



Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep
market a pool, which is called in
the Hebrew tongue Bethesda,
having five porches.

John 5:2

St. Nicholas News

July/August 1979

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THE RECTOR'S LETTER



Our dear Friends,

"What was the high-light of your holiday?" is a question we have been asked several times since arriving home from Austria. That can't be answered in a sentence but we should like here to share with you some of the many joys of our time away. We are so grateful to those of you who were praying for us. We were so conscious of your love and support in so many ways. It was with thankful hearts that we arrived home after all those hours of travelling and hundreds of miles of driving, having been kept safe on some very busy roads.

One of the delights of the holiday was friendship. It was so good to relax each evening with Richard and Debbie and to enjoy the mutuality of support that such friendship brings. It was also a great joy to renew past friendships. The time in Ramsgate with our best man was delightful and it was as if we hadn't been apart over the past twelve years. Then the reunion in Germany with the family there was very special in a different way as we entered into their family life. What a precious gift friendship is and one for which we give thanks to God.

Another great joy of the holiday was to see the world through the eyes of a two year old again. Our hotel was at the foot of many mountains so we enjoyed many delightful walks including one

way up in the hills to a little mountain lake. One of my treasured memories is a walk up that mountain with Elizabeth, exploring the wooded glades on the way and then, lying in the sun listening to her discover the delights of pond life: the newts, the tadpoles, the fish, the stillness of the water. And as we listened to Richard pointing out some of the beauties to her, I reflected how the Heavenly Father delights to show us His children the wonders of the world He has made, if only we would be still long enough to watch and to listen.

It was Elizabeth, too, who challenged our faith in God's power to heal! During our first week away, Joyce's back was very painful. Elizabeth obviously felt this had gone on quite long enough and one evening as she was playing "putting Auntie Joyce to bed"(!) she simply prayed: "Jesus! Could you do something about Auntie Joyce's back please! You can do it. Thank You. Amen" From that evening there was no more back trouble! Out of the mouths of babes.....

THE CHAPLAINCY

Our first task on arrival was to visit every hotel in Seefeld where we were staying to display posters giving details of the English services to be held throughout the summer. On our first Sunday, the temperature had dropped to 2 degrees and it was snowing, so perhaps it was not surprising that only five people turned up to the 8.0am Communion! The afternoon service was better attended and was a very special time for all of us who were there. It was heart-warming and encouraging to see how much some of the English guests were seeking fellowship and ministry. By the second Sunday, we had befriended some of the other holiday-makers in the hotel and it was lovely to have them worship with us, although some of them obviously did not attend Church.

at home. In that respect, we found the Chaplaincy work both exciting and frustrating. How we longed to spend more time with the guests, but we were supposed to be having a holiday too so there was inevitable tension within us. Maybe next year we shall return with a team and together we can mingle with the guests and organise mid-week meetings when so many people are at a loose end. We must be sensitive to the Lord's leading over that. One of the lovely things about the second Sunday away was sitting amongst the spring flowers on a grassy slope, both of us preparing: David for the sermon that afternoon and Joyce for a talk to the Chinese folk back in Nottingham. Our quietness was suddenly disturbed by the most lovely German folk singing. As we listened, our ears pricked up sharply as the melodious, unknown voices began to sing: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" in German and then went on to sing "How great Thou art" also in German. After lunch, we went back to the same spot and decided to visit the chalet where we discovered four Austrian nurses on holiday. They had come across Catholic Renewal from fellow nurses and they were delighted to come and sing in our English Communion that evening.

We could go on and on and write pages about our experiences. Doubtless more will come out in sermons and talks as the months go on! Our travels for the summer are not quite over. We hope to have the opportunity during August to hide away in the hills for two weeks of reading prayer, reflection and time to prepare ourselves for the autumn. Would you continue to pray for us

May the holiday time renew each of us in body, mind and spirit that we come back to one another to share in the fullness of fellowship.

With our love and prayers,

David & Joyce



review

Summer Holidays! Time for some reading....?

LOVE HAS COME AGAIN by Jim Bigelow

The theme of this book is to show how the expression of love heals the most devastating illness of today - loneliness. Writing from personal experience as a psychologist and a minister, Jim Bigelow presents a study of how as individuals and a society, we are trapped into the accepted cultural expectations of the "stiff upper lip". We too readily assume different masks to protect ourselves from the risk of being hurt by others but in the process we deny ourselves the freedom to reach out to love and to be loved. We allow ourselves no room to express our real feelings and emotions despite this need being part of our created nature.

