about Jesus Christ can express their interest and be brought in touch with Christians in the churches who can introduce them to Jesus.





"Here's Life"
in Britain.

In our work with Campus Crusade for Christ, we have been asked to investigate the possibility of having "Here's Life" in Britain. We are personally convinced of its suitability, but church leaders must be sure too, as they will be working alongside one another, and seeing the sacrifices and benefits of such a project. We are asking God to guide Christians according to His will, and that our desires and efforts would be in line with this.

So far, we have talked to ten ministers in Reading, most of whom are very interested in such a project. Some of these ministers are starting to meet with us for prayer.

As you read this, we will (God Willing) be moving into a little terraced house close to our office, which has come available in a remarkable way. (another confirmation that God wants us here in Reading.)

We ask you to pray with us:

1. That God would consistently cleanse us and equip us in this task - integrity, strength and wisdom .
2. That God would fill the Ministers in Reading with the knowledge of His will in this matter, and give them the strength to carry it out. (Col. 1:9-12).
3. For God to begin a movement of united prayer among His people in Reading (and Nottingham), so that the church would be revived, and thousands of people in the town would come to Christ for new life.
4. That God would direct us to the right "home church" in Reading.

John and Kate Arkell.



Nottingham
16th January

Dear All,

With just 3 days to go before I leave, and much of my packing finished, I have now found time to write and thank you all for your prayerful financial help over the past month, as I prepare to go off to serve the Lord in Uganda.

As Friday draws closer I am beginning to get excited, especially as despite present strikes and shortages the Lord has never forgotten a single need - no matter how small or trivial.

Perhaps the most treasured of my possessions will be the memories of my Valedictory Service on Sunday - a time of real witness and challenge to many of my non-Christian friends. It was also a time of being re-assured by a loving family that I will not be forgotten and I will be supported by their prayers.

Financially I am now able to meet all of the necessary expenses, which turned out to be at least £200 more than originally thought, due to going direct to Uganda and having to take a trunk full of essentials.

Many thanks for all of your assistance there. I shall send many glowing reports of Uganda.

With much love to you all,

Fay



MISSIONARY LIFE

A few days before Fay flew to Uganda, Wendy Sayers, recently returned from the mission field, spoke most helpfully to the Women's Fellowship

on:

HOW CAN WE HELP MISSIONARIES?

Here is the substance of her talk, from one who really knows!

Our Missionaries do need our support, and there are many small ways to help as well as the important tasks of prayer and financial support.

1. Letter writing on a regular basis is a great encouragement. Photos, ever pressed wild flowers give a memory of home. Home made tapes of services, music, a message, or Bible Study cassette tape can be great encouragements. (Air Mail).

2. What about a subscription for a Christian magazine such as 'Crusade'? You could even send out your own old copies (printed material sea mail) of magazines. An occasional women's magazine or "Nottingham Life" helps people keep in touch with home. A pictorial calendar is also a useful gift.

3. In some areas where certain foodstuffs are not available a selection of dried soups, dried fruit and "Rise and Shine" proves a special treat at Christmas.

A WORD OF WARNING - Never send items as a surprise. Always write and ask the Missionary first, as they might have a £10 customs duty to pay or never receive it! They can tell you what is appropriate and the best method of sending and labelling.

(A seamailed parcel is well protected against weather and "handling" by being sewn up in cloth).

News of Lynn and Elaine Failing

Several letters have been received recently from Lynn and Elaine in Nigeria. They had a traditional English Christmas in Ibadan with an English couple with whom they did their missionary training. They received many Christmas cards from friends in Britain, and send their thanks to all those who wrote. Letters are always welcome, although the mail is somewhat unreliable. A calendar sent last Christmas has only just arrived, a year late!

Their new son Jason, or Ayo as he is known in Nigeria, has settled into the family and is very well. Their first son, Aaron, is now almost two and he helps Elaine with the gardening.

Lynn and Elaine have a subject for your prayers. When they went to Nigeria a year ago, they had visitors visas which have now expired. They would like to have a summer holiday this year in the adjacent country of Benin. Their problem is that they cannot obtain re-entry visas to permit them to return to Nigeria after their

