



St. Nicholas News

May 1979

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may



30, Barrack Lane,
The Park,
Nottingham.

Our dear Friends,

As we write this, the Easter weekend with all its blessings is still fresh in our minds. The service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening was very special for many of us making a quiet, solemn and fitting start to that unique weekend in the Church's year as together we celebrated the Lord's Supper on the same night that He was betrayed. Then we went off to London to Mike and Fi's wedding. What a happy occasion that was for so many people. We returned to find our own Church here ablaze with colour: the golds and greens of Spring so fitting for Easter. Suddenly it did seem as if nature had come alive and in our own Church symbolic of the new life of Easter time. It seemed to us that the Church looked even more beautiful than it normally does at Festival time. The decorators had arranged the lovely Spring flowers so tastefully around the banners, specially made for Easter, and the simple but striking Easter Garden which greeted us all on arrival at the Church was a beautiful reminder of the empty tomb and all that that has to say to us. We are so grateful to all those who helped in any way to make the Church look so lovely and after the Easter Services were over, many of the older people in the Church appreciated a small gift of a posy of flowers from the decorations. It was our very great joy on Easter Monday to take some of these flowers to dear Miss Townend. She was so thrilled with them - to her a token that, though in her nineties she is not forgotten by her friends at St Nicholas'. Celebrating the Lord's Supper with her in her little room was a very great Easter joy for us both.

ASCENSION DAY.



The Calendar of the Church of England is planned in such a way that it is intended that, like the first disciples, we enter little by little and step by step into the joys of the Lord's

Resurrection appearances until we reach the climax of the wonder and awe of the Ascension of our Lord. Alas, we so often allow these joys to be squeezed out of our busy lives. This year, Ascension Day falls on May 24th and we are planning to hold a quiet Communion Service in the Church. As a Staff we shall all be there worshipping together on that great day and we do invite as many as are free to join us for the service and for coffee afterwards. We believe it is going to be a lovely time of worship together so please come and be with us if you can.

THE RE-DESIGN

Structurally the work is almost completed now and we have been encouraged by the attitude of the builders. One of them said to David the other day that it is a long time since he enjoyed working on a project which he enjoyed so much. That meant a lot to us that love and care was going into the workmanship of the re-structuring. Now it simply remains for the furnishing to be completed. The pulpit will be elevated soon and thus be usable once more. We are looking at a new Holy Table at the moment and would value prayer that we might make the right choice over this. Many people are also feeling that it would be good to have a focus for worship in the form of a Cross. As with everything in the re-design, we want such an

addition to be glorifying to God and meaningful to our worship. So may we ask you to pray and listen to God over this matter. Would you lay before Him these questions: Should there be such a visible focus for worshi? If so should it be free standing or maybe hung from the arch? As you pray and listen to Him, you may feel you have some suggestions to make. If so please make this known to us. It will be exciting to hear God on this one as we enter into the planning of it together.

BAPTISMS

The recent Baptism of Andrew Pullinger and Hannah and Benjamin Winbolt-Lewis was a very great joy for so many of us. For us it was a moving day as we met up with many old friends at Martin and Sue's over lunch. These friends we hadn't met for several years since Martin was working here as a student. It caused us to look back over the years and to reflect on the way God has blessed us as a family and as a Church in so very many ways. There are times when the going seems to be tough, but God has been so faithful to His Church here at St Nicholas'. Not least in sending us Martin and Sue. It feels as if they have been here for years, they have fitted in so well. Another gift to us has been Ian and Cathy with all that they add to our worship. So we continue to give thanks for you all and the enriching experience of working in a place like St Nicholas'.

