

The fruit
of the Spirit
is love,
joy,
peace,
long-suffering,
gentleness,
goodness,
faith,
meekness,
temperance.

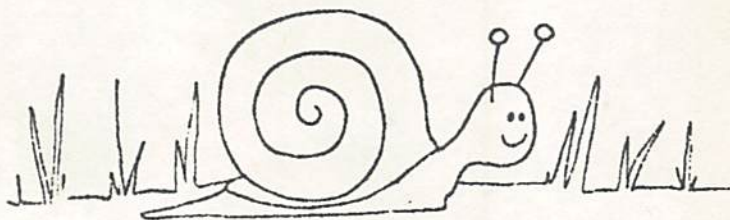
GALATIANS 5:22,23

St. Nicholas News

November 1979

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november



patience.... I'm coming Lord

30, Barrack Lane,
The Park,
Nottingham.

Our dear Friends,

As we have walked through a time of perplexity over the past few weeks, we have been discovering anew that the Lord is patient. When we question Him about what He is doing to us, He stands by and lovingly and patiently waits for us to grope towards the solution to that question.

The work at St. Nic's has grown in every area over the past few years and it is thrilling to see what God is doing in and through His Church here. We have been conscious this summer, that we stand at a cross-roads in the growth of the Church. Much has happened - far more needs to happen. The question we have had to face is: "Are we the people to take the Church through this next phase?" During the summer months it was suggested to us that we apply for the post of Warden of the Scargill Community. After much heart-searching and prayer, we followed up this suggestion, but now, in fact, that door has been closed to us. We want you to know this so that you can pray for us as we re-commit ourselves to the work here. The application was not made lightly, nor from any form of restless desire to leave Nottingham. Through it, God has taught us to hold lightly to possessions, friendships,

even fellowship, and to be prepared to follow Him wherever He leads. "I want you to be willing to say Yes", He seemed to be challenging us. And so, we reached the stage of being willing to stay and willing to go. It is a privilege to think of staying for a further time of ministry here with the fine team God is giving us:-

Mike and Martin and Anne and the Elders and Wardens and so many others poised for service. All of us now need to be seeking a fresh vision from God about His way forward into the next few months. Will you join us in prayer and listening to God, that our Church may be truly effective?

With the uncertainty about Scargill hanging over our heads, a further question mark was added to us in the form of the possibility of surgery for Joyce. Praise God, this now seems unnecessary, though a couple of nights in hospital are required in November. We have shared the details of this with some of you and have felt tremendously supported, loved and understood by those of you who have stood by and helped. This has shown us again in a tangible way, how privileged we are to be members of the Body of Christ. Joyce was sitting in the Waiting Room of the hospital next to another out-patient. Feeling wonderfully supported by the love of those who were praying for her at that moment, she was shattered to discover that the woman next to her had been unable to share her anxieties and fears about the forthcoming operation with anyone, even with her husband. She was literally alone in her world of fear and pain. In Christ, this need never be: we have the Friend Who is ever-constant alongside us and His love flows through others and though we may sometimes still feel on an island, the waters swishing round that island, are the waters of divine love.

So, we, who delight to live six months ahead of ourselves, have been pruned right back in recent days to attempt once again to learn the vital lesson of living one day at a time. When we have succeeded, each day, with its portion of

perplexity, pain and delight to be savoured, has felt like a new gift from God. This prayer has meant a great deal to us. Maybe it will speak to others too:-

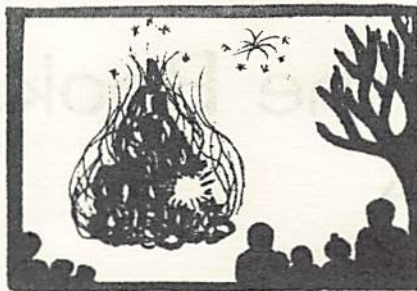
THE PRAYER OF THE CHALICE

Father, to Thee I raise my whole being
a vessel emptied of self. Accept Lord
this my emptiness, and so fill me
with Thy Self, Thy Light, Thy
Love, Thy Life, that these Thy
precious gifts may radiate
through me and overflow
the chalice of my heart
into the hearts of all
with whom I come in
contact this week,
revealing
unto
them
the
beauty of Thy
Joy
and
the
serenity
of Thy Peace
which nothing can destroy

Receiving Communion in a Church outside of Nottingham recently, I was interested to see how battered was the chalice they were using. Strangely, it seemed to have had beauty added to it with the dents and wearing of years of use. Pray that those of us in the fellowship who are experiencing the battering of circumstances, may likewise come through as those who have been refined into His likeness.