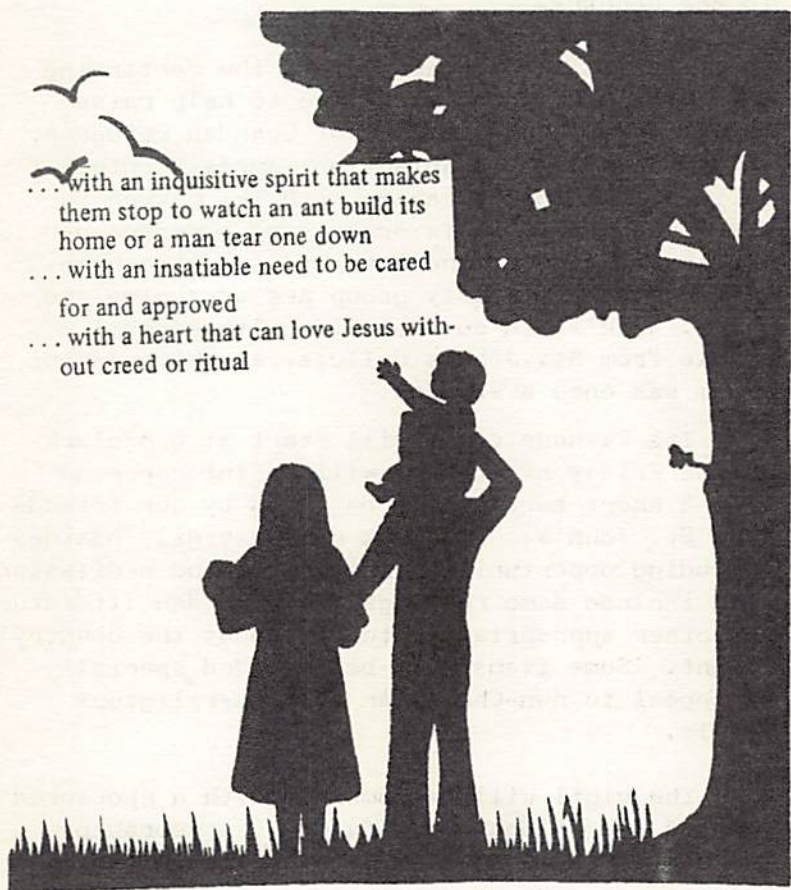


holiday. In order to get a re-entry visa, they first need to obtain permanent residents visas. They have been trying to do this for several months, without success, and this is now causing them some problems.

GOD MADE LITTLE CHILDREN

- ... with round cheeks to be patted and
kissed
- ... with open faces that tell all their
secrets
- ... with eyes that shed a tear as easily
as they brighten with delight
- ... with warm "pick-upable" bodies
that need to be hugged
- ... with chubby arms made to cling for
comfort
- ... with voices that shatter one's sleep
or whisper an almost inaudible
'I'm sorry'

- ... with an inquisitive spirit that makes
them stop to watch an ant build its
home or a man tear one down
- ... with an insatiable need to be cared
for and approved
- ... with a heart that can love Jesus with-
out creed or ritual



And God cast them in different colours, scattered them all over the world, and commanded, "Let the little ones come unto me".



UGANDA

Fay Rumley's recent departure for Uganda will have lead many people to think about the fate of that unfortunate country, and, in particular, of our fellow Christians there.

Friday, 16th February, marks the second anniversary of the murder of the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, Jawari Luwum, at the hands of the Ugandan Security forces, an event that particularly drew attention to the horrific sufferings in the country.

To mark this occasion, and the continuing suffering of all Ugandans, and to help raise money for the large number of Ugandan refugees, the human rights organisation, Amresty International, in collaboration with the Church Missionary Society, is organising a series of vigils up and down the country, and elsewhere. The Nottingham Amresty group are arranging one in St. Nick's, in co-operation with several people from St. John's College, at which Jawani Luwum was once a student.

The 24-hour vigil will start at 6 o'clock on the Friday night, and will be interspersed with 4 short services to be taken by our friends from St. John's. The rest of the vigil, besides including opportunities for prayer and meditation, will include some readings from Ugandan literature and other appropriate material about the country's plight. Some items will be included specially to appeal to non-Christian and non-religious people.

The vigil will be combined with a sponsored fast in aid of Ugandan refugees (sponsorship forms are available from Hugh McClintock, Tel: 816206) and, on the Saturday, a stand and display in the Broad Marsh Centre. This will be to

encourage people to drop in to the vigil, if only for a few minutes, and to donate for refugees.

In the 8 years of President Amin's rule in Uganda it is estimated that, at the very least, 100,000 people have been murdered, many after horrible torture. Many others have been arbitrarily detained. Amnesty International finds it impossible in such conditions to follow its normal attempts to work for the release of individual prisoners.

Ugandan Christians have been particularly persecuted, along with members of the Acholi and Lango tribes, and educated people in general. Jawani Luvum symbolised all three groups. Nevertheless 90% of Ugandans are Christians, predominantly Anglicans and Catholics, and the Church of Uganda is in fact the second biggest Anglican Communion outside Britain.

The Vigil and Fast will draw public attention to the horrors still being perpetrated in Uganda and offer an opportunity to express our fellowship with the people suffering there.



The King will answer back, 'I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!'