Dorothy Freestone

The growth with the accompanying changes have not been joyful for everyone. Some of the older members of the St Nicholas' Congregation have found in desperately hard to accept some of the changes which have taken place over the past few years. Dorothy has made no secret of the fact that for her the going has been hard. A faithful Choir member for so many years, with a great love for music, it was a great sorrow for her when the robed

Choir ceased to be. Other changes too have been painful for her. Our hearts have ached as we have seen how painful it has been for her and now after much thought and we know prayer, she has decided that the parting of the ways must come. It was with great sorrow that we received a letter from her on Easter Saturday telling us of her decision to make St Mary's High Pavement her spiritual home. We know that many in the Church will miss her friendship(and to such she sends her love on leaving). The work she has done so faithfully behind the scenes particularly with the flowers will be greatly missed. So what do we say, except to pray that the Lord whom she loves will meet her through the very different services at St Mary's and to record our great sorrow that there are times in the ministry when one's particular gifts or emphases cause hurt to others. This is not a new problem. It is the cause for the parting of the ways of Saul and Barnabas in the Acts. Though it is not new, the pain of such division remains ever new. To Dorothy and others who have shared her opinions we can only say we are sorry and ask that our many limitations may be tolerated. How we need your prayers as we are asked to be Shepherds to such a variety of people. Without your continued prayer support we shall flounder.

So the joy and pain of Easter becomes a felt reality. May each of us in our walk with the Lord be willing and ready to accept both and bring glory to Him through both of these extremes.

Our love as we continue to discover Him,

David & Joyce.



Family Pages

David and Helen Bent It is always a joy to welcome David and Helen back to the fellowship and it was especially good to have Helen singing for us once more at the Baptism Service recently. Similarly, they love to return to renew fellowship with friends here at St Nicholas'.

Irene Taylor Another soloist who made a welcome return recently was Irene Taylor. Her powerful ministry in song is always greatly appreciated and it was lovely to have her with us on Easter Sunday.

Jackie Cotting used to be a student here in Nottingham and enjoyed her days worshipping with us. It was good to see her in Church recently and to hear that she is enjoying teaching at Ealing.

Fay Rumley The news about Uganda recently has made us very conscious of Fays needs. The Headmistress of the school where Fay teaches is at present on furlough in England. If letters for Fay are sent to the following address by the end of May, Miss Traill will be glad to take them with her.

Fay Rumley
c/o Miss E. Traill
CMS Ruanda Mission
157, Waterloo Road
LONDON SE 1 8 U U

I am told that it is Fay's Birthday on May 19th!

Leprosy Mission

Eric Turner reminds me that the Annual Meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the Leprosy Mission will take place in the Albert Hall

Institute on Saturday, May 12th starting at 3.15pm. The Chairman will be the Rev. A. Chandulal, Presbyter of the Cathedral Church of the Redemption, New Delhi. The Speaker during the afternoon will be Dr K. Jesudasan MBBS of Karigiri, South India. Music will be provided by the Stapleford Recorder Group. Tea will be served at 4.30pm and after tea, slides will be shown of the work at Karigiri. Eric urges us to "help to turn the despair of these unfortunate sufferers of leprosy into hope and the knowledge of a loving Saviour by your support at this annual meeting."



Someone from the fellowship asks:

HAVE YOU EVER.....

found yourself sitting in
a train
bus
dentist's waiting
room

talking to your neighbour about Jesus Christ,
wishing you had something they could take away and
read?

(I HAVE!)

BE PREPARED.....

AND ARM YOURSELF WITH:

KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY (3p) OR
JOURNEY INTO LIFE(15p)

both are available from the Church Bookstall.



It has been so good to have news of Fay Cameron in Australia recently. She writes cheerfully:

"It is now just over a year since I left you all in Nottingham and I think of you often. Especially do I remember the night of my farewell. Your loving good wishes to me on that evening stands out in my memory and of course your gift of the Nottingham lace table-cloth was a great thrill to me - I want to thank you all for it. As I am still with Mum and Dad I have not as yet had occasion to use it, but I look forward to doing so when I have a place of my own. Thank you once again.