With our love,

David and Joyce



Family Pages

PASTORAL GROUP FEEDBACK

The Pastoral Group has met twice and is beginning to get its teeth into the work of deploying new people into the St. Nicholas' activities. Several issues have been dealt with through the Group's discussions.

If you feel there are ideas, criticisms (constructive, thought-through ones, please) or comments do feed them into the Group through the following people. The representation of activities will grow as these different areas emerge and begin to take on identity.

Jo Chandler	Worship Workshop
Chinese Fellowship	
Mike Marshall	CYFA Evangelism
Irene Offord	Linkmen, Missionary Committee
Sinclair Payne	Hospital Ward Service
Cathy Pullinger	Creche, Banner-making, Dance/ Mime
Mike and Fi Shouler	Sunday School, Drama
Peggy Wright	Coffee Club, Monday Fellowship

Martin Winbolt Lewis
Chairman.



the Bookstall

The church bookstall has been recently restocked, so do take a look at what is on sale.

The money for this goes in the green wall safe round the corner from the bookstall nearer the church entrance.

If you have read a book which you might be helpful to others and which might usefully be on sale there, do have a word with Sue Wrighton. Paperbacks are most appropriate as they fall within most people's pockets.

Baby-sitting

Irene Offord and Martin Winbolt Lewis both have a list of those who have expressed an interest in baby-sitting for families.

If you need a baby-sitter do find out who some of the likely candidates are.

If you have volunteered your services but find that this is now impractical, please tell Irene or Martin who can cross you off the list.

Judith Roberts is happily settling down in London.

Her address is:-

39 FERNHURST ROAD,
LONDON SW6 7JN.

Tel: 01-736-8773

Harvest The Church was beautiful again for Harvest. Thank you, those who decorated and those who made the striking banner, all adding to our joyful worship on that day. The Harvest Supper too, was a relaxing and delightful occasion. Thank you Mike for your organisation, the West Bridgford group for planning the catering and the St. Nic's caberet artistes, not forgetting



Congratulations to JO CHANDLER whose new round "Give thanks to the Lord" has been selected for inclusion in a new Christian Song-book. More please! (Ed.)

Tony and Janet.

Tony is to start work with Dr. Barnardo's in Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, as an Assistant Architect in their busy architects' department, on 22nd October.

Barnardo's have a large programme of childcare projects throughout the country, and Tony will be joining the team of architects responsible for the design and maintenance of the homes and carecentres etc.

While we await the long mortgage-getting process to be undertaken for a house in Leyton, E. London, Tony will be finding temporary accommodation and Janet will remain in our Nottingham flat.

Janet is currently applying for jobs, and has been undergoing the gruelling procedure for a post in the Civil Service! In the meantime she is continuing her M. Phil research part-time.

We wish to say a big thankyou for all the Fellowship God has given us during our 3 years in St. Nicholas, and look forward to continued fellowship by post and through visits. We will let you have our address when we know it ourselves!



Christmas

BAZAAR

NOV: 7 : 2.0 p.m.

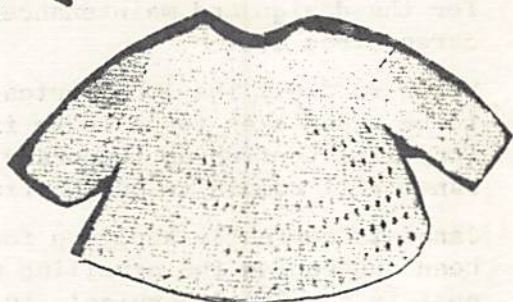


Plants



Cakes

fancy
goods



clothes

in

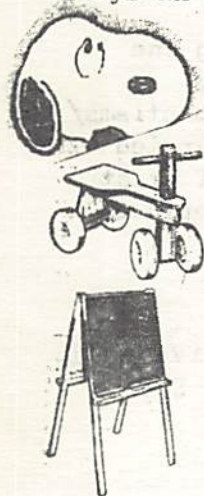
Church Hall.

ALL CHANGE

Canon Angus Inglis leaves St. Peter's Church this month. We wish him and his wife a very happy retirement and a well-earned rest. I remember my first contact with Canon Inglis. It was the night of David's Institution as Rector of St. Nicholas'. As we were getting ready for the service marking the beginning of our ministry here, the telephone rang. "Go to your back door and listen" said the un-known voice. The bell-ringers of St. Peter's are welcoming you to Nottingham! What a welcoming gesture - and now we say farewell to them and welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. Malcolm Goldsmith.

Paul Watts, the Chaplain of the Poly. has been a good friend of ours over the years and we have enjoyed working alongside him. Our prayers and support are with him as he takes up his new work as Vicar of All Saints in Nottingham.

