

The Signature of Spring

St. Nicholas News

May 1980

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

The Rector's Letter

May 1980

30, Barrack Lane,
The Park,
Nottingham.

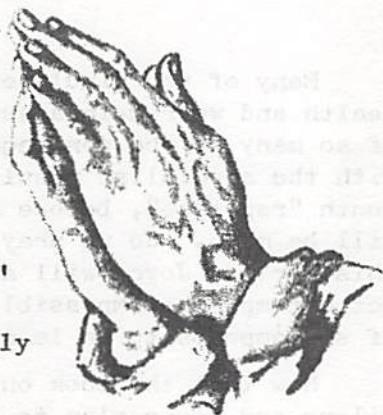
Our dear Friends,

'He is not here, He is Risen!' The message of Easter rang clarion clear this year with the challenge that we must not seek the living with the dead. Jesus died his mysterious all-conquering death, but we dare not stay with the empty cross or the empty tomb. He moves us on to follow him "into Galilee". What does that mean for you - us? It means that there can be no standing still, no complacency when the Risen Christ exhorts us to "follow Him" through to the next phase. What is new in your life? What is the next phase for our life as a fellowship?

Once again we face changes with Anne's departure imminent. The music will change as others take a lead. The dynamics of the staff will be different when Anne departs. Do we believe the Lord, who refused to allow his reluctant disciples to gaze meaninglessly into the empty tomb, walks ahead of us in these changes, enriching our lives with his presence as he did for the disciples during those early days after the resurrection. Our christian hope is this! "Whatever comes to us next comes to us with him." Love has planned it all, therefore, ultimately it is for our good and the best is yet to come! Hallelujah!

Summer School on Prayer

"Teach us to pray" begged the disciples of Jesus when they clearly saw that there was a dynamic to his prayer life which they did not possess. Their heart felt cry finds an echo on the lips of believers all down the centuries "Lord, teach us to pray" Perhaps, though, it would be true to say that never before has there been such a yearning a longing, a hunger for prayer than there is today. Many of us in recent years have experienced a restlessness, a reaching after God with that inner certainty that in the bowl of such spiritual hunger, only God can satisfy our needs.



The Staff, with one mind, recommend that we therefore launch a summer school during May and June on the theme of prayer. We believe this to be crucial to the life of our church and the spiritual growth of individuals. We encourage you therefore, to make this a top priority in your commitment to the fellowship during the summer months. We meet on Tuesday evenings sometimes in the main hall, sometimes in the church, at 7.30p.m. There will be teaching involvement, discussion and quiet. If like the disciples you wistfully pray "Teach me to pray" because you have never learned or because you have forgotten how this 'school' is for you! If you need a lift, please contact your link man who can easily arrange this for you. We feel it will be an exciting series and will lay solid foundations for the autumn's work.

Many of you kindly enquired after Joyce's health and we remain assured of the faithful prayers of so many of the congregation. A recent appointment with the specialist resulted in a further three month "reprieve", before a decision about surgery will be made. So we pray on and plod on. During this period, Joyce will attend what she can and not attempt the impossible, so please be patient if she appears to be less involved than usual.

Now that the book on marriage is complete. Hilary and Joyce plan to continue in Editorial partnership over the magazine. Our friend Khee Poh, in London, provides invaluable help with 'headings' for articles.

Dates for the week-end for engaged couples are now fixed. We meet on Friday 20th June at 8.00 p.m. at 30 Banack Lane for the beginning of a weekend "Preparing for Marriage". Would you please pray for that time, for us as we lead and give counsel and for each couple attending.

With our love and prayers.



David & Joyce

LATEST NEWS - Our love and congratulations to JUDY SHAW and RON IMPSEY on their recent engagement.





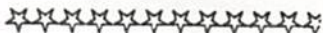
Family Pages



It was good to see some of our own young people back with us for Easter and catch up with their news. We continue to pray for them as they settle back into their studies and preparation for exams.



Our best wishes go to Angela and Robin Scott who were married in London on Easter Saturday.



JOHN and KATE ARKELL met the St. Nicholas' contingent at Prestatyn. They are tired after a winter of hard work and some illness. But they rejoice in the way God continues to bless the work in Reading.

baby's arrival

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike and Anne Currie on the birth of their second son Charles at the end of March. We pray for them as they return to Crowther Hall, Birmingham for their final training in preparation to work in Pakistan.

Milton Tan and Dorothy plan to be married in St. Nic's this summer making our second Chinese wedding. Pray for their many preparations and plans.