This past year has been a time in which God has provided for me in every way: at home - Mum and Dad had my room set up so comfortably for me: at Church - a loving group of believers and I feel I belong: at work - my job at the Church Missionary Society I enjoy and find challenging and fulfilling. All this in answer to your prayers! I am indeed grateful and I praise God for His faithfulness and yours.

I am writing this letter on my annual holidays on the New South Wales Central Coast at Bateau Bay, where my friend Laurel and I have hired a cottage. The weather has been just perfect (90-100 degrees and very humid) for swimming and Shelley Beach where we surf each day is pleasant and not at all crowded."

Fay goes on to describe her involvement as Counsellor for the third Billy Graham Crusade at the beginning of April and organ-playing on Sundays. Life sounds full and exciting and it is lovely to hear her news. How glad she will be to have missed our English winter!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Judith Roberts on her new appointment. While we rejoice with her, we realise this does mean we shall lose her shortly and that will be hard for many of us.

-----oOo-----

Congratulations to Kate and John Arkell on the safe arrival of David John

-----oOo-----

It was good to see Pete and Sue Hobson at Nigel and Ruth's wedding. Both are very involved in the life and work of their Church in Brunswick, Manchester and loving it. It's a tough area - do pray for them, especially as Sue is expecting their first child.

-----oOo-----

Helen Wright has started her term again in Exeter. It is lovely to see how very much she is enjoying College life, as Janet Lewis does in Chester. Pray too for Claire Evans and Claire Marlowe as they take their Finals shortly.



WANTED Ros Richardson

will shortly be moving into her new home in Arnold and is looking for a piano.

If you know of one looking for an excellent home, contact Ros.

Christina Huggett is looking for a second hand bicycle. Ring 411383 if you know of one for sale.

-----oOo-----



HOLIDAYS

Have you ever wished you were sharing the joys of your holiday with many of your friends? Well, here is an opportunity to do just that, by joining the St Nicholas' Week Away from August 11th - 18th. This holiday is for one year olds (or less), eighty year olds (or older) and any age in between and there are still vacancies. As thirty-four is our limit, it would help if applications were handed in soon, so that accomodation can be allocated to the best advantage.

LAMPLUGH HOUSE is a lovely old Rectory, in the village of Thwing, East Yorkshire. Food is good, rooms are comfortable, the view is of open country and there are plenty of easy chairs. After breakfast, the day is yours to explore the countryside either alone or in small groups and we expect to have enough cars to make this possible. Scarborough, Bridlington, and Hornsea are within easy reach. In the evenings, after the main meal, we join in Evening Prayer - a time of praise, prayer and a talk, either by Cecil Cousens (the well known Fountain Trust Speaker) or one of the two ordained ministers on the Lamplugh Staff.

Further information about the holiday may be obtained from Gordon and Jean Walker or Bob and Betty Marlowe.



PRAYER

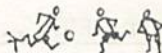
Sunday	May 6th	Canon Mark Ruston preaching
Monday	May 7th	Women's Fellowship Outing
Tuesday	May 8th	Staff Quiet Day today
Wednesday	9th	Mid-week lunch meeting
Thursday	10th	Worship Workshop's ministry
Friday	11th	Fay Rumley in Uganda
Saturday	12th	University Christian Union
Sunday	13th	Chinese Christian Fellowship
Monday	14th	George Ingram speaking today
Tuesday	15th	Fellowship meeting tonight
Wednesday	16th	For young mums in the Church
Thursday	17th	Helen Taylor and See Moi Yap at All Nations College.
Friday	18th	Festival of Praise at Aspley
Saturday	19th	David at Council Meeting in Bristol
Sunday	20th	Every aspect of the re-design
Monday	21st	Joyce speaking at St John's
Tuesday	22nd	Barry and Anthea in Peru
Wednesday	23rd	Joyce speaking at Clifton College tomorrow
Thursday	24th	Ascension Day Service today.
Friday	25th	Students preparing for exams
Saturday	26th	Lyn and Elaine in Nigeria
Sunday	27th	The Young people of the Church.
Monday	28th	David and Irene in Kenya
Tuesday	29th	Counselling ministry ..
Wednesday	30th	The housebound and lonely
Thursday	31st	Judith and her work with students

Please pray for Janet Kenwood who has been in hospital having tests - and for the family at this time.