Frank Wright Changes too, for the Wright family as Frank has now retired. This is a good opportunity to thank Frank and Peggy for their untiring service in so many areas of the work at St. Nic's over so many years. How many people give thanks for the hospitality of their home, their warmth, their advice. Retirement isn't always an easy time. Let's pray for them.



HELP! WANTED!
Toys and books for
0-5 years

(for Coffee Club.)

Charges
for



the Weston Family

Theo, having passed his 2nd M.B. this summer, is now starting his clinical studies at Charing Cross - i.e. donning white coat, stethoscope etc.

Cecilia, arrived in Edinburgh on Monday last to begin a 3 year degree course in Music.

Penny, leaves on Saturday to work in a Dr. Barnardo's Home in Backingside, Ilford, for Disabled Children from 4/12. There are 60 children divided into smaller 'Home groups' and Penny will be working as a volunteer in one of the smaller groups.

Georgie, just starting the 2nd year of A level work (French, German and Biology) - not to mention working for Ballet exam, piano and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH EDMONTON

It was very good recently to hear from MIKE PARSONS, now Curate of the above Church. He writes:

Life is quite hard here, I'm feeling the strain of running CYFA, Pathfinders etc., especially as we have a lot of weddings/baptisms/funerals. This year I've baptised 40, Married 12, and buried 48 - and I'm not doing most of it at all! We really can't follow up these people on our own, but where are the lay people ?^d

TIM AND BARBARA OAKLEY now working in Liverpool, send their love to all their friends at St. Nicholas'.

With TEAR FUND

As some of my friends at St. Nic's know, this summer I spent $4\frac{1}{2}$ weeks in Cyprus as part of a small team on a TEAR Fund work project. We were based at Limassol in the "Greek" part of the island, which since 1974 has been partitioned of course, and this has brought a lot of suffering. It was with the needs of the refugees that TEAR Fund first came to send resources to aid the local Christian effort there.

We were helping at decorating etc. the "boarding house" of a Christian school. This work is now virtually completed, and the extended building opens this term. It was a marvellous experience and privilege, and we got on well as a team. A local builder who was converted a few months ago lived with us, and supervised our efforts. It was quite an education and challenge to live with the Cypriot mind!

The work was hard and demanding but it helped me appreciate the sort of good TEAR Fund does in a world where needs exist. Living there, even for a short time, one became familiar with the local Christian set-up. A remarkable living - by faith is exhibited by many we met, including the headmaster of the school, Levan Yergatian, who began the work on an act of faith.

It made me think that we rely on sophistication and trappings in our modern life style, and that is necessary to some extent, but "without faith, it is impossible to please God". Some, Christians in Cyprus pray believing, and it works! I have found trying to live by faith difficult as we all do probably, if we are honest, but although prudence and common sense are important, faith in what God can do does seem worthwhile to try to cultivate. Faith that God who began to look after us will carry on until the work is complete.

Pete Chaplin.

december events

15th Dec. 8 p.m.

Flat 2, 9 Pelham Cres

Old hands will need no introduction to the "Pressie Party", which has been going strong for 4 years now. In brief, to prevent mass bankruptcy amongst St. Nic's folk at Christmas we organise a party around a simple present "lucky" dip. In previous years everyone has bought a present and food and drink and it has been pot luck.

This year however, ORGANISATION has struck. The rules of the game this year are this:

- (a) Buy a ticket from Maggie Barwick, Judy Shaw, Di Bratt, Diedre Offord or Fi Shuler, (about 50p - to cover food, soft drinks, tea, coffee).

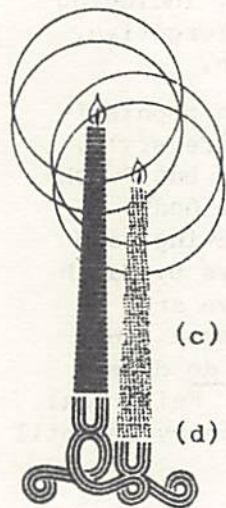


- (b) Buy a present suitable for Him (if you're a Him), for Her (if you're a Her), or for Them (if you're a couple that wants a joint present) - value about £1.25.

(We then have 3 present bags and Father Christmas - or an exciting substitute - will distribute from each as is appropriate. Believe or not, if the rules are adhered to, not too many blokes get bath salts and tights!)

- (c) Wrap it and bring it, together with a -

- (d) Bottle or can of your favourite beverage (optional)

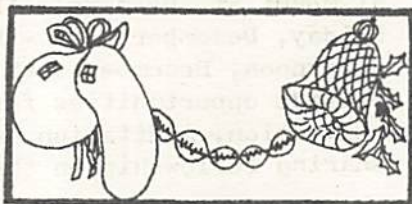


But that is not all.....

