

**HE
IS
RISEN!**

St. Nicholas News

April 1980

Price 10p. (O.A.P.'s 5p.)



30, Barrack Lane,
The Park,
Nottingham.

April, 1980.

Our dear Friends,

As Spring bursts into life clothed in all its delicacy and glory, eagerly our hearts await the arrival of Easter, the high-light of the Church's year. The meditations in this edition of the magazine show that those who prepare themselves during Lent are those who most joyously greet the arrival of the Day of Resurrection. May we be found prepared, trained, cleansed, ready to re-commit ourselves to the Risen, Glorified Lord, when Easter Day arrives.

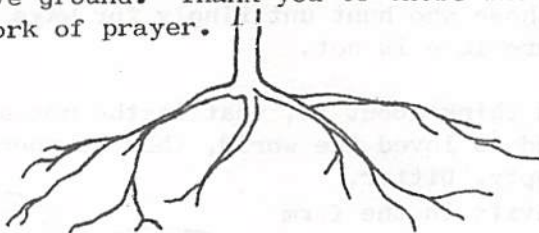
Hilary Holden (plus family, I gather) worked with creative energy to produce last month's magazine. It feels good to work in partnership with her while other pressures squeeze out time and energy here at Barrack Lane. Please keep us informed of news which others might like to read in St. Nicholas' News.

This month our thoughts and prayers focus on Peter Mott and Anne Kirwan as they celebrate their wedding on Easter Monday. They have just under three months here in Nottingham before moving up to Hull where Peter will serve his first Curacy. That adds up to a series of big adjustments: new job, new home, new town, new relationship. Our love for them can express itself in loving, upholding prayer as they enter each new phase with one another and with the Risen Lord.

Last month, we emphasised the need to pray for the mission to the University. God gave great encouragement to Roger Forster, the missionary, Assistant missionaries and students alike. Over thirty students appear to have committed their lives to a way of service of God; Christians who had grown cold in their discipleship responded to the challenge to renew their



own commitment, and many came under the influence of the felt love of Christ. One moving occasion occurred on Ash Wednesday. The Communion Service in the University Chapel, which is 'underground' focussed intercessory prayer on the work of the mission. Upstairs, the drama group were performing, bringing the good news in visual form to bystanders. It seemed like a tree; winding round, the roots of prayer sought nourishment which would feed the fruit-bearing tree above ground. Thank you to those who took part in the work of prayer.

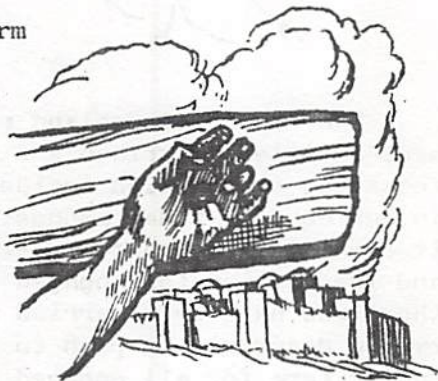


The Church of England recently published a document entitled "Marriage and the church's task". In focussing on the high incidence of marital breakdown in our country today amongst clergy and laity alike, it emphasises a radical re-think about pastoral care and instruction for engaged couples, newly-weds and those who have been married many years. Challenged by the document, we plan to lead a week-end in the summer term for all engaged couples who are interested to prepare themselves to enter more fully and intelligently into God's gift of marriage. The content of the week-end, inevitably, will be drawn from Joyce's nearly-completed book! The emphasis of the week-end will be on partners working together. If you are interested, please speak to one of us.

The Women's World Day of Prayer, an annual event, took place on the first Friday in Lent. The women of Thailand planned the service around the vital theme "Responsible Freedom". Are we using our freedom in Christ responsibly? That challenge applies not just to women, but to men too.

In Christ, we are free to love, free, as Gilbert Shaw puts it so aptly: "to pour love in where love is not". Where in your home, your neighbourhood, society, the Church, do you find gaps in loving? Will you pour love deliberately, calculating the sacrifice to yourself, pour love into loveless places? Homes, neighbourhoods, society could be transformed in that way. In place of the spiral of hatred, bitterness, and violence on which we all spin from time to time, may we be those who hunt untiringly for ways to pour love in where love is not.