Christians have no less been trapped by a self-sufficiency of the "just me and the Lord" variety despite the commandments to "love our neighbour", to love one another, to bear one another's burdens or to be bearing with one another in love. The meaning of loving has been spiritualized or intellectualized away to make it more acceptable; love has been denied a place on the level of "feelings". Jim Bigelow however, insists that "affectionate love is to be felt and expressed".

This book challenges these assumptions and insists that the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual is to release him from his frozen emotions and allow him to grow towards wholeness as a functioning member a loving member of the Body of Christ. This is achieved by a willingness to risk an openness and honest acceptance of ourselves as we are and of others as they are; the advantages of what is to be gained by this far outweigh the loneliness of self-sufficient independence. We are not asked to face the risks and the possible hurt alone but within the support of the Body of Christ and as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Unfortunately, Jim Bigelow is not so willing to share his own deep hurts which are hinted at in the beginning of Chapter 9 and the Epilogue but at least the admission that they have occurred gives the book honesty and realism. It is not just "theory" and in the final chapter there are practical suggestions of ways in which this open expression of mutual caring and loving can be worked out in the life of the local Church, for example in the setting up of smaller "house Churches" or communities: "A richer life among the believers is still the single most effective tool of evangelism".

This book presents a strong challenge to us to reassess our expectations of loving and it should encourage us to accept the risk of living more openly and honestly.

LOVE HAS COME AGAIN by Jim Bigelow

Publisher: Marshall, Morgan and Scott

Available: Christian Unity Bookshop
or Church Bookstall?



Consider the lilies of the field,
they neither toil nor spin,
yet I say to you that not even Solomon
in all his glory was arrayed like one of these



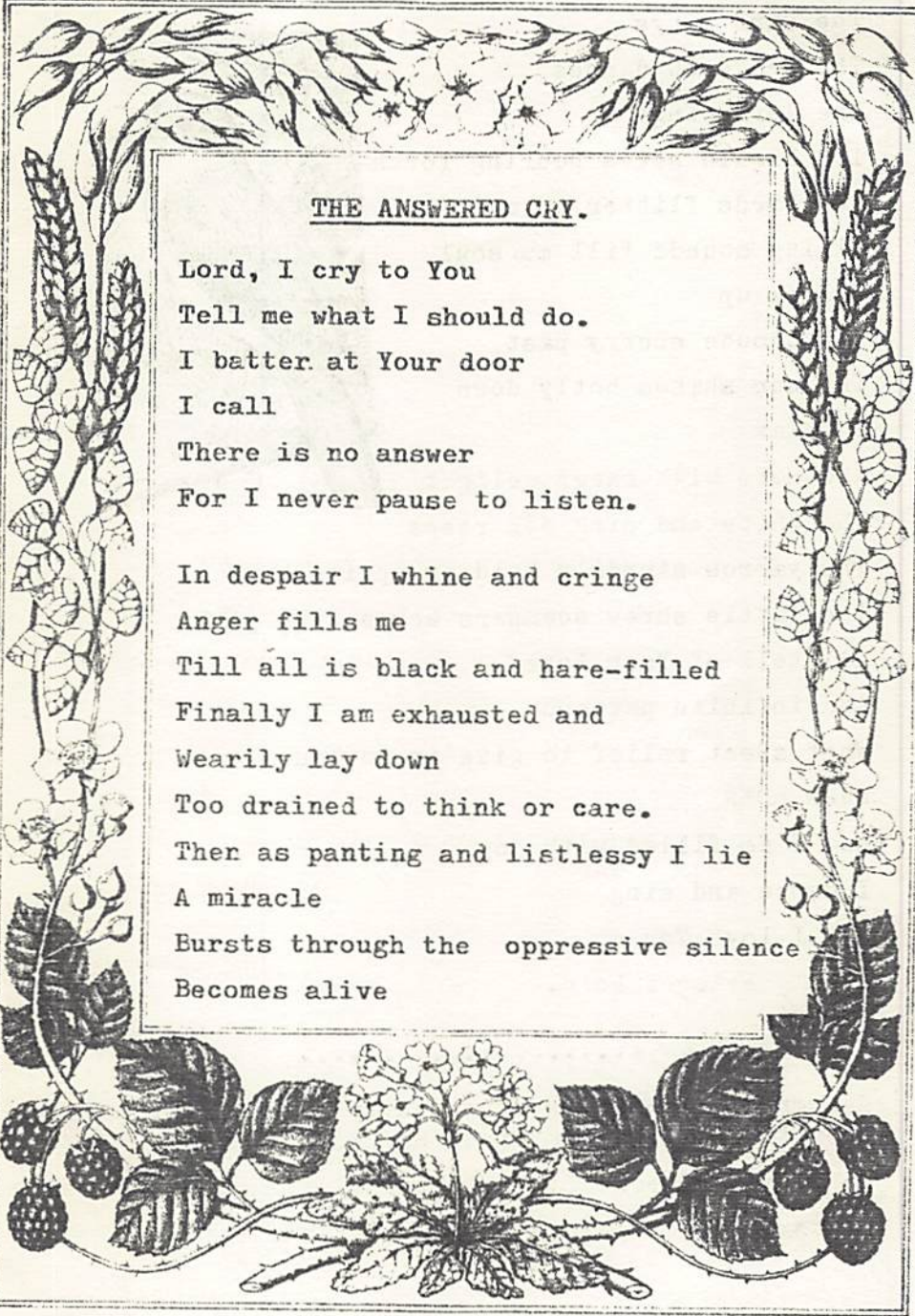
Earlier in the summer the Women's Fellowship spent a fascinating afternoon at Tom and Sylvia's lovely home obeying our Lord's command to "Consider.....contemplate..... the flowers." We did something similar at a Quiet day in Laxton in July. On the next pages we record some of the reflections and thoughts which came to people as we spent time in this way. It's worth "wasting time " to look at things.....!