See Moi Tap completes her course at All Nations College this summer and plans to return to Hong Kong where she and Pang will be married in July. They would value our prayers too.

Congratulations

Congratulations: We rejoice with Michi and Mya Kohno, in Japan on the birth of MICHIO on 22.1.80. Their bouncing baby boy weighed 8lbs.



FOR SALE: Electric Cooker, as new, double oven, automatic dual rings.
Phone Jacky Houghton 274323

TRIP TO OBERAMMERGAU leaving Nottingham 14th July
5 nights in Austria cost £185. 'phone -
Barbara Davis 44179 direct. Definitely one place
possibly more.



UGANDA

Bishop's Girls School, Muyebe

When Fay Rumley was here at Christmas she spoke of the needs of the School, and particularly of the difficulties regarding their means of lighting - oil pressure lamps which are getting old and require constant repair. The girls normally do about two hours of study after dark each evening, and the need for an electricity supply has therefore become top priority.

The P.C.C. feel it would be good for St. Nic's to undertake a project to provide a generator for the School, as a practical demonstration of our love for Fay and in support of the work which she and her colleagues are devoted to. The role which Christian girls will play in the rehabilitation of Uganda could be vital.

A quotation for a suitable generator is being obtained from a firm in England with the intention of sending it by air to Entebbe, and wiring of the School is to be carried out during the summer by a former teacher there, who is a qualified electrical engineer.

Your prayers for this project are requested, and a special collection will be taken as soon as full cost details are available.



Summer School on 'prayers'

"Pray as you can, don't try to pray as you can't." The ageless advice of one of the early Christian teachers provides welcome relief for many a Christian to-day. Books about prayer, manuals on how to pray, abound. Yet still countless Christians plead with the first disciples:- "Lord, teach us to pray."

Prayer as an adventure opens up before us as we explore and examine a variety of traditions and methods of prayer. Prayer as work producing long lasting results looms large with endless possibilities. Prayer as a hunger which God alone can satisfy is the present day experience of many.

If you rest complacently on your prayer laurels, the summer school may present surprises. If, like many, you have never learned to pray, this teaching may fill empty gaps in your Christian experience. If you have long since forgotten how to pray, come and learn alongside others. If you are simply thirsty for more of God, we believe he desires to show how your spiritual lust may be quenched.

The normal format of Tuesday evenings is replaced by something unique each week. We believe God desires to excite us in the area of communicating with Him.

Programme:-

- May 6th. "Lord, teach us to Pray."
Our Lords dynamic prayer life.
Some aids for personal prayer.
- May 13th The art of intercession (please bring
a newspaper)
- May 20th A Praying Fellowship.
"Where two or three are gathered in
Thy name"
- *May 27th Praying my life (Please bring a duster)
- *June 3rd Keeping short accounts with God.
- June 10th Help us to listen.
- June 17th Praising, worshipping, contemplating
(Please bring a cushion)
- June 24th Prayer for those who can't pray
- * These meetings in the Church.

The aim of the school is two-fold. Firstly, our longing is that each individual might widen his/her prayer horizons and deepen the experience of prayer. Secondly, we seek to discover from God a new dimension of effective, corporate for the fellowship so that we might move on into what He is preparing for us. Before you lay this on one side excusing yourself through lack of time, pressures of one kind or another, would you first ask God whether perhaps He wants you there?



DEAD OR ALIVE?

All around is dark black,
brooding and forbidding.

The stones feel hard under foot,
I need to go on up
but dare not look.
The Tomb is high,
deep in the granite rock.
At last it is there in front.



"No! No! I cry, don't let it be a dream."
I am frozen with fear
and sink to the ground.
"What if it never was?"
I crawl to the opening
then gathering courage I peer in.
A voice whispers,
"What seek you here?
You will not find
the Living with the dead."
I leap up and shout
"It's really true - He's alive!"

The dark rocks echo back
"He's alive! Alive! Alive!"

I turn in wonder
All around is green and bright
The hills are majestic
The trees hold up their arms in praise,
Their first flush of green
Peeping out
And all creation sings
Of your triumphant
victory over death.



O my crucified Lord!
Devastated, I had watched them
Nail you to the tree
But now you have broken from the Tomb
And set me Free.

All earth shouts,
"Jesus Christ is risen today!
He's alive!"

My Lord and My God!

Waiting.

For ten long days now
that's all we've been doing,

Waiting.

Trying to quell the restlessness,
we've voted a successor to Judas,
we've prayed,
we've eaten,
we've watched the teeming city;
we've waited, waited, waited
because that's what He told us to do
the day we watched Him enter heaven.
You think we're crazy ?
There's good reason for this madness.