If you think about it, that is the message of Easter. God so loved the world, that He poured love into its empty, bitter, confused cavity in the form of His Son, who lifted us from the place of degradation and spiritual deprivation to which we had sunk, carrying away our griefs, sorrow and sin, that we might be co-heirs with Him in the Kingdom of God. Hallelujah!



May we rejoice, then, in the utter joy of the resurrection; our living hope.

With our love,

David and Joyce.

EASTER

AT ST. NICHOLAS'

MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION.

GOOD FRIDAY 12.00pm SERVICE IN CHURCH.

8.00pm VIGIL ON MARKET
SQUARE. RECEIVING
THE CROSS.
Short Service in
Church.



EASTER SATURDAY 9.00am DECORATE the Church
for EASTER.



EASTER DAY

8.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Family Service
6.30pm Holy Communion

He is Risen. Halleluia!



**AROUND
&
ABOUT.**

The Christian Union from the High School depart for Stathern Lodge in Leicestershire on April 14th for a four-day houseparty. Many of our CYFA group will be there. Pray for their safety, for fun and enriching fellowship.

Johnny Wannou was over from Ross Trevor in Ireland recently, helping to lead a mission at Loughborough. It was good to have him at the Tuesday Fellowship once more. Pray for him as he seeks God's will about future plans.

Dave Cutts and Julia Popp both continue to seek God's unfolding plan for their future ministry. Pray for them during their time of uncertainty.

At 9.00am on Easter Saturday help would be appreciated in decorating the Church for the Day of Resurrection. If your gift consists of filling buckets with water, carrying empty jam jars, sweeping the floor after the creative ones have been at work with the flowers, your presence would be welcomed!



NCCF



At the A.G.M. of the Nottingham Chinese Christian Fellowship recently, the outgoing Chairman, Ting, reflected on the past year's work. In doing so, he recorded the thankfulness which the NCCF feel that bridge-building efforts between the fellowship have reaped such dividends. Many Chinese brothers and sisters now worship at St. Nic's. Members of the Church have spoken at various meetings of the NCCF. Chinese New Year celebrations had a distinctly Anglo-Chinese flavour as many St. Nic's tentatively savoured Chinese food, Chinese-style, and so stronger links are forged. The benefits reaped are mutual. Undoubtedly St. Nic's receives enrichment from the enthusiasm, zeal, and Christ-centred love which our Chinese friends pour into the Church Fellowship. Ken Mason, a recently appointed and much-appreciated Advisor to the fellowship strengthens the bridge. Meanwhile Joyce, still awaiting a Chinese name (!), hovers on the side-lines, loving every contact possible with the NCCF. David and Joyce will act in loco parentis at Susan's wedding in June, David having the enormous privilege of "giving away" a Chinese bride!



MRS FOSTER

Mrs Foster died peacefully in the night of March 11th/12th. It still feels hard to take in that fact. A sprightly, twinkling old lady with an endearing smile, her friendship was treasured by so many of us. The wiles of grief are such, that, though we knew she had died, we almost expected to see her bright, immaculate person on her customary seat at Women's Fellowship recently. She contributed so much in her bright, quiet, unassuming way.

In 1897 she was carried from her home in Jassamine Cottages to St. Nicholas' Church and dedicated to God in baptism. After her marriage, she lost contact with St. Nicholas' for some years. Gradually, she found her way back 'home'. At 84, she received major surgery, and, to our amazement emerged from it sparkling with over-flowing life, even excitement. Like a little girl preparing to visit the sea-side, she eagerly anticipated her visit to Sherringham this summer.

Memories of her flood back, all of them good. She was one of God's praying people. Every day, she prayed faithfully for Lizzie Robinson, sometimes more than once per day. Having suffered herself, she was unafraid to touch the pain of others and lovingly identified with Lizzie's agony.