flowers of summer

On looking at a deep purple pansy which had a white centre with just a splash of brilliant yellow soft petals like velvet, it seemed to symbolise our Lord. The white centre, the "all seeing eye"; the yellow splash, the "Light of the World"; the deep rich colour, the the depth of Christ's love for all people; the velvety texture seemed to represent Christ's soft, tender, healing touch. The message seemed to be that we should spread and share the news of these wonderful things to everyone.

I reflected that if I were that flower growing in the garden, I would simply have to "be". "Be still and know that I am God".



THE ANSWERED CRY.

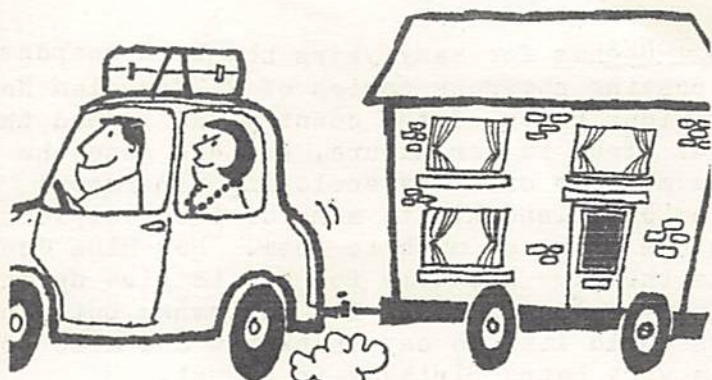
Lord, I cry to You
Tell me what I should do.
I batter at Your door
I call
There is no answer
For I never pause to listen.

In despair I whine and cringe
Anger fills me
Till all is black and hare-filled
Finally I am exhausted and
Wearily lay down
Too drained to think or care.
Then as panting and listlessy I lie
A miracle
Bursts through the oppressive silence
Becomes alive

The wind sings
The hedgerow dances
The lark wings up
Its liquid notes pouring forth
the birds flutter to and fro
Piping sounds fill mu soul
I look up
The clouds scurry past
The sun shines hotly down
I relax
And note with sheer delight
The white and pink dog roses
The yarrow sturdily holding up its head
The little shrew scampers across the path
All tell of Your love
And infinite patience
What sweet relief to give in to You
SURRENDER
Now I am filled with joy
I dance and sing
How I love You
You my Beloved Lord.



The group has another opportunity to "Be still and know that He is God" from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon, September 22nd/23rd. Names to Joyce please if you are interested.



NEWS

Congratulations

To Robin Scott and Angela on their recent engagement. They hope to be married at Easter next year.