It started when the women came back from the tomb
and then the two from Emmaus
returned, most unexpectedly,
with the same story -

He's alive!

They all made me so mad.

Don't they understand how much it hurts ?

He's dead,

gone,

buried,

and it's my fault.



He never did anything wrong - it should have been me
dying

Only He wouldn't let anyone hurt me,

He loved me so much that

He kept silent

and took the blame

And now He's dead, dead, dead.



I can get used to living with that in time
But Him alive!
That's scary.
To have to face Him knowing that He knows all about
everything and still loved me enough to die in
my place -
That's something else!



And so there I sat
back to the wall
watching the door in case unwelcome intruders
broke the lock.



'Peace be with you'

The words pierced the room
and there He was, despite the locks.
And if I can get much closer to this wall
maybe I can go through it too!

There was no mistaking it was Him.
Those eyes resting on me
and then
those long, familiar strides across the room
to where I was,
holding out those dear hands, now scarred for ever.
Dear God, don't let Him come.
Dear God, don't let Him stop.



Imprisoned in those strong arms
the natural emotions, so long held in check
overflowed
but it didn't matter.
He understood and what is more forgave.
Love is stronger than the grave.

He really was ALIVE.
and what was more, we all instinctively knew
He would never die again.
This was no corpse resurrected, like Lazarus,
nor ghost.
This body was different, new
words cannot explain
except that
He was alive in a way none of us are - yet,
though we live.

Gently He drew me into the circle of the others.
Strange, they can only accept me now He does.
It's almost as if they do understand
and suddenly I knew they did
for they shared the same guilt,
the same forgiveness,
and above all, the same Love.

Love

We were one in joy
in the mystery of this new life.
That's how it was for forty sweet days,
Him coming and going,
teaching us,
until the last time when, amazed, we watched Him
enter heaven
and then the angels told us we would see Him come
again at the End.



And so, here we are
waiting
for the promised Holy Spirit
to enable us to go on
being one with Him
and with each other.

I can hear the wind.....



THE FIRST ELEVEN

by Alan Walker

I am excited by the scene on that hillside in Galilee. The Risen Christ has summoned his eleven disciples to meet him. There he speaks to them, visibly, for the last time. Over against them is the entire pagan world. No one apart from a few people in Jerusalem, had ever heard the name of Jesus. Stretching into the future was the long history of the world. Quietly Jesus points them to the world, to history. With compelling power his words reach them: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel."

Eleven men against the world: These were the impossible odds the disciples faced; yet they were undaunted. In a few weeks Jerusalem was in uproar; a few years more and Rome was challenged. Within three hundred years, a despised minority, which had suffered and died, owning no building, possessing no influence or power, had conquered the Roman Caesar, Christianity had become an accepted religion of the Greek and Roman world.

The conquest of the first eleven dispels our doubt, silences our fear. In spite of all lined up against the Christian cause today, the obstacles then, in the year 33 A.D., were greater than now. The Great Commission, then and now, permits no surrender, no escape. His marching orders are ours to obey.

Go, preach!



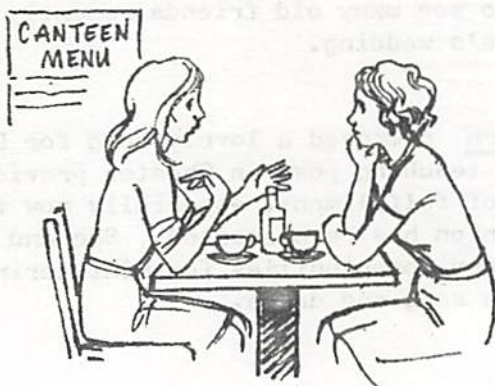
“YOU SHALL BE
MY WITNESSES!”

I am a new christian and committed myself to Christ only a few weeks ago. I would like you all to share the joy I have found in the discovery of the living Christ and the pleasure of being one of his flock.

No-one here knew me 12 months ago. I was a mental and physical wreck dragged down by my own sins and poor judgements in my search for purpose and happiness.

God lifted me up at that time, when I had recognised my life was without meaning and brought me to Nottingham, where by his grace, I was led and found the truth and purpose in life.

I praise the Lord for his deliverance of my soul and in the name of Jesus I give thanks.



Wedding Story



It was good to see many old friends recently at Peter and Anne's wedding.

Margaret Shearn composed a lovely song for Peter and Ann. Her teaching post in Chester provides her with a sense of fulfillment, especially now that a Christian Union has been started. She and her sister find many opportunities for ministering to others through song and dance.



