

St. Nicholas News

October 1979

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Harvest



THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Our dear Friends,

As we write this, we have just returned from taking Communion to Miss Townend who is 97 to-day. We have just had a little Harvest Communion together and have been sharing with one another the particular joy which this time of year brings. After we had read a Psalm together, and reflected on God's goodness and faithfulness to all of us over the years, with a lovely smile, Miss Townend said:

HE MUST BE VERY WONDERFUL MUSTN'T HE.....?

It was one of those precious and rare moments when one felt that a glimpse of the wonder of the Godhead had been given here on earth. Those moments, fleeting as they are, must be held and treasured and like Mary, we need to store them up in our heart and ponder and wonder. In this way our awesome love grows.

The colours of harvest time, remind me of a tape on Prayer which we listened to when we were on holiday together in August. The speaker was encouraging us to see God in the beauty of the created things around us, and challenged us with these words: "Look at colours! What kind of a God is it who created colour?" Next morning we went for a walk and the depth and variety and overwhelming beauty of the colours of the snow-capped mountains, silhouetted against the blue, blue sky and towering above the luscious green meadows, themselves studded with flowers of every



shade imaginable, caused us to catch our breath and begin to see the greatness of God in a new light. Maybe, this autumn, we could do that, as the leaves change colour and the reds, browns, golds and orange shades of autumn delight us afresh and as the fruit is harvested with the mystery and wonder of colour there before our eyes, may we stop to wonder and reflect and whisper to the Creator:

HOW GREAT THOU ART.....

Last time we wrote, we were scarcely back from holiday. Now it feels as if the holidays were a lovely dream! But what a very happy month September has been in so many ways. We, at the Rectory have enjoyed living as a small community with the three St John's students. They are all very different and each one brings unique gifts to us. Please pray for them that they will both learn from us as a fellowship during this important year of their training and also that they may have the joy of giving to us as a fellowship.

We have also been very conscious since we arrived home from holiday just how richly God has been blessing us as a fellowship over the years. So many people seem to have returned this summer having met with God in a new way and that is so thrilling to hear and share. Numbers seem to grow week by week and those who just "drop in" as it were on Sundays seem to go away having met with the Living Christ. This gives us cause for much praise and thanksgiving. The Tuesday times of praise and prayer reveal the spirit of expectancy and anticipation which there is in the Church as well as the hunger for more which so many of us are expressing. That is exciting, because it is "in the bowl of our hunger" that God delights to meet us.

One of the highlights of September was the special service of commissioning for the Elders. They now meet together each week over breakfast on Saturday mornings. Their effectiveness will depend largely on our support and prayerful-



ness. God seems to have given us a picture of what He is wanting to do for the Elders and through them. As one person saw it at a recent Prayer Meeting, the Elders were standing together watching in awe and wonder as a huge waterfall cascaded down a mountain side. As they did so, their own vision of God the Creator was enlarged so that they were thrilled anew by Him. As they stood and watched, the spray from the waterfall (a symbol of the Holy Spirit) splashed onto them in such a way that they were renewed and refreshed and cleansed in such a way that they were more able to return to us, their "flock" with the rich resources of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let's undertake to pray for them that this indeed may be so - then they are blessed and we receive the overflow.

So we move into the next stage of the autumn with expectant hearts, deeply conscious of the love of God which embraces and comforts, rebukes cleanses and forgives and so we would encourage you with us to:

Rejoice in
the Lord always

With our love,

David & Joyce



LATEST

NEWS

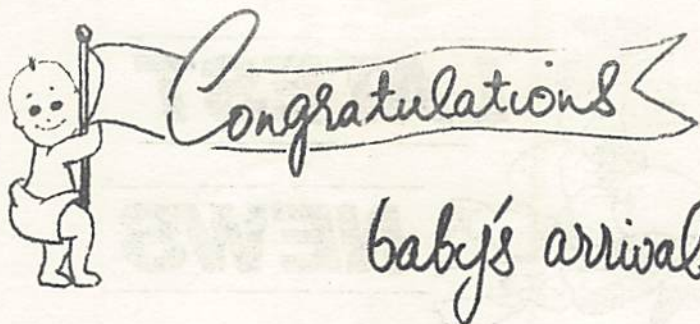
Happy Birthday

It was great fun at the Rectory last month when three of us celebrated our birthday on the same day. The "party" with the Women's Fellowship the following day was a lovely time, the highlight of the food part being a birthday cake, beautifully iced and decorated by Eric Turner with the words: GOD IS LOVE..... and two symbols of love: The Cross and two doves.

Our dear friend Miss Townend celebrated her 97th Birthday on September 27th. Though she has been unable to come to Church for years now, she keeps in close touch through the ministry of Tom and Kathleen Robinson and her interest in the goings on at St Nicholas' is as keen as ever. It is a delight to find someone of her age continuing to draw strength from the Lord.