- (e) Come dressed in an American Theme !

Yes, this year, it's fancy dress ! and please, we do not want 100 cowboys and squaws. Imaginative efforts will be rewarded at the end of the party. So start getting your thinking caps on - and buy tickets early as they will be limited to 120.

Maggie Barwick.



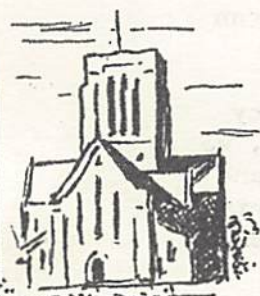
wanted

Are you able to offer any suitable ACCOMMODATION?

Thomas Bjerkholt, who works as a student pastor in Trondheim, Norway is looking for accommodation for himself, his wife and 3 children (8, 6 and 3 years of age) for six months from January to June, 1980. He will be studying at St. John's and doing something with the Shaftesbury Project. Do you know of a flat? - something that could serve as a flat? - simply furnished and basic cooking possibilities available?

PLEASE SEE DAVID HUGGETT OR JULIA POPP if you are able to offer any help.

preparing for Christmas



**MOUNT
SAINT
BERNARD
ABBAY**

Do you sometimes long for a leisurely time to drink in what it really means for God to send His only Son in the form of a baby, with all that that means in terms of helplessness and vulnerability? Do you long for time to be still, and in awe" so that as the facts of the first Christmas can take on a new meaning for you today? We are organising a Quiet week-end at Mount St. Bernard's Abbey from Friday, December 14th - Sunday afternoon, December 16th to provide opportunities for quiet reflection, meditation, and sharing fellowship on the theme:-

**GOD WANTS TO BE
FOUND**



Further details available from Joyce.

review



I SAW HEAVEN OPENED - THE MESSAGE OF
REVELATION by Michael Wilcock
(1975) IVP, London. £2.65.

Many Christians find the book of Revelation the most difficult of all the New Testament. It is very different from the Gospels or Epistles, and much of it does not seem to make sense. It was Michael Wilcock's book that opened up the book of Revelations to me so that I could not only make sense of the whole thing but also see how the bits I had understood already fitted into a wider context.

Michael Wilcock shows how Revelation is not a treatise on systematic theology, but rather a picture book. What it portrays is the drama of the world as it looks from the standpoint of heaven. This drama has seven scenes, each drawing out a different aspect of God's dealings with the world, followed by an eighth scene of the new Jerusalem when the old heaven and earth have passed away. Many of the scenes are to do with God's judgement; if we do not like this we perhaps have to enlarge our vision of God to take it in.

Revelation does not give us any new doctrines which may not be found in other parts of the Bible; rather it gives us a series of images to illustrate the doctrines, giving scope for our imaginations to glimpse what cannot be put into words. Thanks to Michael Wilcocks book I now find Revelation really revealing: one of the most exciting and challenging books of the Bible.

Peter Mott.



Prayer Diary ○○○○

November

- Thursday 1st Elders at Willersley Castle today.
Friday 2nd Pat Dearnley and his work in London.
Saturday 3rd Nigel and Ruth Jukes in S. Africa.
Sunday 4th Our Worship today.
Monday 5th Catalyst Christian Rock Group.
Tuesday 6th Coffee Club Bazaar tomorrow.
Wednesday 7th Martin speaking at Clifton C.U.
Thursday 8th Tony Field having an operation on his knee today.
Friday 9th Mike and Rosie and their work.
Saturday 10th Our candidates for Confirmation tomorrow.
Sunday 11th Joyce speaking to the Chinese Fellowship today.
Monday 12th Women's Fellowship meet today.
Tuesday 13th Group meetings on Tuesday evenings.
Wednesday 14th Some of CYFA Group doing 'O' Levels this week.
Thursday 15th Barry and Anthea in Peru.
Friday 16th The work of TEAR Fund.
Saturday 17th Festival of Praise at Hose with music group today.
Sunday 18th Climbers, Explorers, Pathfinders and CYFA Groups.
Monday 19th Joyce goes into hospital this week.
Tuesday 20th Lyn and Elaine in Nigeria.
Wednesday 21st Pray for safety for Fay in Uganda.
Thursday 22nd Area Link Groups and their leaders.
Friday 23rd David and Irene Green in Kenya.
Saturday 24th Students at the University, Poly and Clifton.
Sunday 25th Those leading our worship today.
Monday 26th Bluecoat School Prize-giving today.
Tuesday 27th Staff meeting this morning.
Wednesday 28th Housebound, aged, depressed.
Thursday 29th Our three St. John's students.
Friday 30th Martin speaking at Cambridge.
Saturday 31st Elders meeting this morning.