My most cherished memory of her is this. At Women's Fellowship on one occasion, we had meditated on the familiar parable of the lost sheep. Our approach, far from being cerebral, was packed with emotion. We tried to identify with the lost sheep, feeling how he might have felt. Then, the Good Shepherd came along and we entered into the joy of being found. After the meeting had ended, Mrs. Foster confided "That was a wonderful experience for me." Her twinkling eyes contained a remnant of sorrow. "I really became that lost sheep. But I wasn't in a

bush or anything. There I was lying on a hospital bed, all ready for my operation. I felt very alone, as you sometimes do at a time like that. And then, do you know what happened? When you said open your eyes and see the Good Shepherd, I did. I opened my eyes and there He was. I was still in the same place, but now I wasn't alone. He was with me. He picked me up and held me. I felt comforted and supported and I knew it was going to be all right."

She never lost sight of the holding of the Good Shepherd. He remained with her to the end, and so we rejoice that now, she is with Him, which, for her, is far better.

Her loved ones remain to face the empty chair and the selling of their childhood home. Theirs is the grief and the pain. May we pray that they, too, may experience the all-supporting love of the One who so deeply consoled their mother.

For every remembrance of our dear sister in Christ we say:

Thanks be to God!



quiet day

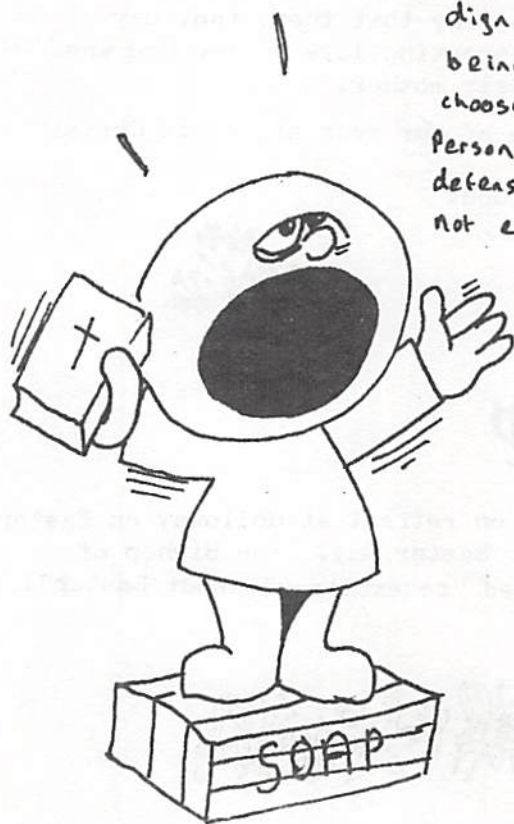
A small group will be on retreat at Holloway on Easter Saturday preparing for Easter Day. The Bishop of Repton has been briefed "to excite us about Easter"!



OUT OF THE SALT- SHAKER

"We think that we must be a little obnoxious in order to be good evangelists. A tension builds up inside: should I be sensitive to people and forget about evangelism, or should I blast them with the gospel and forget about their dignity as human beings? many Christians choose to be aware of the person but then feel defensive and guilty for not evangelising"

R.M.P



"Out of The Saltshaker" by Rebecca Manley Pippert
(I.V.P.)

Rebecca Manley Pippert is an I.V.P. Staffworker in America. "Out of the Saltshaker" is a book which has come about as a result of her own experience in witnessing. The book is not primarily concerned with technique and strategy or 'salesmanship'. Its main concern is to show what it means to live out simply and honestly what we believe. The distinctive feature of the book is the humorous, and ultimately exciting way in which R.M.P. relates her own total failure in witnessing (according to her preconceived ideas) and how that is altered when she allows herself to be herself with God in control. One of the most encouraging things I found in the book was the way in which I could indentify with the author in various circumstances, and because God had used her in those circumstances, I had a growing conviction that He can and wants to use ordinary people in witnessing to Him.

This book is not a manual for those who are committed to evangelism, but rather an encouragement for those who feel inadequate about the whole subject (does anyone not feel inadequate?).

It will be on sale at the back of the church throughout April, price £1.50. There are plenty of copies, do buy one.

M.M.

**Pass the
please!**



Lent

Notes of a sermon given to the Women's Fellowship by Sister Stella Mary OHP in preparation for Lent.

Christmas and Easter are highlights of the Church's year. Both festivals are preceded by days of solemnity during which we prepare ourselves to positively celebrate these peaks of joy.