News of the engagement of David Widdows and Becky was announced just too late for the last magazine but we rejoice deeply with them.

Derek Saunders and Pauline Hedderly both worshipped with us when they were students at the University. They recently announced their engagement.

THANKYOU "On behalf of the staff and children of the Willowdene Children's Home" reads a letter from George Dobbs "I would like to thank the Stapleford Link Group for their help at our recent Summer Fair. The Group provided two excellent side shows which raised over £10. In spite of poor weather, the event raised a total of £208.77 for Christmas gifts and summer holidays for the children."

MISS JONES has for many years now been responsible for posting numerous copies of St Nicholas News to various parts of the country and indeed the world. True to her nature, she has gone the extra mile so often by enclosing a personal letter of friendship to some of the recipients. This has meant so much to them. Now Miss Jones feels the time has come for her to give up this ministry. She will ask for no thanks but many of us would like to say thank you and also to wish her a very happy Birthday in August.

We were so sorry to return from holiday to discover that Sylvia Hawthorne had been unwell. She and Tom contribute so much to the fellowship. Let's help them to rest for the next few weeks!



FLOWER ARRANGING. There are a large number of vacant spaces on the rota for flower arrangers. Any offers of help would be most welcome. Please see Kathleen Robinson or fill in your name in one of the vacant spaces.

Mike Buckley was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Liverpool on Sunday July 1st. He is now Curate of St John's Church, Birkdale and his address is 59, Bedford Road, Birkdale, Southport.

Judith Roberts has written to say thank you for her send off at the beginning of July. Her address will be:

148, Overdown Road,
Tilehurst,
READING. Berks.



CONGRATULATIONS to Martyn Offord who received his M.Ed at the July Graduation Ceremony in the University of Nottingham.

THANKYOU to Ian Pullinger and Albert and Elizabeth Rowson who have been putting in hours of work in the Church since the re-design was completed. Ian has done a marvellous job with the electrics and Albert and Elizabeth just seem to now what needs doing and get on with it. Your labour in the Lord is not in vain.....!

It was lovely to see Zek and Alison Tanya in Barrack Lane recently. They were on a visit from Turkey and brought their beautiful four month old daughter to see us. They were both students at the University and used to worship at St Nic's. Now they are living in Turkey with very little fellowship. Zek is busy translating parts of the Bible and other Christian books into his own language. They need our prayers as they return to a remote part of the country in August.

ANNE is a refugee from Vietnam. She has been living in Nottingham for the past few months. Early on in her stay here she was walking down Maid Marian Way feeling pretty lonely, when she was spotted by one of our Chinese Christians. She was invited into the Old Rectory and from that casual meeting friendship with the Chinese household resulted. It wasn't long before Anne gave her life to the Lord and came to worship at St Nic's. Recently she has been appointed as interpreter to the Vietnamese Refugees who have recently arrived in Lincoln. What a marvellous opportunity for helping, caring and sharing the Good News. Would you pray for Anne and stand by with clothes and other practical means of support for the refugees?

From **Rev. David Green** **in Nairobi**

David Green has written a letter from Kitui, east of Nairobi where he has just started a ten day tour of parishes in the Ukambani area where evangelists sponsored by the Nairobi Diocesan Missionary Association, of which he is Secretary, are working or needed. He writes:

"I am horrified to see that nearly a month has passed since you wrote to us with the news of the loving and generous offer of £150 from the dear folk at St Nic's to us - we hardly know what to say to express our thanks. I think the way we would like to use the gift is:

- a) as you suggest, using a bit on the kitchen and it's facilities.
- b) probably most of it on certain "basic necessities such as nappies and other small garments - we are expecting an addition to the family in September, and many of Sharon's things, which were second hand when we got them, are wearing out.
- c) what is left over, if anything, we will be only too glad to spend on a holiday or travel to Turi where Andrew and Kathryn are at Boarding School.

David's letter continues:

"Life is constantly very full and busy. I think that perhaps more is being accomplished in people's lives than we see - we hold on in faith and pray so anyway. But when we don't actually see it, it is harder to write and tell you about it. Our morning services appear, outwardly, to flourish numerically. The evening services are sometimes encouraging, sometimes a struggles. We are going to lose quite a number in the weeks ahead, about twenty Ugandan families who plan to return home; they have certainly boosted numbers and several have been in the choir; but it is difficult to assess what else they have contributed; intellectually they are well above average, but spiritually aloof and indefinite."