BE STILL....

(Written on a Quiet Day in Belper.)



If you would know me, my child, be still - I
will not hurt or harm you, I have you safe
And yet you are afraid.

My yoke is easy - come with me.

I long to come close to you, to walk and talk
with you,

But the busyness of your life makes it
difficult for us to meet.

Your anxieties, your fears, the fretting of
your mind - your hopes, your longings,
your memories, your regrets,
take you away from me - for -

I am here, and I am now,

I do know you, deeply, intimately, and completely
and my love for you surrounds and encompasses
this knowledge.

So give up your busyness - which is like the
dead wood on old trees that bar your way from
the forest to the highroad - give it up.

Listen - watch - and be still.

Here - I Am.



ST NICHOLAS WORLD



When I posted the letter to Fay at Heathrow late in June, I was on my way to Kenya as a summer volunteer with Africa Inland Mission, I did not expect to meet up with her though, but after a few weeks news filtered through from the West Bridgford groups, and soon from Fay herself, that she hoped to spend a fortnight in Nairobi in August.

Boasting its own Hilton and revolving restaurant on the twenty-eighth floor of the impressive Kenyatta Conference Centre, Nairobi has a skyline to compete with any W. European capital. So it was no surprise when Fay experienced more culture shock in coming to Nairobi than first impressions of Uganda engendered. Seven months unusage to cars whizzing along open roads, combined with her confessed phobia of crossing roads, made us a hazard to Nairobi drivers as we never agreed on the moment to "go"! More culture-shock to follow: We dined at Buffalo Bill's in a covered, arrow-pierced wagon, where we were served giant hamburgers on wooded platters by John Wayne - style waiters, not forgetting the country and western accompaniment.

For Fay, Muyebe Girls School over the last few months has been synonymous with fear and tension. Despite it all, she has known God at work in a new way in her life and has been excited and comforted by the peace of heart and calm spirit He has given. Natural apprehension at returning to Uganda was overcome by a deep conviction of Gods will so that nothing else mattered. However, she valued

immensely her two-week rest and a possible six weeks around Nottingham over Christmas will be valued as never before. Letters are a lifeline and the thrill of receiving them far outweigh the time and effort taken to write them, so keep them coming. Mind you, she kept me up-to-date with St. Nic's news and more than one person has told me since returning that church news is sometimes broken by Fay! Jungle post!

It was super to link up Fay with the Green family. She felt really at home with them and I also enjoyed meeting the faces behind the names. Though I did not meet all of them - Rosalind just made her appearance in mid-September! Andrew now has three sisters to contend with. For me it was a real privilege to see our overseas missionaries on their 'home ground'.



A Prayer for Renewal:

O Lord, renew our spirits and draw our hearts to Yourself, that our work may not be to us a burden, but a delight; and give us such a mighty love for You to sweeten every task.



DAVID WIDDOWS

Manchester,
25.9.79.

Dear David and Joyce,

There is a two month delay in my house being agreed upon by the council, so I am starting off living with the Rector and his family!! The rectory is quite like Barrack Lane with a very similar view from my window. Seems a good way to begin.

I don't think I ever wrote to thank anyone at St. Nick's for your generous parting gift of £25. Bob Marlowe gave it to me. Anyway, I am very grateful for it and have already spent it on books.

I hope all is well with you, the church and Kevin and Christina as you start the next lap.

With much love,
David.



Norfolk Lodge,
2a Coley Avenue
Reading,
Berks.

23.Sept., 1979

Dear David and Joyce,

I have settled in Reading well, and after much prayer and heart searching I know that God wants me to go to "Greyfriars". My accommodation and travelling is working out very well and school is fine - apart from my lab. It is called the

"outpost" and adjoins the R.E. room (This constitutes a 2 room "Bungalow Block") Please pray that my life may be a real testimony to the Lord. The Lab. has gas (when you can turn the mains on - then it leaks) and 3 water taps - one of which is out of action because a 4th year pulled the tap off, facturing the pipe, during practical! Apart from minor incidents, my Father has put me in a wonderful place; the scenery

here is quite beautiful and I feel very privileged to be here.

Well, I must away. Thank you for all that you did for me last year - it was the first time in my life that anyone ministered pastorally to me.

With love in Him,

Liz (Haydon)



LATEST NEWS

We are sorry to learn that HILDA WOOD has been very poorly. We have missed her at Church and at the Women's Fellowship. Please pray for her as she recovers in her new home.



Wanted...