-----oOo-----

Thanksgiving

The young people - sixty of them from the Boys' and Girls' High School plus two from the Bluecoat School(!) had a marvellous Houseparty at Stathern Lodge just before Easter. By all accounts the food was marvellous, the walks muddy and great fun, sleep practically non-existent and the fellow hip was just "great"! Many we know have come back with a deeper knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for them all as term begins afresh. Pray especially for the impact of the Christain groups within the schools.



JESSICA OFFORD

It was a very great thrill while in the Offord household recently to discover that little Jessica is now able to lie down in her cot instead of being propped up day and night. She is continuing to make good progress. Give thanks and pray on.

LIZZIE ROBINSON

It is just so good to have Lizzie's smiling face back in the fellowship again, looking so well and giving thanks to God for all His goodness to her. As she continues to gain strength and get back to normal routine with the roles of Mum, Wife and Nurse, pray for her as you give thanks to God for the wonderful way He has kept her over the past two years.

A meditation on

EASTER



HE IS NOT HERE..... HE IS RISEN!

Lord! I look at that egg shell - empty, broken, fragile, it's delicate shade and form -wasted. Were it sentient, what pain that wasteful emptiness would bring.

Yet even as I gaze at that yawning crack, it begins to bring me HOPE.

Somewhere.....who knows where, the embrionic life which lay constricted in that fragile home, has stretched, unfolded, burst forth..... new life has begun.





Lord! In recent days, like Mary, I have stooped to gaze into Your empty tomb.
Darkness! Gloom! Emptiness! Pain!
Tears of anguish alone express the panicky fear:
"He has gone! My Lord has gone! I can feel Him, know Him, experience Himno longer."
To be abandoned by You is a pain I cannot bear. No other love supports like Yours. Others may laugh and pass by totally proccupied, but nothing can comfort my desolation in Your felt absence.
But as I watch this yawning gap.....JOY IS BORN!
For Truth - Resurrection truth resounds and echoes through the emptiness:

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN!



Emptiness! Darkness! Broken-ness!
Are not these the things I find as I look within my own poor soul? The aching, yawning emptiness of the forsaken egg shell and the abandoned tomb.
But from that inner emptinessPEACE IS BORN!
For You, dear Risen Lord bring reassurance that the inner vacuum I feel has been created by giving. It is the emptiness of the mother's womb after the birth of her child. And so I rest in the HOPE, JOY PEACE which begins to permeate that inner darkness. Thank You for writing on my sad heart Your message

I THE LORD.....

MEASURE YOUR LIFE BY LOSS NOT BY GAIN:
BY THE WINE PCURED OUT NOT BY THE WINE DRUNK:
FOR LOVE'S STRENGTH STANDS IN LOVE'S SACRIFICE:
AND HE WHO SUFFERS MOST HAS MOST TO GIVE.



Death



It was Easter Monday Afternoon. The sun was shining warmly and brightly as we made our way to the Nursing Home to take Communion to Miss Townend. The quiet Service of Holy Communion which the three of us shared seemed to bring the Risen Lord close somehow and each of us knew that the other had re-gained strength. Somehow, the conversation turned to death and dying and the help which we knew would be ours in the hour of death - that hour when we go to meet the One Who continually strengthens and comforts us in this life. I walked out into that brilliant sunshine reflecting how very good it had been to share our real feelings about death in that way, for not so many weeks previously, we had been looking together in Women's Fellowship at the fact that death is so often the last thing we talk about. That meeting was a powerful one. The fact that one of our members had died so suddenly only hours before the meeting took place added poignancy to the meeting. We would like to share through the magazine some of the things we shared together. Some people have expressed surprise that I think of including an article on death in the magazine. There is one certainty about life - and that is that we shall die! May we enter in to the hope the certainty of the Resurrection as we reflect together on this subject.