Judith Roberts made a very elegant bridesmaid. She is also very involved in the dance group in her new church.

David and Wendy Lewis continue the busy round of teaching and home-making. They enjoyed being back at St. Nic's as much as we loved seeing them again.

Tim and Barbara Oakley find Liverpool contrasts greatly from the south but seem to find stimulus and fulfilment in serving God in the big city.

Ron Knott enjoys lecturing in Guildford and worships at David Pawson's Church, Milmead Baptist.





Apartado 97, Arequipa.



BARRY AND ANTHEA HARRISON share some of the encouragements and problems of the last few months.

UPS....

1. Leadership Training

The Night Bible Institute has again got off to an enthusiastic start with over 50 people matriculated. Please pray for:
Supervision of the students' practical work.
Counselling students personally.
Planning for the future, especially a possible advanced course.

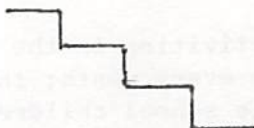
The Sunday School Teachers Courses show much enthusiasm but little knowledge. Do pray for more continuity in some congregations where the teacher changes every week! There is no real tradition of Sunday Schools here, so for many it is something new.

2. The Arequipa Presbytery now numbers some 26 Churches and groups, and Abraham De Ita the presbytery preacher is kept very busy visiting, teaching and encouraging throughout the area: God has healed him of a chronic throat and chest condition which previously prevented him from going out in the evenings - now he's out nearly every night. In March the presbytery held a convention in Arequipa for the first time for some years: most churches were represented and there was a sense of drawing together, stimulating one another and sharing problems - another such convention is planned for mid-July.

It is encouraging too to see individuals, who have been recently converted and baptised, going on and wanting to serve the Lord - Carlos, a lorry driver and leader of a small group, and Hortensia, a teacher who wants to give her talents to Sunday School work. Pray especially for Alfredo, father of four and married to a very communist wife, who stopped Barry in the school one day, asking for spiritual help, and who is now working out his new Christian experience; and Cira, a social worker, who with her husband is really open to the Gospel.

3. Visitors. Just in case life got boring, we were sent an unusual number of visitors during the last few months. We've enjoyed their visits and learned from each of them. One weekend we found ourselves with twelve visitors - all foreigners (!) - 4 from the USA, four Irish and 4 Scots.

AND DOWNS....



1. Disappointment in quite a number of the La Merced Church who by now should be leaders, but are completely lacking in commitment, discernment and any desire to take responsibility - worse still, this is often accompanied by hypocrisy and a very critical spirit which divide the church under the guise of seeking more holiness. Also so many think that attendance at church once a Sunday is all that the Lord demands of us - pray for us for patience and wisdom to know how and when to speak out.
2. With increasing inflation, a drought, poor harvest, and an employment situation where in the cities only 35% of the population has

regular paid work, poverty abounds and offers fertile ground for communist propaganda. Just to cite one instance of the economic problems, some 60 families in one small town in Cailloma lost their livelihood when a alpaca wool business collapsed. We are investigating the possibility of setting them up again and finding a suitable market for their work through evangelical relief agencies.

3. The visa situation has recently taken a turn for the worse and residence permits are again being renewed for only one year - as it can take up to eight months to get the permission for renewal, most of one's life can be spent waiting! Inevitably this can seriously affect the planning of furloughs too, so pray that with the re-establishment of democratic government after the May elections things may be eased.

BITS AND PIECES.....

Pray too for:

- the Christian activities in the school - the parents service every month; the Christian Union for middle school children, a new venture each Tuesday which Anthea will be organising.
- the Bible study group, that the regular 'core' of six may see their responsibility to reach out to others.
- the mission annual Field Conference from 14th to 19th May.

To close, we'd like to share with you something that the Lord has been showing us this Easter - as Simon of Cyrene was called upon to carry Jesus' cross, so we are called to take that same cross daily - but do we do it willingly or grudgingly?



Yours sincerely in Him,

Barry and Anthea.

reflections on



Thank you to members of the Choir and Orchestra who led our worship on Palm Sunday. Many expressed appreciation for the way that the service was led.

Again a big thank you to Kathleen Robinson and her helpers who assisted our Easter worship in a visual way with such a magnificent blaze of flowers. Has the Church ever looked so lovely? A welcome innovation this year was the Easter garden - the empty tomb, proclaiming visually; He is not here. He is risen!

The Easter banners also contributed to the worship of Good Friday and Easter. Carry on the good work of banner making. When each contributes his/her own gift, humbly to the Church and to the Lord, what a wonderful wealth of riches we glean.