"Sickness has been troubling us: all the family except me were diagnosed as having dysentery three months ago: then they all seemed to have got clear following treatment but Irene has definitely re-contracted it and we suspect Sharon has too.

Michael Harper plans to visit Kenya in the third week in August. Pray for a conference being planned at that time, especially for the Anglican Church leaders to meet and hear him

With much love and our prayers,

David.

Stephen Matthews is spending most of July and August in Kenya working at an African Inland Mission Bible School thirty miles west of Nairobi. He hopes to visit the Greens so we should soon have some further news of them direct from him. Meanwhile pray for David and Irene and the family as well as Steve

espagna !

Purpose Holiday in Spain

(13th-27th August)

Thank-you for your interest and prayers already and we hope this article will spur you on!

We had a training weekend in early June which helped us get to know each other and learn more about explaining the gospel. We carried out a trial, door-to-door, questionnaire in the 'Meadows' area, going out as representatives from St.Saviours Church. This was the questionnaire we used and shall be using in Spain.

Christianity Today

1. What is your occupation.
2. Do you go to church regularly
3. In your opinion, what is a Christian?
4. In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?
5. Would you like to know Jesus Christ?

This is how people responded:

A majority of people were willing to answer one questionnaire, of which none went to church regularly.

There was a variety of answers to the question "What is a Christian?" Mostly people thought that it was someone who did good. Other opinions were 'a believer in God' and 'a church-goer'.

Most people did not know how to become a Christian and the others mostly thought that it was a product of one's upbringing.

A few people said that they would like to know Jesus Christ. To such, literature was given and they will be followed up by Rev. Reg. Hoye.

We carried out this questionnaire last year in Spain and we had very similar answers to our questions. We found, however, that there was much more time for discussion and a great willingness amongst people to listen to the gospel being explained.

The team this year will be going to the same resort, Moret de Mar, near Barcelona. Apart from evangelism we shall be studying the Book of Ecclesiastes in our daily Bible studies as well as relaxing and having a holiday together.



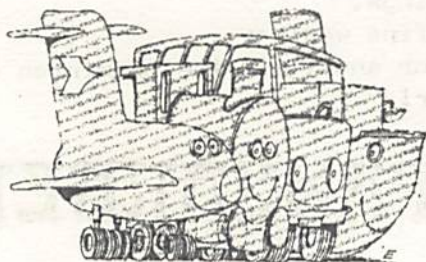
Robin Scott
John Bestwick
Kevin Huggett
Carol Matthews
Peter Northrop

Fiona McLachlan
Judith Roberts
Judy Hanson
Kate Hewitt
Angela

Please pray for:

1. Equipment: please see your linkman for a list.
2. Money: thank-you for already giving the money-for literature; to fund one of our members.
3. People: especially men (and over 25)!
4. Travel: safety as we motor all the way through France.
5. Team: enjoy ourselves and work well as a team.
6. Each of us: make love our aim!
 - : have an up-to-date testimony of the Lord!
 - : open for God to guide our conversations with people.

Thank-you for your prayers!



FABULOUS FUN AT FELIXTOWE

When I saw the title on the programme which we all had at Felixtowe last year, I did wonder whether it really would be fun. Could it be fun to spend a week with 50 young people? Well, it did turn out to be!

The "Kids" (14-21 yr olds!) came from all over the country though there was a particularly large contingent from Wakefield. The "Yorkshire v the Rest of the World" football matches (spontaneous) were one of the most popular events. But this year I fear that the 'Rest of the World' will be beaten miserably as 'Wakefield' seem to have a very strong team.

Most of them were Christians and from CYFA groups; some came with friends who were Christians. A camp can be a very significant time for a young person. Living among Christians for a week gives them a taste of what Christian Life is all about. The evening meetings with a talk and worship led by Jo Chandler, the morning "Bright and Breezy" sessions and the late night dormitory bible studies were marvellous opportunities to learn and get excited about Jesus. What excited me particularly was when the young people led their own friends to Christ. And one lad gave his life to Jesus when Roger was leading a seminar (outside) on Personal Evangelism using the "Knowing God Personally" booklet! His was the first application I received for this year.

Some points for prayer:-

The team of leaders (from St. Nics: Roger & Mushy Simpson, Mike & Rosemary Marshall, Jo Chandler, Keith Jackson.)