At the beginning of October, Florrie Freeman celebrates her 84th Birthday. It is always good to have Florrie's cheerful presence at Women's Fellowship and in Church on Sundays and we all wish her a very happy day.





We were thrilled to hear the news that Mike and Anne Oldak, who are settling happily into their new home in Middleton-by-Wirksworth in Derbyshire, have just had a baby girl.

Gerald March was the President of the Christian Union at the University here when we first arrived in Nottingham and helped us greatly to establish links there. While here in Nottingham he met Barbara and they were married two years ago. Now little Jonathon March has been added to the family and we rejoice with them.

Since John and Wendy Sayers became part of the fellowship, we have learned a great deal from them in so many ways. So it is with joy and thanksgiving that we rejoice with them in the birth of Rachel.



It won't be so long before we begin to look like this as the Christmas rush begins. There are two easy ways of coping with the Christmas shopping problem. One is to buy from Tear Craft some of the excellent and imaginative goods which they are producing. The other is to support the home industry of our Wood-turner, Alistair Campbell. Many of us have beautiful items

made of wood by Alistair. At the Harvest Supper there will be a display of some of his work and

he is now able to take orders for specific items. If you are unable to attend the Harvest Supper, we hope the Area Link groups will be able to display a selection of cheese boards, chopping boards, bowls for sugar, fruit, roses etc to give some idea of variety, workmanship and price.

SUE KNIGHT

It was such a joy to hear from Sue the other day that the Lord has led her to work in Cambridge amongst the overseas students there. She did this for a couple of weeks in the summer and the conviction grew that she should be doing this full time. She still misses Nottingham and sends her love to her many friends here.

Wedding Story

On one of the lovely summer days, I sat in the garden with two of our Chinese friends, Ting and Lily. Shyly and happily, they shared with me that they were going home to Malaysia this summer to get engaged and married. They were duly married on September 15th and now they are living in the old Rectory on Maid Marian Way. Ting is to be the Chairman of the Chinese Christian Fellowship this year and it is lovely to have them both worshipping with us. Also living in the same household is Richard and when I called on them recently, they were re-decorating the house with great enthusiasm!

Milton Tan has also worshipped with us over the years and used to be the Chairman of the Chinese Fellowship. He and Dorothy were engaged also in Malaysia this summer.





Help

As a Staff, we are loving God's provision to us of Mike Marshall. His bounce and enthusiasm are a tonic. Mike is in need of three things rather urgently: a bicycle, a typewriter and a filing cabinet. Any offers of second hand equipment?

Two ladies in the congregation are also in need of bicycles. Let Joyce know if you have one for sale.



Those who were on the Parish Holiday at Thwing in the summer had a marvellous time. We have heard so many comments about that time of fun and rich fellowship. Someone said to me the other day: "The fellowship we shared together at Thwing spoke more to me of the love of God than anything else I've ever experienced in my life." That was someone who has retired. If you want to be sure of getting away from the big city of Nottingham next summer and be sure of having a good holiday, then have a word with Gordon Walker. They have booked a delightful Guest House on the cliffs at Shringham in Norfolk. You'll have to book early to be sure of your place!

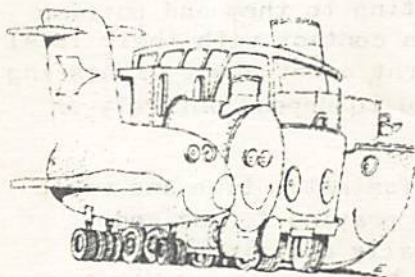
GEORGE INGRAM It was three years ago that George officially retired as Church Warden. We rejoice deeply that he has agreed to come out of retirement at least temporarily to act as Warden now that Gordon Walker has had to lay that responsibility aside. As we assure George of our love, may we support him in prayer.

Thanksgiving



SPAIN - AUGUST 1979

Eight of us left Nottingham at twenty to nine one wet Monday morning. Arriving at Charing Cross about three hours later we picked up the remaining members of the team. After a quick picnic beside the Thames at Rochester we departed for Ramsgate and the Hoverlloyd.



espagna !

Once aboard we really felt as if we were on our way. By seven o'clock we were on French soil and travelling south. It was a long night! When morning came it was a long night! When morning came it was glorious to have a wash and eat breakfast by a quiet stream thinking Spain here, we come.