John Buckley, Margaret Owen and Mike Anderson are to be thanked and congratulated for their masterly handling of the organ and piano over the Easter period. It was a joy working in partnership with each of them.



Giving and how to beat

Inflation.

With inflation reaching 20% did you know that, if you pay tax, then you can actually beat inflation down with your giving to the church? Only a little effort and planning can make every £1 you give become £1.42 by courtesy of H.M. tax inspectors.



Growth in the church is characterised by commitment and a commitment in giving is surely part of our own christian service. The method is to covenant your church giving and this enables the church to benefit by that very useful income tax refund of 42 pence for every pound.

The revision of income tax rates in 1979 reduced the sums received by churches and charities under covenant and it is probably to redress this situation that a proposal in the 1980 Budget is to reduce the period of covenant from 7 to 4 years. So if God has been speaking to you about the level and manner of your giving, do ask the treasurer, Richard Watmough, about how to beat inflation by covenanting your gifts.



A NOTE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

From time to time area groups and others may wish to borrow worship books or equipment from the Church Hall kitchen for a special occasion. Could the people concerned please check with the wardens beforehand to ensure that no-one else is wanting to use these items at the same time. Please return everything promptly.

HISTORICAL TIME-PIECE

A book entitled "Clock and Watch Makers of Nottingham" by Harold Mather has just been published by Friends of Nottingham Museums.

During his historical research for his book Harold Mather has discovered a clock in the tower of St. Nicholas Church, Nottingham, originally presented by its maker, James Wooley of Codnor, to Nottingham Corporation for the new Exchange Building in 1726. When a new clock was presented to the Exchange in 1830 the old one was given to the churchwardens of St. Nicholas.

Some 20 years ago it was disconnected from the face when an electrical movement was installed but had remained unused in the tower.

It is being restored by G. and F. Cope, now Nottingham's only clockmakers, and when this work is complete will go to Nottingham Industrial Museum where it will be the city's oldest working clock.



Just a Minute

I have only just a minute
Just sixty seconds in it
Forced upon me - can't refuse it.
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
I must suffer if I lose it.
Give account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute
But Eternity is in it.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

PRAYER



MAY

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Thursday 1st | Young peoples' leaders |
| Friday 2nd | Fay in Uganda |
| Saturday 3rd | Pray for the families whose babies are to be baptised tomorrow. |
| Sunday 4th | Rev. Bruce Milne preaching today. |
| Monday 5th | David and Joyce and their ministry |
| Tuesday 6th | Beginning of Summer School on Prayer. |
| Wednesday 7th | Rev. Ron Lacey's institution to the parish of St. Andrew tonight. |
| Thursday 8th | Staff Quiet Day |
| Friday 9th | Mike and Rosie |
| Saturday 10th | Martin and Sue |
| Sunday 11th | Confirmation Service today |
| Monday 12th | Women's Fellowship service today |
| Tuesday 13th | Summer School on Prayer |

- Wednesday 14th David speaking at University of East Africa
- Thursday 15th Praise to our ascended Lord (Ascension Day).
- Friday 16th Pathfinders away this weekend
- Saturday 17th Gordon, Jean, Carol and Kate cooking at Pathfinder houseparty
- Sunday 18th Barry and Anthea Harrison in Peru
- Monday 19th Pat Dearnley in London
- Tuesday 20th Summer School on Prayer
- Wednesday 21st Elders meet this evening
- Thursday 22nd Lyn and Elaine Failing
- Friday 23rd Group in retreat at Mt. St. Bernard Abbey
- Saturday 24th David and Irene Green
- Sunday 25th Whit Sunday worship
- Monday 26th Joyce writing Scripture Union notes
- Tuesday 27th Summer School on Prayer
- Wednesday 28th Work of Coffee Club
- Thursday 29th The elderly, sick, depressed and lonely
- Friday 30th Young people facing major exams
- Saturday 31st David speaking at Manchester University.



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH NOTTINGHAM

STAFF

Rector:	David Huggett	Tel: 411383
Clergy:	Martin Winbolt-Lewis	Tel: 46952
Director of Music:	Anne Mott	Tel: 43336
Outreach Worker:	Mike Marshall	Tel: 44196
Counsellor: (and Magazine Editor)	Joyce Huggett	Tel: 411383
Church Wardens:	Malcolm Offord	Tel: 46924
	John Holden	Tel: 812043
Diocesan Reader:	Tom Robinson	Tel: 45470
Treasurer:	Richard Watmough	Tel: 92-60682

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.