The young people and our relationship with them.
The meetings.

Fun and fine weather.

That Roger and I win the badminton doubles again this year!

CYFASUMMERING

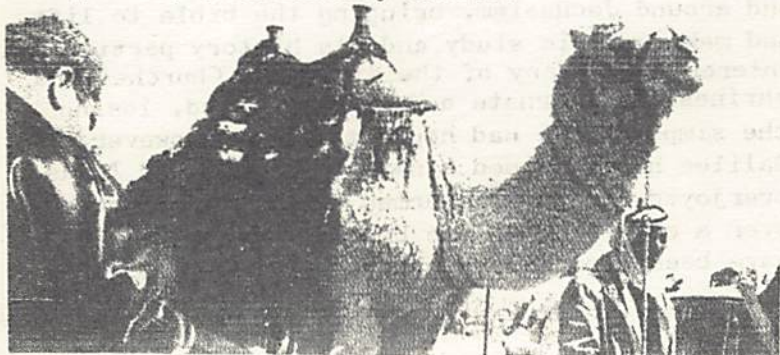
TOUR OF ISRAEL

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be
added unto you
Allelu, alleluia..."

Sharon and I found ourselves singing this song a great deal during our week's holiday in Jerusalem.

There we were, seeking God's kingdom, and truly everything was added unto us. From the day Sharon asked me if I would like to go to Jerusalem, throughout all the preparation, and the holiday itself, God obviously had things very well planned!

For example, only a week before the holiday began, our flight was changed to a different airport and brought forward by one day. The roads were impassable to the airport and we knew no one with whom we could stay overnight. Due to the inconvenience caused by the holiday firm, we asked for hotel accommodation to be arranged, but to our surprise they provided a taxi, free of charge, from my home in Derbyshire to the airport, and back home again! The snow cleared and did not fall again until after our return to England, making the journey considerably easier.



On arrival in Jerusalem we met a Catholic group on a Pilgrimage from Manchester, who invited us to join them. We jumped at the chance, little realising how far we would travel, and how cheaply, how much we would learn and how many new friends we would make. Had we not met them, our time would have been spent in Jerusalem, being approached by enthusiastic Arab salesmen, and we would never have visited Nazareth, Jericho, Qumran and the Dead Sea, Hebron, Galilee or the Mount of Beatitudes, these being just a few of the places we visited.



The Isaiah scroll found at Qumran is 24 feet long and 1000 years older than any previously known Hebrew manuscript of the book.

Our days were full of interesting visits in and around Jerusalem, bringing the Bible to life and making Bible study and its history particularly interesting. Many of the sites had Churches and shrines, very ornate and overdecorated, losing the simplicity I had hoped to find. However, Galilee had retained a natural beauty and I was overjoyed to find fishermen cooking their catch over a camp-fire on the beach. Nothing could have been more natural than this.

Wherever we went, we were overwhelmed by the hospitality and friendliness of everyone we met, both those from our Pilgrimage and the Arabs, for we were mainly in contact with Arabs since we stayed in the Muslim quarter.

Not only were our days well planned, but also our nights. The Arab boys who worked in the hotel reception area took us out most nights and consequently we went with them to an Israeli Folk Club and the Armenian Christians' New Year's Eve Party. On both occasions we were the only English people present and had a most enjoyable time. We also visited more local places, including a walk through the old city streets, within the walls, where we bought freshly baked bread from an Arab bakery - very old fashioned by our standards. The streets were completely different by night and not at all safe to walk through without escorts. Gone were the vendors selling their spices, leather goods and brass, not forgetting the largest fruit and vegetables imaginable. Gone were the customers jostling their way through the narrow alleys, the donkeys transporting goods and kerosene. Gone were the unique sounds of old Jerusalem, for virtual silence lay ahead of us, shops were shuttered, bartering children out of sight as we walked on the very stones where Jesus walked when he carried His cross.

Jerusalem itself was a most extraordinary place being full of contrasts and although we really wondered what we had come to when we first arrived, we found ourselves very attached to it by the end of the week and very reluctant to leave.

For me, the parts of the week had been the visit to Nazareth and Gallilee followed by a delicious meal in a local fish restaurant and then the New Year's Eve Party. I also particularly enjoyed an evening of Fellowship held in our room, to which we invited our new friends. This was particularly good as we believe we had helped to create unity between Roman Catholics and Anglicans, this unity being emphasized by our teaching them the song: 'Bind us Together, Lord.'