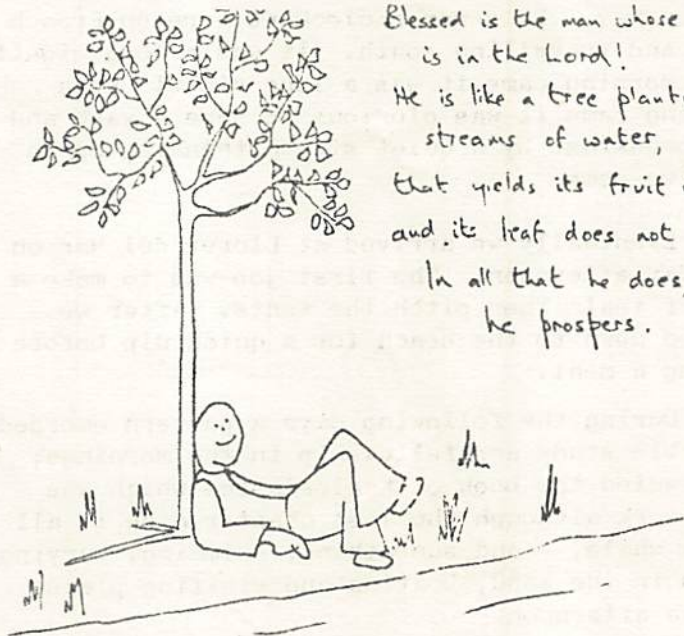
Eventually we arrived at Lloret del Mar on Tuesday afternoon. The first job was to make a cup of tea! Then pitch the tents. After we rushed down to the beach for a quick dip before having a meal.

During the following days a pattern emerged of Bible study and fellowship in the mornings; we studied the book of Ecclesiastes which was hard work although the last chapter made it all worth while, - and sunbathing, swimming, burying Robin in the sand, boating and visiting places in the afternoon.

Holiday

However it was the evening which was the most challenging. This was the time when we visited hotels in Lloret to talk to British tourists. We had a questionnaire which enabled us to start a conversation quite easily and most people were very open and friendly. Some in fact were obviously only too glad to talk to anyone in English. We had some good conversations about the Lord and were sad at the ignorance of so many people. Two girls, Sandra and Lorraine became Christians and many more were very interested. So we are writing to them and putting Sandra and Lorraine in contact with their local churches. We all learnt a lot about witnessing in particular the need to depend entirely on the Lord.

So we all had a fantastic time and would like to thank you for praying for us and supporting us practically and financially. Praising the Lord for His people and His love and care.



Blessed is the man whose delight
is in the Lord!
He is like a tree planted by
streams of water,
that yields its fruit in season
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does,
he prospers.

Harvest

A meditation



Can you
tell me
How does wheat grow?

Well, now,
it's all a matter
of the right conditions:
good soil, fertilizer,
water and sun,
and of course man's work.

I mean
someone has to plant the seed,
protect it from birds and animals
and then be there to pick it
at the right time!

I see. Thank you.
Armed with the above information
I planted my wheat seed.
Can you tell me, sir,
Why it didn't grow

when I followed your instructions to the 't'?

Well, now,
there's often no telling with these things.
Sometimes the seed just doesn't grow.

(You're sure the seed was good to start with?)
It came from the best supplier.
Oh, well in that case
It's definitely just one of those things.



You'll have to try again.
Better luck next time!
I see. Thank you.
But I didn't see.
"Better luck!"
What ingredient was this?
In the end, does it all boil down to
the right conditions + luck?
My mind refuses to accept
that something as ingenious,
mysterious,
and vital to our survival
should hang on luck!
So once more I cried out
Can anyone tell me
What makes wheat grow?
Silence.

Frustrated
I walk down the lane
between the fields
of taunting wheat.
Pity it can't talk
Maybe it could tell me
how it grows.
The wind sounded
like laughter
through the waving crop,
and then
SILENCE.

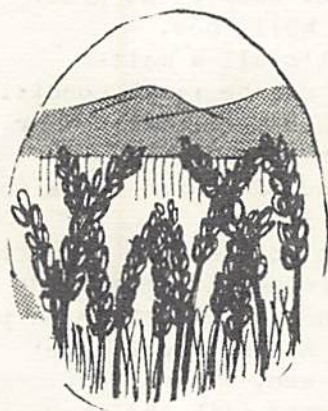
Such complete and utter stillness
that I had to stop and listen
and then the answer came.
Go on, Laugh.
But I know now
WHO makes the wheat grow.

"You never thought to honour Me, even though I
send the autumn rains and the spring rains and
give you the harvest season each year."

(Jer. 5:24)

"The land has produced its harvest;
God, our God has blessed us."

(Psalm 67:6)





Harvest



"As long as the world exists, there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest."

(Gen. 8:22)

Harvest Festival. What does it mean to you?

"Not a lot!"

"I've always loved harvest time. It's a time of thanksgiving. I especially like it now that it's not just fresh produce that people bring but also manufactured goods: the year someone brought a tin of oil meant a lot. It just shows us all the many ways in which our Lord provides for us. It's a time of sharing too."

"Money is much more useful. Who is really in need of food these days in this country? Money can be used to buy what they'd really like instead of what we don't need."