One member of the fellowship has just moved to a new home. She is in need of a piano and two dressing tables. Three people are still hoping for offers of bicycles! See Joyce!

feb

The first weekend in February is our parish weekend. *Book early!*

I'M SORRY!

SO SORRY, LORD

The most effective way to live an impoverished Christian life is to live with unconfessed sin! Charles Holman, in a helpful sermon on Psalm 51, shows how sin affected the life of the Psalmist. We go on to look at what sin does to our lives, and what Jesus wants to do about it. This is an area we dare not ignore.....



The Psalms are inspired poems which mirror the deepest concerns, joys, disappointments and hopes of the human spirit. For this reason they have been recognised as timeless and have been greatly treasured by the Church for centuries. It has rightly been said that "No single book of Scripture not even the New Testament, has, perhaps ever taken such a hold on the heart of Christendom". Seven Psalms are generally known as penitential Psalms. The best known of these is Psalm 51. Perhaps it is because our need for forgiveness is frequent that the Church has so eagerly embraced this Psalm. I believe that it was F.B.Meyer who said that the mark of a Christian is not that he never sins, but that he soon repents. For that purpose Psalm 51 is precious to us. According to ancient Hebrew tradition, the Psalm is David's prayer after his sin with Bathsheba was exposed by the prophet Nathan. However, as one commentator has said; it is profoundly appropriate "as the voice of the penitent soul in all ages." So what does the Psalm have to say to us?

FORGIVENESS BEGINS WITH AWARENESS OF GOD'S MERCY

Verse 1 The awareness of God's mercy

The cry for mercy is rooted in a deep recognition of the character of God. How do we know what God is like? He has revealed Himself supremely in Jesus Christ Who is full of grace and truth.

God is gracious: He is Merciful

This is the first thing we see about God in our text (verse 1). But we cannot really appreciate the mercy of God until we have shuddered at his holiness.

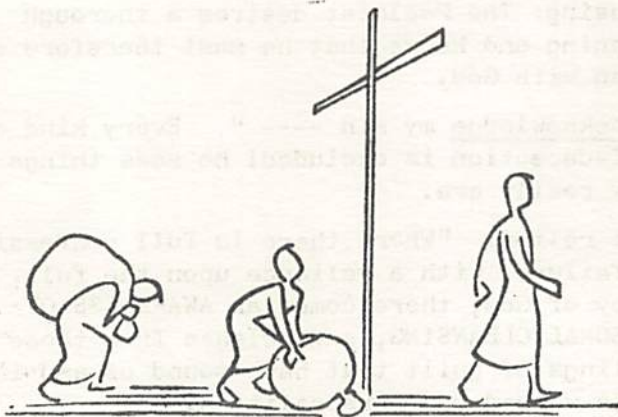
What is the meaning of God's holiness? Basically it is

the glory

the transcendence of Being.

His perfections infinitely surpass all that is earthly. "God's holiness is the absolute glory of His Being which is so completely different that man cannot stand before it." (Vriezen).

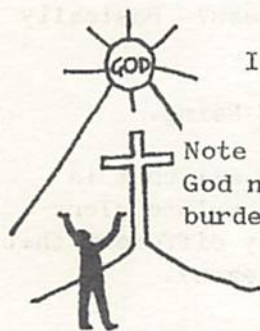
But God is also gracious. That is where heaven touches earth and forms A CROSS. His forgiveness means more than we shall ever know in this world, because He is holy.



God is for us: for us who, in ourselves are against Him. He is for us, not only in a general sort of way: He has effectively acted on our behalf. Grace is summoned up in the Name, Jesus Christ. We can therefore afford to bare ourselves to a God like that! He sees us anyway (Heb. 4.13)

"Before Him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." But He is also our great High Priest: Let us therefore with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Forgiveness begins with an AWARENESS OF GOD'S MERCY, a Holy, but Gracious God: the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



II Awareness of Personal Sin

Note the burden of guilt in v. 36 of the Psalm. God never intended us to carry this kind of burden. Jesus says: "My burden is light"!

What is the answer?

Full confession!

v 3 - Full, definite confession.

Here there is no sign of a "cover up", no excusing: The Psalmist desires a thorough cleaning and knows that he must therefore come clean with God.

"I acknowledge my sin ---- " Every kind of self-deception is excluded! he sees things as they really are.

What relief! "Where there is full confession of failure, with a reliance upon the full, free mercy of God, there comes an AWARENESS OF PERSONAL CLEANSING, and release from those feelings of guilt that have bound us and in some cases warped our personalities.

III. The Results?

v 8 - renewed joy and gladness.

v 13 - effective ministry to others. We can go through the motions of Christian service, but, if that spontaneous joy in the Lord is missing, we are ineffective. This is the difference between enduring our religion and enjoying the Lord!

v 15 - a life of praise.