Whereas I had missed an informal fellowship, Sharon had missed taking Holy Communion so we both felt very privileged when the Priests leading our Pilgrimage specially arranged a Service of Holy Communion in the only Anglican Church. The whole pilgrimage attended the Service although only ourselves could receive the Eucharist. On previous days we had joined the Catholics in their Service of Mass but not taken the Eucharist. These services had all been held in places of importance such as the site of the Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the site of Calvary and Bethany.

All too soon our holiday drew to an end and on the day of departure we took some of our new friends along the city walls up to our favourite little Church in Jerusalem, this being Dominus Fleuit - Jesus Wept - where Jesus is said to have wept on Mount Olivet, overlooking the whole of Jerusalem. We also visited the Garden Tomb before boarding the coach taking us to the airport, then tired and weary we finally departed Tel Aviv on the homebound flight, singing our praises to God and thanking Him for making such a wonderful holiday possible.

As a result of the holiday, Sharon and I decided to invite a few friends round, mainly nurses from St. Nic's, to form a small Fellowship. We decided to cook meals for each other on a weekly basis, and tell everybody about our holiday then see how things progressed from there.

From small beginnings in January, our 'Mustard Seed' has grown. We have been asked by a clinical tutor to form a Nurses Christian Fellowship at the new University Hospital, the first meeting of which was held on 7th June. Any hospital workers wishing to join us, be they nurses, doctors, pharmacists, secretaries, social workers, porters, cooks etc. will be warmly welcome. Please contact Sharon Austin, Alison Martin at 7 Lister Court, University Hospital, or myself - Rachel Mountford at 7 Galen Court, University Hospital for further information.

In the Post



from Fay

28th May, 1979

My dear friends,

Now that the worst of the war is over and there remains but a full-scale mopping up operation to be done, the time has come to write and tell you all what it has meant to me to be sent out by you as a body.

January 14th was a very special day to me, the day when with the least fuss, but with utmost sincerity, the Lord called you to share in my Farewell Service. As I stood on the Chancel step beside Gordon Walker, I knew that all of you had come to that service because you wanted to send me out surrounded by your love and prayer support.

So I came, not for myself but as your representative. Throughout these troubled months it is you that I have represented. At times of utter exhaustion and in all honesty, fear, it is you, through your constant petitions to Jesus who have given me strength and courage to go on. Yes, my strength and peace have come from the Lord, but I know that you have interceded and asked Him for it at times when I have not. Many are the times when words have not been available to express to the Lord what I wished to say, but always He has understood and upheld me. Never has there been a day without the awareness of His Presence and your prayers. Thank-you.

Uganda is indeed a land of miracles. Hour by hour the Lord has provided and protected, always when matters have become too great, He has provided a way out,

There is still eighteen months of my time here to complete, what a privelege it is to be alongside these lovely people as they look to the Lord to build up a new, honest nation. A nation built on His love, not one man's fear. Please do continue to pray for us, and that at all times, I may represent you clearly and as Christ would have me do.

In love,
Fay x

Bishop's girls' School,
P.O. Box 17
Kabale,
Uganda.

MARK DAVIES

As from 20th September
6 London Road,
Tonbridge,
Kent. 0732 358892

Dear St. Nicks,

After the traumas of leaving college after three great years, I can put pen to paper to thank you all for your support and friendship over the last 12 months. I'm at home in Camberley for a while (in between missions and holidays and things) and have just managed to transport 4 carloads of my belongings home with not a little effort. To see how much I have acquired over 3 years in college in purely material terms is staggering enough. To try and assess how much I have acquired in other terms is almost impossible at these close quarters ... but when I look at how much God has initiated and

changed in me over this time I am struck with gratitude and some considerable amazement.

This last year with you has in many ways been the crucial year in crystallising those many lessons and changes, and so it has been a real privilege to spend that time in your company. From the start of the year at Barrack Lane - lopping trees and watching dozens of bubbling demi-johns - fellowship and worship together have been of a high calibre. Time and space will not allow for enough thank-you's to all who gave such warm hospitality. Some of the hardest things to leave behind are friendships. This move from Nottingham has meant leaving behind many friends both in college and in St. Nicks, but hopefully Tonbridge will become a well visited mecca for the faithful!!!