"Picking apples from the tree in the garden to take to church - but they always seemed more interested in the wrapping than the gift."

"I've always like harvest. I really loved watching the farmers gather it in when I was a child. It's hard work though for the farmer but it's what he's been waiting for."

"Church full of good smells."

"It's alien to our culture: we're so far removed here in the city. Maybe that's why it's important, to remind us that it's all from God."

"We always had to take a can of something to school. Never could see the point".

"It's a time when you can appreciate God's good-

ness to us and actually see all the things He provides."

"I know what it should mean but it doesn't really to me."

WHAT'S GOD GOT TO DO WITH IT ANYWAY?

"Do not look to God for bread, look rather to governments, technicians and silos. What has God got to do with the cultivation of fields, with the productivity of the earth, with chemical fertilizers?"

(Caretto - In search of the Beyond.)



WHERE ARE THE FIRST FRUITS?

"You shall keep the feast of harvest, of the first fruits of your labour, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the feast of in gathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labour. The first of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God."

(Ex. 23:16 and 19)

But I don't harvest crops in any shape or form so such festivals are meaningless to me and to most of us city people!



Thanksgiving



In the beginning
my people lived on the land.
They sowed and reaped
and in their delight each year in the crop
first showing
they brought me the
very first ear of the crop
that peeped through the ground,
so I might share their pleasure
and bless the ground and weather
that the rest of the harvest might be
safely gathered in.
Then we had a feast together
and it was good.
Now my children have grown a little.
You are clever.



You discover new things,
better ways of doing old tasks,
invent strange and wonderful machines
to help and heal, store and inform:
And I delight in your creativity
but you have forgotten Me.
You do not bring Me the first fruits
any longer.
When I see you get a gleam of an idea
I wait expectantly
for you to come rushing in
to show Me,
that I might share your
pleasure and excitement
and make your imagination fertile
that the 'crop' might be harvested
and that we might later celebrate together
the successful end product.
But where are the first fruits?
Are there no firsts in your life?