Lent literally translated means Spring, the time when snowdrops emerge and the loveliness of creation bursts forth. In the Church's calendar, Lent hangs on the Christian festival of Easter. Lenten observance began when Christians decided they wanted to highlight the Easter festival by preceding it with a time of preparation. Prayer and Fasting are essential ingredients of this preparation time.



Before the third century, Lent lasted for only one week. The first mention of a period of forty days appears at the Council of Nicacaea. In 360 AD Christians received a command to prepare for Easter by forty days of fasting, penitence, and prayer. By the end of the fourth century, Lent was observed everywhere. The forty days were closely linked with our Lord's wilderness experience. Christians desired to remain in close union with Him as the days sped on towards Easter.

Fasting was introduced in a big way during the fifth century. Believers were required to fast one day each week. This entailed total abstinence from meat, dairy products and fish. Relaxation of these strict regulations did not come until the ninth century!

Spiritually, Christians prepared themselves by meditating tough things about the Christian life, in this way, sharing with our Lord in His desert experience.

Another facet of Lenten preparation crept in during the fourth century. The idea of Lent as a time of preparation was conceived. Converts from paganism to Christianity were baptised on 'Holy Saturday'; Easter Saturday. They, therefore, spent Lent rigorously training to take their Baptismal vows.



Easter Saturday was set aside as a special day. The whole night was spent in prayer and praise so that Easter Day was greeted, heralded, with a burst of joyful praise.

Since Easter Saturday created an opportunity for believers to re-adopt their Baptismal promises, it developed into an occasion for re-commitment. Easter Sunday, then, was a glorious day of renewal.



What does Lent mean to us today, in the twentieth century?

We, too, may gain great benefits from training rigorously as athletes, though in a spiritual sense. These searching questions might help us in our quest for deeper spiritual relating with God.

Where am I in my relationship to God at the moment?

What does the Lord really mean to me?

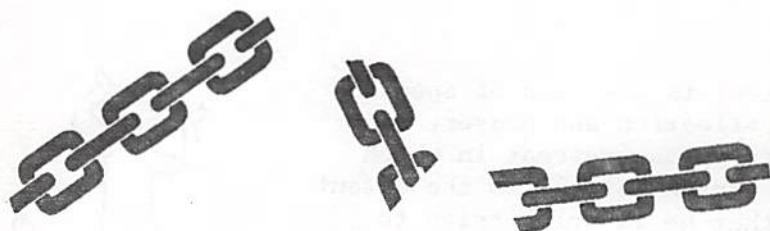
What do my Baptismal vows mean to me at the moment?

The athlete deprives himself of cream buns in order that he might be fit enough to win the race, Fasting, for us, might involve doing without a good old piece of gossip. Deliberately giving time, money, care, over and above our normal giving so that the grace of self-control rules in our hearts.



Lent, too, is a time for returning whole-heartedly to God: "Return to me with your whole heart . . ." says the Lord.

The beginning of Lent encourages us to forget the past, come close to our Lord and be rid of our sins. Shrove Tuesday provides a day for confession. It is a day, too, when bondage to sin, failure, anything which would hinder us in the race, can be clearly severed.



Ash Wednesday then dawns as a holy day. The ashes symbolise the purification of ourselves before God. (Numbers 19.9). They remind us, too, that we, who were formed from dust and ashes will return to that very state. If we are any more than that at this moment in time it is because of what God has made of us. Ash Wednesday is a time for self-examination. How am I using God's gifts of sight, hearing, touch, loving?

Am I revealing by my life that God indeed gives beauty for ashes? (Isaiah 58).





A meditation

Lent is a season of special reflection and prayer, a forty-day retreat in which each Christian, to the extent that he is able, tries to follow Christ into the desert by prayer and fasting.



"The tears of the Christian penitent are real tears, but they bring joy. Only the inner rending, the tearing of the heart, brings this joy. It lets out our sins, and lets in the clean air of God's Spring, the sunlight of the days that advance toward Easter."

"Lent is not a season of punishment so much as one of healing."



A sinner
is a drowning man,
a sinking ship.
The waters are bursting
into him on all sides.
He is falling apart
under the pressure of the storm
that has been breaking up his will,
and now the waters rush into the hold
and he is dragged down.
They are closing over his head,
and he cries out to God:
"The waters are come in even unto my soul!"

Ash Wednesday is for people who know what it means
for their soul to be logged with these icy waters:
all of us are such people, if only we can realize it."