I move into a flat in Tonbridge in the middle of September and begin work after (or is it during?) my ordination at Rochester Cathedral on 30th September. The parish is large with 4 churches, a vicar, 3 full time curates and an unpaid curate. My experience of working on the staff team at St. Nick's will serve me well for Tonbridge. My own responsibilities will be with the CYFA group and four of the house churches, as well as the usual round of services in all 4 church centres. So do pray for my settling in, and the opening of relationships in the early days. There won't be many people eligible for a Singleness group here, so I shall be marked man!!

Do keep me in touch - I still consider myself part of the congregation and look forward to the next stage of life at St. Nick's under an eldership scheme. There is a great deal to be excited about in your midst the Lord Himself is with you.

Much love in Him,

yours

Mark.

DAVID WIDDOWS

My dear St. Nic's People,

At last I've found a parish! It's a pocket of housing on the N.E. edge of Manchester and about 13,000 people live there. It's mainly council housing and the church, St. Andrew's, Higher Blackley, will rent one for me.

The rector, David Erridge and his wife grew up together in York and this is their first parish. They're great! The church family is small, but growing. Many of the "committed core" of 30 or so people have recently experienced healing or renewal.

Thank you all very much for your care and fellowship this year. I have received richly from you and so feel inwardly strengthened to go to what is undoubtedly a challenging area.

I'm looking forward to it very much and also to being joined in a year by my fellow St. John's student, Becky. We got engaged four weeks ago.

SUE KNIGHT

As I prepare for leave for a two week holiday in the Lakes, followed by time at the Cambridge mission to overseas students, I'm aware of the large part of my heart inscribed "Nottingham"! It's been one of the fastest years of my life, packed full of experiences which can only be described as good. Highlights include the welcome support of the college community and St. Nic's fellowship, and having a defined role to play, both of which have contributed to a greater sense of well-being and security. Co-leading the mission study group in the Spring Term enabled me to fulfil a five year old ambition!

The assurance of your prayers and the gift last Sunday have greatly encouraged me. I'll certainly keep in touch, and hope to be back before too long! Thank you for so much!

Please Pray...



For the many Houseparties and camps for young people. See especially the prayer requests for the CYFA Houseparty at Felixtowe.

Remember, too, the Parish Houseparty at Thwing in August.

There are many Beach missions at this time of year. Pray for the spreading of the gospel in this way.

Pray for the team going to Spain.

May we pray for one another that wherever we are this summer, the Lord will refresh us in body, mind and spirit.

Pray for Anne Kirwan in Rumania this month.

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER.....

It is with gratitude to God that we record that the Gift Day last month amounted to £4,200!

We are aware of a great deal of sacrificial giving and are deeply grateful

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH NOTTINGHAM

STAFF

Rector:	David Huggett	Tel: 411383
Clergy:	Martin Winbolt-Lewis	Tel: 46952
	George Dobbs	Tel: 394790
Director of Music:	Anne Kirwan	Tel: 43336
Student worker:	Judith Roberts	Tel: 43336
Counsellor: (and Magazine Editor)	Joyce Huggett	Tel: 411383
Church Wardens:	Gordon Walker	Tel: 811596
	Malcolm Offord	Tel: 46924
Diocesan Reader:	Tom Robinson	Tel: 45470
Treasurer:	Bob Marlowe	Tel: 231711

SUNDAY SERVICES AND WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

- 10.45 a.m. Morning Worship.
Creche. Climbers. Explorers. Pathfinders.
- 5.20 p.m. Hospital Ward Service
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Worship.
Coffee is served in Church after the Service

Each week

- Parish Fellowship Group Studies and Prayer
- Worship Workshop Thursdays 7.30 p.m. Lower Lounge
- Mid-week Lunch Wednesdays 12.30 - 2.00 p.m. Lower Lounge

Fortnightly

- Area Link Groups Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.00 p.m.

- Women's Fellowship Mondays 2.30 p.m.

ABOUT THE COVER:

Bethesda.—Today Bethesda lies about 80 feet below the present level of Jerusalem. From the doorway in the centre a flight of steps goes down to the remains of a large double pool, which recalls the healing miracle of Jesus. Bethesda lay to the north of the temple, near the Sheep Gate. Very likely, Bethesda lay in a side valley of the Kidron and was well situated to collect rain water. Today the ruins of Bethesda lie within the grounds of the Church of St. Ann, not far from the St. Stephen's Gate.