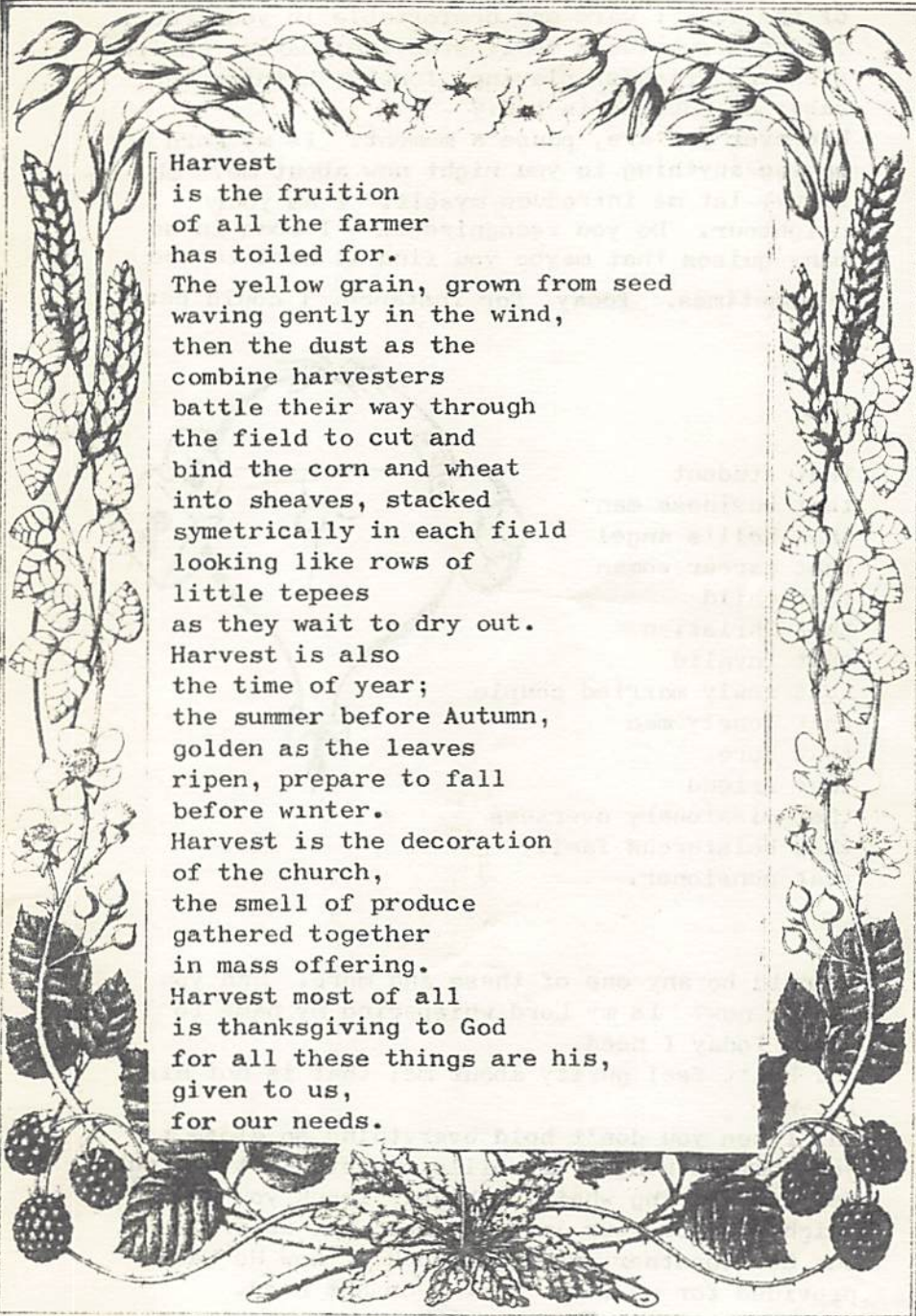


Then what are you doing with the many gifts
I gave you?
My children, I do not ask you
to give me the first of everything
so that I might snatch it out of your hands;
but that I,
your God and Father
your Creator,
might bless what you bring
and return it to you,
so that what you begin
you may finish.



LOOSE GRIP

"When you harvest your fields, do not cut the
corn at the edges of the fields, and do not go
back to cut the ears of corn that were left.
Do not go back through your vineyard to gather
the grapes that were missed or to pick up the
grapes that have fallen; leave them for poor
people and foreigners." (Lev. 19:9-10).



Harvest

is the fruition
of all the farmer
has toiled for.

The yellow grain, grown from seed
waving gently in the wind,
then the dust as the
combine harvesters
battle their way through
the field to cut and
bind the corn and wheat
into sheaves, stacked
symetrically in each field
looking like rows of
little tepees
as they wait to dry out.

Harvest is also
the time of year;
the summer before Autumn,
golden as the leaves
ripen, prepare to fall
before winter.

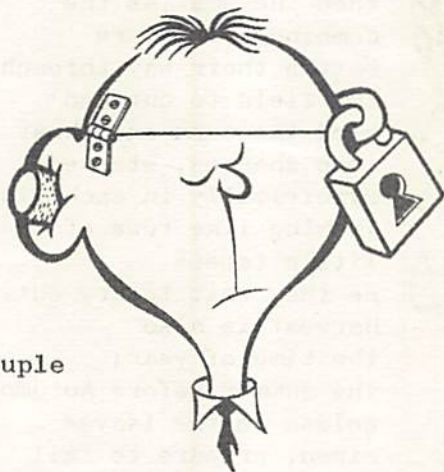
Harvest is the decoration
of the church,
the smell of produce
gathered together
in mass offering.

Harvest most of all
is thanksgiving to God
for all these things are his,
given to us,
for our needs.

Where are you at this moment? Sitting in front of the T.V. : warm and comfortable in your room: eating a sumptuous meal: studying: making coffee: visiting friends: playing: lonely: bathing the baby: at church: in bed:?

Wherever you are, pause a moment. Is my Lord saying anything to you right now about me? Oh sorry, let me introduce myself. I am your neighbour. Do you recognise me - I come in so many guises that maybe you find it hard to see me sometimes. Today, for instance, I could be:

That student
that business man
that hell's angel
that career woman
that child
that Christian
that invalid
that newly married couple
that lonely man
that bore
that friend
that missionary overseas
that boisterous family
that pensioner.



I could be any one of these and more. Can you see me now? Is my Lord whispering my name to you? Today I need.

No! Don't feel guilty about me; that is not His intent.

Ah! I see you don't hold everything so close to you that nothing ever spills or gets left behind. You are sharing what you have. Thank you my neighbour for your love. Come. Let us praise our God together, for just look at how He has provided for us both. Now I do not need.



Why St. John's ?



JULIA

Last month the boys introduced themselves, so now it is time to turn the spot-light on Julia. We have not only enjoyed her presence and fellowship over the past month, but have discovered that she makes marvellous fudge, is fabulous at washing up, and is the most thorough harvester of blackberries and pears we have ever met! But let her tell her own story.....

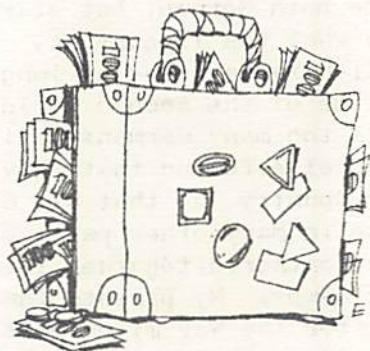
Wondering about that strange accent when she says she's Canadian, but doesn't really sound like it?!! Then she says she's Rhodesian, but she isn't really that either. Well, what is she?