WHAT CLOSES OUR LIPS?

GUILT!

WHAT OPENS THEM?

THE LORD AS HE
FORGIVES!

Is it worth being honest with God? There is so much deception and dishonesty in the world. Let us be the salt of the earth, as we show the way back to God by walking in truth, unafraid to admit our failures to God or man, because we have a God who will not fail us!

Pray...

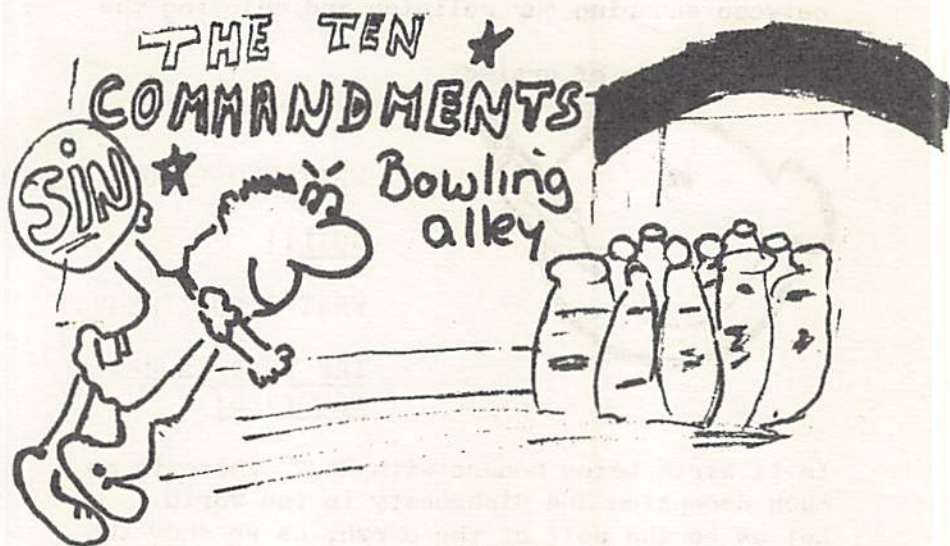
As soon as we know we have sinned we need to learn to cry to the Lord:

SIN! SIN! SIN! HELP! HELP! HELP!

And then learn the next important step which is to receive His free forgiveness without nursing a sense of guilt. Be more aware of God's goodness than your badness. Be more conscious of the joy He has in forgiving you, than the sorrow in your heart that you have failed Him again.

SIN!

What sin is



I sin when I come short of God's glory or of the standard he sets (Romans 3.23).

I sin when I refuse to put my trust in Jesus Christ (John 16.9).

I sin when I don't do things I should do (James 4.17) — not caring for others as much as for myself, doing little or nothing to help lonely, unhappy, or foreign people, not bothering to find out God's plan for my life.

I sin when I do not love God with *all* my heart (Matthew 22.37-38).



I sin when I live for myself rather than for God. I sin when I say 'I'm my own boss, it's my own life, I can do what I like with it' (Isaiah 53.6).

What sin does

SIN SPOILS

SIN SEPARATES

There is one thing that really scares me,
It chills me when I think about it;
the thought of being without You.
Without You!

God, it chokes me even to say it.

It's a big thing I ask
and I have no right to ask it
but I know You are merciful
and I am broken, God.

My spirit that was so proud
my heart that was so fierce and lusty
broken now.

God, give me back all I had before,
before I forgot I was Yours.