(Quotations from: Meditations on Liturgy.
Thomas Merton. Mowbrays Pp 100-105).

MY SON - In whom I am well pleased.

They have rejected you, Lord
All of them!
You have been rejected
By the harsh nails
You once forged in the earth's
Rich hills,
Pinning you heartlessly to a cross
From which
You will not escape,
Scorched by the relentless sun,
A lesser light than you -
The Father's glory.
Even the crude wood
Which traps you
Owes its life to you
Its branches once shading
The people you formed
Who now wash their hands of you.



How does it feel, Lord
To be turned away
From the door once again;
To be barred
From the banquet you give
For all
In your inclusive love;
How does it feel
When your faithful people
Decide to choose another
When the fatal choice
Has to be made
And then shout 'Crucify' ?

Co-Creator, you are now banished from your world
How can this be?
Son of Man you have been sentenced by the guilty
And yet you bear it!
The earth begins to heave, betraying the grief within,
Silent Master, do you not hear the pain?

Father forgive them for they believe they're
doing right,
Yes Son, it is my will and sole desire to forgive;
When I am lifted up I will draw all men to myself.
You bear all their sin now Son, So I have to leave
you too.



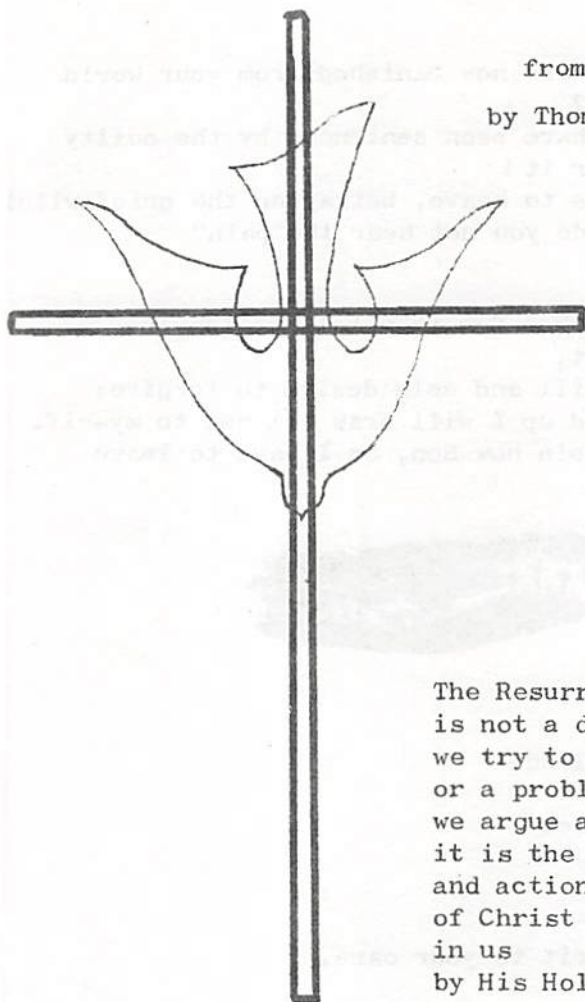
My God, My God...
Why?
Darkness and Silence
Conspire
To keep the secret

It is finished,
Father
I commit my spirit to your care.

Come home my Son, your work is done;
Come beloved Son, for all is now ready for you.

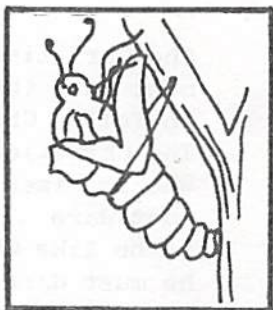
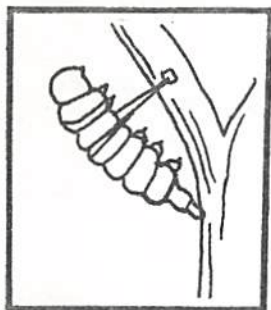


from "He is Risen"
by Thomas Merton (Argos)