"My parents were both German, but started their married life in what was Tanganyika. It was already an English Mandate and no longer a German colony by the time of the Second World War, but there were still too many Germans living there for England to feel safe and that they would not help the Mother Country, so that all Germans in Tanganyika, like in many other parts of the world at that time, we gathered together into British Prisoner of War camps. My parents thus landed in Rhodesia. After the War my parents were able to stay in Rhodesia, and that is how I came to



be born there. I grew up there, did all my schooling there. When my father died, the political situation was becoming more and more difficult, so that those of us left at home with my mother decided to emigrate and go to Canada.

My mother already had her two brothers there, and many of our German relatives had settled there after the War. We chose Vancouver, as the climate is mildest there and you do not have to contend with the elements so much. Before leaving Rhodesia I had done a Secretary's training and managed to earn my living with that. After a couple of years work in Canada, and when my younger brother had nearly finished University, I had the chance to go to University and did my B.A. in German literature. French had been my elective, and when I had finished my degree, I decided to carry on improving my French by trying to find a job in Eastern Canada. There I found different office jobs.



First I worked in Montreal, and the company I was working for then transferred me to Quebec City. I decided that Insurance was not my line, and then worked for the Anglican Church camp in Quebec Diocese. When the employment situation became more and more difficult and it was no longer possible to find part time employment to live on while doing voluntary work, I found a research job at Laval University in Linguistics. After two and a half years in that, research funds came to an end, and I had to again decide what I was going to do. While working at the University, I had been encouraging French Canadians to set up Inter-Varsity groups in their colleges. While working for the Church camp and with Inter-Varsity, theological studies had been going through my mind. Certain friends had been encouraging me, but I had been resisting the idea. When I saw that my job was coming to an end, and that I would again be forced to find something new, I decided that it was time I settled down in something, and retraining with a view to parish work seemed like a good idea. I was and am amazed to find myself having the chance to study at St. John's, as studying like this is quite a costly affair.

Living in Quebec City in a bilingual situation was special, but it was also difficult in its own way. It was kind of isolated, so I am very pleased to have this opportunity to get away from the situation for a while. I was also at a point in my Christian life, where I needed to learn and grow. After one year at St. John's, I feel that I have learnt a great deal, but in actual theological studies, realize that I am only just scratching the surface. This year I will be doing more theological studies, complementing it with more practical aspects of training, such as a counselling course and my placement at St. Nicholas (Nic's). The eventual aim of all my training in England, is to go back and do parish work in Quebec City or wherever God leads in Canada.





HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY

Over a thousand million people in developing countries have a desperate need for food, health care and literacy, and that appalling situation is almost unimaginable to those of us who live in the affluent quarter of the world.

The Rev. David Watson has written of the challenge to Christians today of the problems of world poverty and hunger as "the most vital challenge which faces the church today".

In numerous passages in the Bible we are reminded of the special concern that God wants us to show for the poor and needy, and of how easily our concern for the poor, the hungry and the oppressed can be obscured by preoccupation with our own cares, riches and possessions. For example the awesome verse Matt. 25.45: "When you refused to help these my brothers, you were refusing to help me".

I WAS

HUNGRY



WHAT CAN I DO ?

To help us become more aware of the extent of these problems and our great responsibilities in the face of them, there will be a bread and cheese lunch in the Church Hall on Sunday, 21st October. This will consist of a simple meal, more in keeping with that usually enjoyed by the world's poor majority, and an opportunity to find out more about what we Christians should and can do in the fight against world poverty and hunger for a fairer sharing of the world's resources.

You've a part to play!

Following Hugh McClintock's article and preceding One World week, on Sunday, October 21st we hope to have a ticket only Bread and Cheese lunch during which there will be a challenging and practical TEAR Fund film. To extend this vital and often neglected teaching, on the poor of this world to the whole church it is hoped the Link groups will take up some of the TEAR Fund Bible Studies and teaching aids. The aim will be to challenge, inform and guide into relevant action as the Lord directs.

M.W.L.



David Green

Another prayer letter arrived at the end of August from David and Irene Green at St. Mark's Church, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya. The year has continued to be very full and busy for them, and often has seemed "like a slow, featureless, uphill plod". Furthermore, most of the family have been suffering from ill-health in recent months, particularly from dysentery, which is a very debilitating disease. Irene, especially, has often been feeling weary, and this is particularly worrying as they are expecting their fourth child at the end of September or early October. They do, however, expect to have help in the home around then for about six weeks when Irene's eldest niece goes out to stay with them.