When we read that 14,000 people die each day, and when we reflect that sooner or later death will come to us, is it not strange that we find it so hard to talk about the subject with one another.



WHY ARE WE AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT DEATH?

We discussed this frankly with one another and these are some of the reasons we shared.

Some of us felt that the subject of death and dying was difficult to talk about to others because we have not yet come to terms with our own inner feelings on the subject. One person put it this way: "I haven't come to terms with my own feelings, the imponderables, so I don't feel I can stay alongside someone else who is facing death. It is just too frightening." And some one else reflected that there is that nagging fear that the process of dying might be a painful one so let's not think about it unless we really have to! Someone else voiced the fear that to speak of a subject so shrouded in mystery would inevitably lead to saying the "wrong thing". As for coming alongside someone who has been bereaved recently some expressed that this too was a very great problem because there is always that nagging fear that we might hurt the person by talking about the deceased loved one.

We began to realise how easy it is, even as Christians Christians, to bury our head in the sand and to be less than helpful in the face of death. And so I quote from a moving article written by a nurse with a terminal illness which was published in 1970. She writes this:

"I am a student nurse. I am dying. I write this.... in the hope that by my sharing my feelings with you, you may someday be able to help those who share my experience I know you feel insecure, don't know what to say, don't know what to do. But please believe me, if you care, you can't go wrong. Just admit that you care. That is really for what we search. We may ask for why's and wherefores but we don't really expect answers. Don't run away - wait- all I want to know is that there

will be someone to hold my hand when I need it. I am afraid. You may not see me as unique, but I have never died before. To me once is pretty unique. I have lots I wish we could talk about. It really would not take much more of your time. If only we could be honest, both admit of our fears, touch one another. If you really cared would it matter if you even cried with me? Just person to person? Then it might not be so hard to die - in a hospital - with friends close by



What do you think happens to Christians when they die?

1. "They are cocooned in the peace of Christ."
2. "It is all gain for the Christian." As Paul says for me to live is Christ, to DIE IS GAIN.
3. One thing is certain we are not separated from Christ for nothing can separate us from Him; neither death nor life.
4. We are face to face with Christ and that is exciting. 1 Corinthians 13 assures us we shall see Him face to face.
5. There is an assurance that since the Lord is my Shepherd, wherever we are, in life or death - HE IS.
6. In our Father's house are many many mansions when we die, we go to the place prepared for us by Him.

What is the Place like?

- (a) Rev. 20. 22 - A Beautiful City
22. 14 - Where we are truly happy!
22. 3, 4 - Where we see Jesus face to face.
14. 13 - Happy!
2. 8 - Where we receive the Crown of
Life!
1 Thess. 3.14 - Where we shall be with Him
forever.

No darkness

No pain

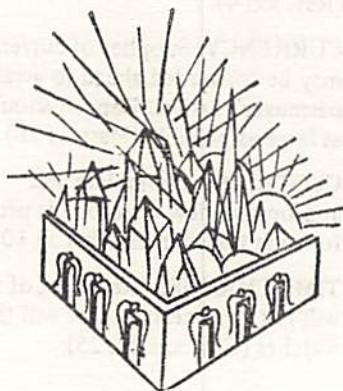
where Jesus Himself will wipe
all tears from our eyes.

"To us as Christians, in one sense it is not a
going into the unknown. The wonder and the glory
is unknown because we have not experienced it.
Nevertheless we have confidence that death will be
for us a passage into an entirely new life.

Death is a door

A door which opens to glory.