— Robert Yule, Edinburgh



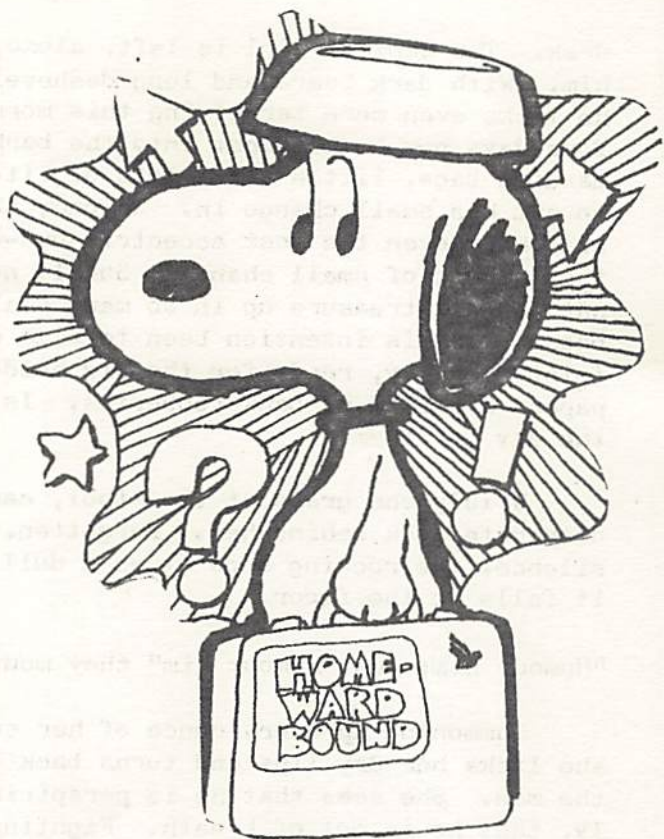
THE NIGHTMARE

I had been burdened with a sense of guilt and failure for some weeks.....One night I dreamt we were driving along in our car, behind a green lorry. Frustrated at following the slow-moving vehicle, we pulled out and overtook. In over-taking where we did, it had been impossible to detect that the lorry driver was about to pull out to avoid a parked car. The driver, because of our carelessness, was now faced with a decision..... to pull out, as necessary and crash into the side of our car, or to steer his lorry into the ditch on the other side of the road. In that numb split-second of decision-making time, he did not hesitate. With determination, he drove his lorry into the ditch. There was a deafening scrunch of folding metal, the terrifying noise of shattering glass and then.....a deathly hush. Dazed, drunk with shock, we stumbled to the crashed lorry and stared at the body of the driver as it slumped from the cab to the grass verge. "He's.....dead!" my strangled voice offered hopelessly. As I stood rooted to that blood-stained spot, I saw his face..... blood stained as it was, I knew it was HIM..... Jesus?

- He chose to die in my place!



HOLD UP ?



The day is clear; the morning early. No one in the bank has fully woken up. Two girls chat about last night's television programme, while their male counterpart struggles surreptitiously unsuccessfully with a recalcitrant piece of breakfast bacon lodged between his teeth. The newest, and therefore, by definition, the most conscientious member of the staff, opens up her cash point and waits for the first customer, one shoe swinging idly on the end of a toe, as she leans against her stool.

Suddenly, the door flies open, letting in a chill wind. But it is not the draught of cold air that transforms and transfixes the four inside. It's HIM again! TV and bacon alike totally forgotten, the chatting pair and their boss fall instantly silent, trying to move inconspicuously back-ward towards the cloakrooms and the safety of the emergency exit behind the

desk. The hapless girl is left, alone, to face him. With dark beard and long deshevelled hair, he looks even more terrifying this morning. For four days now he has burst into the bank, demanding bags, little bags, lots of little bags to put his small change in. No one, they have reasoned, even the most eccentric nut-case, has that amount of small change. Surely nobody gathers his treasure up in so many small coin bags. Has his intention been to size up the joint each day, ready for the big hold-up? The papers are full of bank robberies. Is today the day for them?

Wildly she grabs at the stool, casting a desperate look behind her. Forgotten, in the silence, the rocking shoe gives a dull plop as it falls to the floor.

"Humour him; just humour him" they mouth to her.

Summoning up every ounce of her courage, she licks her dry lips and turns back to face the man. She sees that he is perspiring slightly, that he is out of breath. Fighting panic she tries not to think of the size of gun that he must have in that hand below the counter, to make him puff and blow like this.

She pushes her slipping glasses up her damp nose and whispers: "Can I help you? He grins: "Today's the end, all finished now," he announces firmly. "Oh no," she moans, "Oh no!" He appears not to have heard; and with a final dramatic lurch, lunges forward at her and thrusts a huge bag onto the counter. As her dis-trought mind changes direction from "guns" to "bonbs", he begins to take out all the little bags he has been borrowing all week. They are now all filled with - can it be? yes - half-pennies! Bagload after bagload lies up on the counter. With a triumphant flourish he deposits the last little bag before her bemused eyes. "£15.47¹/₂p." he states. I think you'll find that's correct." Mutely, she nods, as the door once more flies open, and he is gone.

A nutter, the weirdest kind of nomismatician or just a harmless freak? Maybe none of these; maybe, at times, all three. But if you would like to add to the collection of $\frac{1}{2}$ p's, please look for the jar at the back of church. They all get added up regularly (the bank staff will grow accustomed in time) and the money sent to Tearfund. PLEASE DO CARRY ON FILLING UP THE JAR. Thank you for your support.



'Nobody likes asking for money Mrs Higgins, but we just *have* to overcome our shyness.'

TEAR
The European Alliance Against Hunger
FUND

HALF THE WORLD HUNGRY...

Today Jesus longs for us to share what we have, so that no-one is hungry but all have enough.