In the church there have been continuing strained relationships among church members and there has been some disruption with the return to Uganda of many of the Ugandan refugees in the congregation, aggravated by some arbitrary expulsions from Nairobi of Ugandans following a wave of crimes in which, it was alleged, Ugandans had been implicated. Among these was their Ugandan house-servant who went home on leave rather than risk being picked up by the police, which, of course, has happened at a particularly awkward time.

Despite these setbacks there is much to be thankful for, including the fact that Kenya is still to be rated among the more free, peaceful and just societies in the world. In the church there have been many encouragements in their services, but, they write, "there is just so much more that we pray will happen, that they may come alive in the power of the Spirit."

Next year the Green family will be coming on leave again and really do not know what plans they should make after that. They say that they

have no inclination to settle in England yet but do not know whether it is right for them to stay in Kenya, or to go to Uganda. The matter is tied up with the question of Andrew and Kathryn's education. In September 1980 they will each be at an age where they can enter King Edward's School, Witley, Surrey, a school favoured by many missionary families. It seems that there may be difficulty in obtaining grants.

They specifically ask for prayers for these needs:-

- That in all the "apparent featureless uphill plod of life" they may not lose their vision, that they may not grow weary, but go on, and on, and on, patiently, faithfully, believing that "in due season they will reap, if they do not lose heart".

- For good health for all the family, especially for Irene, who has suffered from backache as well as dysentery during her pregnancy.

- For the problem of strained relationships among church members; for love, patience, and wisdom, and for repentance and a desire to seek the Lord in prayer as a church.

- For guidance in knowing what to do about a replacement for their Ugandan house servant who suddenly left.

- For the services in the church, that they may come alive in the power of the Spirit, and especially for the organist, that he may be born again and led by the Spirit, and for other leaders in the church.

- For God's guidance on future plans from the time they come home on leave next year, particularly with the problems of the children's education and the related problem of obtaining a grant.

- For thanks for the peaceful transition in the Presidency following the death last year of Jomo Kenyatta, and for President Moi's determination to root out wrong practices and corruption in society

Prayer Diary



- 1st Mon. Mike Marshall speaking to Women's Fellowship to-day.
- 2nd Tues. Group meetings starting to-night.
- 3rd Wed. Anne speaking at Coffee Club.
- 4th Thur. Staff Quiet Day to-day.
- 5th Fri. Harvest Supper to-night.
- 6th Sat. Elders meeting over breakfast to-day.
- 7th Sun. Commissioning of Claire Evans to-night.
- 8th Mon. Martin speaking at Trent Poly.
- 9th Tues. Welcome evening for Chinese newcomers tomorrow.
- 10th Wed. Joyce leading a day Seminar in Sheffield to-day.
- 11th Thur. Newcomers to Nottingham.
- 12th Fri. Students beginning a new term.
- 13th Sat. Martin speaking at Lancaster University.
- 14th Sun. The ministry of Dennis Ball to-day.
- 15th Mon. Young Wives speaking at Coffee Club to-day.
- 16th Tues. Work of the Pastoral Committee.
- 17th Wed. Those out of work.
- 18th Thur. Lonely, house-bound and depressed.
- 19th Fri. Staff who have a day off to-day.
- 20th Sat. Work of Tear Fund.
- 21st Sun. Hunger Lunch to-day.
- 22nd Mon. David and Irene Green and their family.
- 23rd Tues. Barry and Anthea and the girls.
- 24th Wed. The Area Link Groups.
- 25th Thur. The Worship Workshop.
- 26th Fri. Age Concern service this morning.
- 27th Sat. Elders meeting to-day.
- 28th Sun. Pathfinders, Explorers, Sunday School and Creche.
- 29th Mon. Fay in Uganda.
- 30th Tues. Prayer life of our Church.
- 31st Wed. Our three St. John's students.



praise

Je dis tu es mon Dieu, mes destinées sont dans ta main. Psalm 31:14-15.

A verse given to Nesta by a lovely French woman Christian.

A Common Obedience, A Common Goal

A Roman soldier had a daily ration of salt issued to him (sacramentum). In taking it he renewed his allegiance to the Roman Emperor.

As we take the bread and wine we renew our oath of allegiance to our blessed Master. We do so with countless other children of God. It was a joy to meet with some of God's French and Spanish children whilst on a caravan/tent holiday in August.

Royan is a delightful sea-side town on the Atlantic coast of France. The 5 Masons camped à la ferme and on visiting a truly abundant Saturday market we caught sight of a sticker on one of the tills which read, "Read the Bible, it is the Word of God." The ladies stopped their selling to give us directions to their church. It turned out to be Pentecostal and so full that it was standing room only. Visitors had come from every corner of France.. Tongues, interpretations, spiritual songs, prayers and much congregational participation followed. During this time we remembered Our Lord and His death - shoulder to shoulder with our fellow French Christians. Quietness came when the Pastor preached a lovely sermon on spiritual blindness (2 Cor 4) using vivid illustrations from Isaac,

Eli, and other Bible characters. There was happy conversation at the close in a mixture of French, Spanish and English.