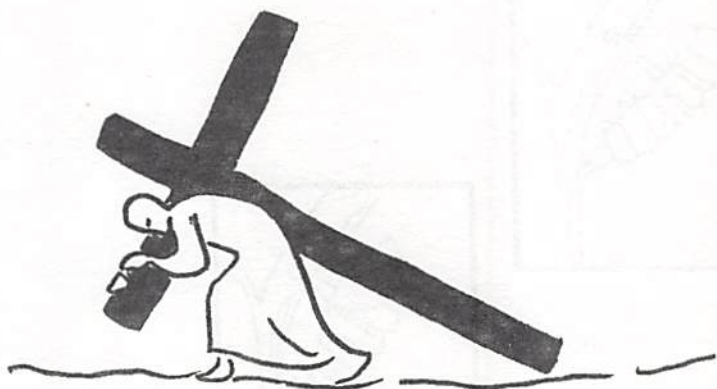
The Resurrection
is not a doctrine
we try to prove
or a problem
we argue about:
it is the life
and action
of Christ Himself
in us
by His Holy Spirit.





True encounter with Christ
liberates something in us,
a power
we did not know we had,
a hope,
a capacity for life,
a resilience,
an ability to bounce back
when we thought
we were completely defeated
a capacity to grow
and change,
a power
of creative transformation.





The Christian
must have the courage
to follow Christ.
The Christian
who is risen in Christ
must dare
to be like Christ:
he must dare
to follow conscience
even in unpopular causes.
He must, if necessary,
be able to disagree with the majority
and make decisions
that he knows
to be according to the Gospel
and teaching of Christ,
even when others
do not understand
why he is acting this way.



Lynn & Elaine

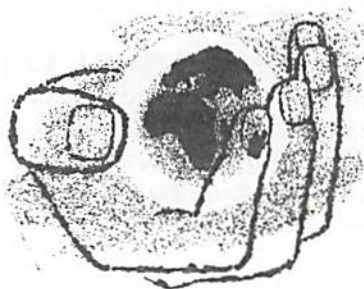
Our past two years at the Institute of Church and Society have been extremely rewarding, as well as spiritually stimulating. In difficult times, and there have been several, we have often felt the prayers and concern of all our friends at St. Nicholas'.

Upon our return to the U.K. I resigned my position at the Institute. This action was taken with the knowledge and support of C.M.S. We anticipate working with the former Director of the Institute, Dr. Adegbola, who now heads the Centre for Applied Religion and Education (C.A.R.E.) in Ibadan. Details are still being worked out, but due to a number of factors, it now appears that we will probably be based in England and that I will be "commuting" between the U.K., the U.S.A., and Nigeria on behalf of the Centre.

We value your prayers as we continue to seek God's perfect will for us.

Affectionately, in Him,

Lynn and Elaine Failing.





From John and Helen Davies (nee Helen Taylor)

Broomshawbury,
Hatfield Broad Oak,
Bishop's Stortford.

March 13th.

Dear Friends of St. Nich's,

Thank you very much for your most generous gift to John and me on our wedding. We would love to be able to tell you how we have spent it, but we are still making our choice - however we want you to know right away how much we appreciate your love expressed in this way.

We had a very good day on the 16th February - so conscious of friends praying for us. Now after a most enjoyable and peaceful fortnight in Scotland we are busy making preparations for our departure to Uganda on April 11th or 12th (depending on flights).

We'll be in touch!

Much love from us both,

John and Helen.



This month we bid a sad farewell to Maisie. Her term with us flashed by all too quickly. Those of us who have made contact with her have received enrichment and a stimulus to our own faith. Maisie returns to Trinity College, Bristol to complete her training next term. Pray for her as she seeks God's will for her future.



INDIA

Richard Hawthorne writes from India of an interview he had with Mother Theresa of Calcutta. "She told us how the car which the Pope had left behind after his visit to India had been raffled for £12,000 and had enabled a new centre to be started which the lepers had helped to build themselves. Of young people she said: "they give all or nothing - you must give them a big enough challenge and they will respond." Also, where people care for one another, there you have the basis of Christianity - the 18,000 people we have collected from the streets have died with dignity, not one word of bitterness or complaint, they must all have been praying for us because so much has happened - this work is the love of Christ in action - humanly the task is impossible - this is God's work - with prayer anything is possible."