The New Jerusalem



THE TRIP FOR ALL TIME

If death can be looked on as merely embarking on a journey then some enterprising travel agent may consider issuing the following instructions:

TICKETS. Your ticket is a written pledge that guarantees your journey. It should be claimed and its promises kept firmly in hand (John v. 24).

CUSTOMS. Only one declaration is required while going through customs (1 Cor. xv 1, 3, 4).

IMMIGRATION. All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. The quota is unlimited (Hebrews xi 16).

LUGGAGE. No luggage whatsoever can be taken (1 Timothy vi 7).

AIR PASSAGE. Travellers going directly by air are advised to watch daily for indications of imminent departure (1 Thess. iv 17).

VACCINATION & INOCULATION. Injections are not needed, as diseases are unknown at the destination. (Rev. xxi 4).

CURRENCY. Supplies of currency may be forwarded ahead to await the passenger's arrival. Deposit should be as large as possible (Matt. vi 20).

CLOTHING. A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveller (Isaiah 1 xi 10).

TIME CHANGES. Resetting of watches will not be necessary: nor will the watches (Rev. xxi 23, 25).

in our Lord Jesus. Mingled with the joy of that lovely wedding was the pain that they go from our Church, Spirit-filled, empowered, trusting, to a country which is torn apart and crumbling. How appropriate, therefore, that David Gillett who was preaching reminded them of the necessity, while listening to the needs of others continually to allow the Word of God to dwell in their own hearts daily. They go out to be the Lord's instruments in a ministry of reconciliation, as indeed does David Gillett who shortly leaves St. John's to work in N. Ireland. May we commit ourselves to prayer for them and see them as "our" missionaries to South Africa. Meanwhile the parting from their daughter will be desperately hard for Ruth's parents, so pray for them too.



LORD, make me
an instrument of Your Peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that
I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love,
For it is in giving that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that
We are born to eternal life.



The Marriage of

Ruth
and
Nigel

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is injury Your pardon, Lord!
Where there is darkness ... only light.
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.
Oh! Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood and to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

How fitting that the Music Workshop sang these words so beautifully and movingly at Nigel and Ruth's wedding.

The spaciousness of the re-designed Church somehow facilitated one's ability to focus on the young Bride and Bridegroom. Prayerfully watching them receive their first Communion as husband and wife, there was a powerful consciousness that the life-giving waters of the Holy Spirit were anointing them on this very special day in their lives. Others felt this deeply too. We, as a Church, have had the deep wondrous joy of watching Nigel and Ruth being drawn together in the magnetism of human loving. Then we watched them part from one another in a sacrificial way as Ruth honoured her commitment to serve the Lord in India, Nigel returning to serve his title in South Africa. But now we have seen them made one

GOOD NEWS TO MUSIC



PUT the Good News Bible to music. That's the challenge to musicians from the Bible Society, publishers of the Good News Bible. They want to see the words of the Bible play a part in the new music being used in churches of all denominations.

There are money prizes to be won and successful work will appear on a long playing record and in a songbook. Rev Tom Houston, executive director of the Society said: "Music is inseparably bound up with worship in the Christian Church."

"In the past ten years there has been a growing interest in music in church, and there is a great deal of talent seeking an outlet. We hope to provide that outlet with this competition."

Anyone can take part — solo singers, guitarists, organists, choirs, groups or bands.

Words must be based on passages from the Good News Bible, but that does not rule out repeated lines or small alterations to make the lyrics scan properly, so long as the meaning is not lost.

Competitors must send a cassette tape of their work.

The judges will be Cliff Richard, Michael Baughan (instigator of Youth Praise), Lionel Dakers (Director of the Royal School of Church Music) and Major Joy Webb (Salvation Army).

The music can be in any style, traditional or modern. The organisers hope that entrants will choose their favourite passages from the Good News Bible and that this will inspire them to give the words a new musical dimension.

The competition closes on June 30th,