We were glad we had stayed on for the week-end in France before going on to Navarra.

Over the mountains and into Pamplona from where we phoned our English/Spanish missionary friends in Madrid. They gave us the addresses of two Bretheron churches in Zaragoza which was to be our next week-end stop. We decided to go to the older one where my (Nesta's) father had made many visits when working as a missionary, writer, and teacher in Barcelona. In spite of the 'Cierco' (a strong dust-laden wind) we enjoyed Zaragoza and on Sunday we joined our Spanish friends in the Lord's Supper. They gave us a loving welcome and although there were some signs of rigidity the Lord was there and blessed us together. We were shown a lovely photo of Father tucked away in one of the ladies' handbags and were also told of the continual hard struggle in evangelism against Mariolatary.

From Aragon we went on to Catalonia to the Eastern Pyrenees. We very much wanted to camp on top of Monseny, but the steep winding rock track defeated our valiant caravan and the jockey wheel broke. On turning the caravan round it went perilously near the edge, Simon and Lois pitched their strength against it and held it back from disaster. Finally we arrived at the bottom of the mountain shaken and dehydrated!

The Lord had gone before and prepared for us a place in a lovely shady campsite at the foot of hills, near the sea and near to Barcelona, my old home. Daniel and Christina with their two little ones had a caravan next to ours. We became friends and Daniel repaired the broken jockey wheel; maybe one day they will visit us in England. Simon and Julian were known as

'Los Ingleses' and were swept in to play football on most evenings. The prestige of Forest had gone before them!

N.P. Much building has gone on in Barcelona since our last visit and it was difficult to find the Verdun church but with the help of the local market people, the postman and the hairdresser we found it and were able to get to the 10 am Communion Service the following day. This was the church where Father and the Elders had dedicated Simon to the Lord when he was 5 months old on one of our leaves from Nigeria. It was no doubt the highlight of our holiday. 17 years had passed, the church looked cleaner and felt cooler. Ourselves and our friends were older but with the passing years our love for the Lord has grown stronger and as the bread and wine were passed from hand to hand so once again we joined in a common obedience and having a common goal to go out and tell of His love for us.

The work in Barcelona has grown. When I was nursing there in 1954 there were 10-12 churches, now there are double that number. The young men who were Father's students are now Elders and able Bible teachers. They have moved houses so as to be near the young churches for which they have care and responsibility.

No os enganeis: Dios no prede ser burlado; porque lo que el hombre sembrare eso tambien segará, Gal. 6:7

This was part of Father's last message to the Verdun church on leaving Barcelona for Madrid.



PRAYER

Poem by Julian - St. Nic's in Pamplona

Golden ornate effigies
Carved out of darkness;
They have mouths, but do they talk?
Spiritlessness hangs heavy on
The forgotten golden calf
PRAY
That the people of Pamplona will see
The way to the truth and the light.



There will be no Mid-week Lunch after the end of September. It seems the right time to wait for a new vision for outreach to the City Centre workers. We are indebted to the help of those who have catered for us during the past few years. Many will have benefited from the opportunity to eat among Christian friends in the lunch hour and from the challenges and interest of the many speakers, we believe God has a purpose for St. Nicholas' in its site in relation to the many who work nearby and who don't yet know the Good News in their own lives. For that purpose to become clear we may have to wait.

M.W.L.



Children's Page

Christmas



COMPETITION

CHILDREN! Are you good at drawing.....or designing.....or writing?

As the song goes, "Christmas is coming....." (not for ages unfortunately, you say) but we, or rather, you need to get your pens and paper together now.

This competition is to design a Christmas card in a clear, simple, bold pattern using one colour only, on a white ground. It could be a star, Christmas tree, a word like NOEL in fancy lettering - in fact anything which could be printed into an attractive greetings card.

The winners, one from each age group) will have their designs printed and made into cards to sell in aid of Tear Fund. Could you please do your designs on a piece of paper measuring 6"x 3½", use only one colour, put your name and age on the back and hand it to Irene Offord by October 21st.

Age groups: up to 7 years
8 - 11 years
12 - 15 years

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

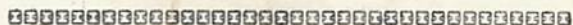
- 10.45 a.m. Morning Worship.
Creche. Climbers. Explorers. Pathfinders.
- 5.20 p.m. Hospital Ward Service
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Worship.
Coffee is served in Church after the Service

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.
- Coffee Club Wednesdays 10.15 a.m.



The purchase of this folder contributed to the welfare of a handicapped child through the Bible Lands Society - a registered charity founded in 1854 by the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. Interdenominational. Supports 20 Homes for handicapped and deprived children in the Lands of the Bible by voluntary donations, individual child sponsorship and testamentary bequests by wills.

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