(If you want to read a disturbing book about life and love for Christ in India, I recommend "Mother Theresa of Calcutta" by Douglas Doig. Describing the indomitable courage of Mother Theresa, it demonstrates too, how prayer and dogged determined hard work intertwine to create beauty and love out of deprivation and poverty. J.H.)



Gordon Walker retires as deputy head of his school this term. Sometimes one retires out of secular employment into overtime for the Lord. One suspects that such may well be Gordon's experience! He and Jean, quiet stalwarts of the Church, give so much already that it seems difficult to conceive of them contributing more. But we wouldn't be surprised - ! Our prayers for a happy, fruitful, and fulfilling retirement Gordon.

ANNUAL MEETING

Some 72 people attended the Church Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th March, at which the following Church Officers were elected.

Church Wardens : Malcolm Offord
John Holden

Deputy Wardens : Paul Evans
Ian Pullinger

continuing as
Deanery Synod
Representatives Ros Richardson
Frank Wright

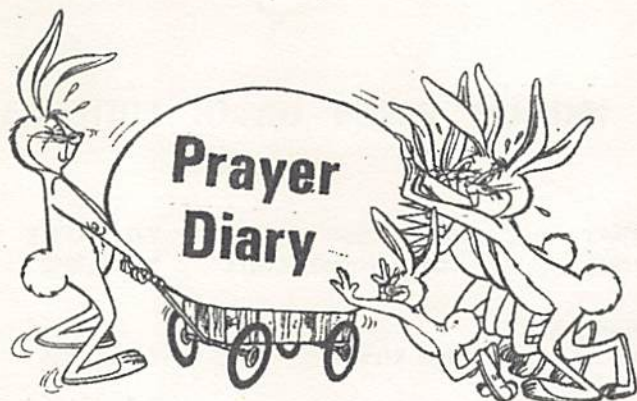
Elections to Parochial Church Council

Ian Grimbaldston Gordon Walker
Ann Hart Richard Watmough

(continuing for a further term:)

Di Bratt Bob Marlowe
Pete Ellis Cathy Pullinger
Hilary Holden Mike Shouler
Keith Jackson Bill Swift





APRIL

- 1st Right preparation of ourselves during Holy Week.
- 2nd Lenten Link Group film-strip this evening.
- 3rd Maundy Thursday service to-night.
- 4th Good Friday worship and remembrance to-day.
- 5th Retreat with the Bishop of Repton at Holloway.
Robin and Angela's wedding.
- 6th He is Risen! Halleluia!
- 7th Peter and Anne on their Wedding Day.
- 8th Party attending the Congress on Evangelism.
- 9th Fay in Uganda.
- 10th Those preparing for marriage.
- 11th Retreat at Belper this week-end.
- 12th Elders meeting each week.
- 13th May we glory in the Resurrection.
- 14th David and Joyce go on holiday to-day.
- 15th High School Houseparty at Stathern Lodge.
- 16th Barry and Anthea in S. America.
- 17th Martin, Sue, Hannah and Ben go on holiday to-day.
- 18th Warwick University in retreat at Holloway.
- 19th David and Irene Green and their family.
- 20th The housebound, lonely, sick and depressed.
- 21st Newly weds in the Church.
- 22nd Tuesday evening groups and fellowship.
- 23rd PCC meeting to-night.
- 24th Leaders of youth and children's groups in the
Church.
- 25th Work of Coffee Club among young mums.
- 26th Lyn and Elaine Failing on furlough.
- 27th Pat Dearnley and his work.
- 28th Women's Fellowship meet to-day.
- 29th The unemployed.
- 30th Clifford Hill speaking in Nottingham.

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH NOTTINGHAM

STAFF

Rector:	David Huggett	Tel: 411383
Clergy:	Martin Winbolt-Lewis	Tel: 46952
Director of Music:	Anne Kirwan	Tel: 43336
Outreach Worker:	Mike Marshall	Tel: 44196
Counsellor: (and Magazine Editor)	Joyce Huggett	Tel: 411383
Church Wardens:	Malcolm Offord John Holden	Tel: 46924 Tel: 812043
Diocesan Reader:	Tom Robinson	Tel: 45470
Treasurer:	Richard Watmough	Tel: 970-60682

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 1.00 - 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.

REF: AG512 BIBLE LANDS SOCIETY, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.