



from his fullness

we have all received

St. Nicholas News

October 1980

Price 15p. (O.A.P.'s 10p.)



25 Harrington Drive,
Lenton Sands,
Nottingham.

Dear Friends,

What a year! At least the calender insists that a year has gone by since I came on the staff of St. Nicholas', though it has passed very quickly. Since such a time has elapsed however, I hope you will forgive me for taking the opportunity of David and Joyce's absence to reflect on it.

I wonder if the term 'evangelism' has more significance for you now than it did a year ago? It has been my intention through this past year, to try and communicate what I believe is a biblical perspective on evangelism. To try and replace the all too prevalent idea that evangelism is a specialized activity that a few fanatics of the church's lunatic fringe are engaged in, with the idea that 'sharing Jesus' is, or should be, an integral part of every believer's lifestyle.

It is probably encouraging to know that if evangelism as a topic has been prominent in our thinking at St Nicholas this year, we only find ourselves in line with the church throughout the country, and the new climate of church militancy. The church seems to be taking a fresh look at it's role and the commission it has been given. For example, at the beginning of this year the Evangelical Alliance launched the Decade of Evangelism, a ten year plan of outreach. In conjunction with this there was held in April a congress on evangelism which was attended by 20 St Nicholas members. But it is not just among the more conventionally 'evangelical' churches that God is prompting action. At the time of writing (late Sept) there is a conference at Nottingham University, sponsored by the Nationwide Initiative in evangelism (N.I.E.) This is an interdenominational initiative with a broad theological base, and in which a wide range of churchmanship is represented. It is significant that although there is much discussion, and many differences, there is a common desire to proclaim Christ.

Ultimately of course we must not be content with talking about evangelism either at a national level or at a local level, but must be involved in action. Our commission is to be, quite simply, 'Ambassadors for Christ' and proclaim that 'in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself' (2 Cor. 5).

The forum for that proclamation is very large and the method varied. The way we act as Christ's people is as important as what we say. But the spiritual heart still has to be communicated. At St Nicholas' there is continual opportunity to be involved in projects which are set up for evangelism - open-air witness, hospital-ward service, guest service, link-group activities etc. But the main thrust of our outreach must be through each of us individually, because we are where the people are.

Some people may seem to be better equipped for personal evangelism than others, but we all have a part to play, and it is true that however inadequate we may feel, we may be Christ's only representative in our office, class or street. The Church can play an important part in helping us fulfill our commission. We have at St. Nicholas' facilities for helping people learn how to articulate their faith, and also facilities for helping young Christians, or people who are looking at the Gospel - please ask me for details. But above all, we can support one another in our prayers, as we recognise that each of us is doing the Lord's work in whatever situation we are in, and that we need His strength to do it.

Lets encourage one another as we look forward to an exciting year ahead in the belief that God wants to, and can, use each one of us if we make ourselves available.



Mike Marshall



ST NIC'S FAMILY NEWS

We rejoice with Colin and Valerie Rudge in the birth of Andrew Michael, on 4th September, weighing 8lb 5ozs, a brother for Zoe and Cathy.

Thank You to those who decorated the Church so beautifully and tastefully for the harvest service. So many visual aids in front of us contributed greatly to the worship on Harvest Sunday. Thank you, too, to all those who helped to organise the Harvest Supper which, as always, was a most happy occasion.

It was good to see Judith Roberts over the Harvest Weekend.



Thank you to those who prayed for us while we were on holiday. We had a very good time together in Austria, walking, relaxing, talking and meeting old and new friends. For Joyce it was an important time of gaining strength before she goes into hospital for a hysterectomy in November.

Happy Birthday

Our love and best wishes to Miss Townend who has just celebrated her 98th birthday.

Wendy has written to say that she arrived safely in the United States in September. She will be staying within a short distance (200 miles!) of

Martin and Deirdre who have also written describing some of their early reactions to culture on the other side of the Atlantic:-



We love what we have seen so far. Everyone is so warm and courteous. The U.S. is not all Kojak, globe trotting, super - efficient tourists. Champlain is more like Bushmills than New York - the people don't travel very much, marry each other, know everyone, the telephone system doesn't work and we were immediately celebrities.

Our fondest impression of our arrival in New York is the knock on the hotel door at 7.00 a.m. and behold, Paul Zahl for breakfast and that was lovely, especially as he steered us through the perils of down-town Manhattan, taxi-drivers and porters, in the searing heat. He remarked on how tranquil we seemed It was then that we realised how upheld in prayer we were.

The villages here are unexpectedly pretty - all wooden houses, colourfully painted, set amidst maple and mountain ash trees.

We are missing St Nic's a lot - the depth of relationships and even the phone calls. Above all the availability of people, I think, and, of course, the sheer fun.'

Martin and Deirdre's address is:-

30, Church St,
Champlain,
IVY 12919
U.S.A.

I know they'd love to receive some letters!

This month several of our young people leave home to start training at University. Please pray for them in their early weeks of settling in:-



Dave Brindle at Queens College Cambridge reading Engineering.

Roger Dooley at Leeds University reading Law

Kevin Huggett at St Johns College, Durham reading Philosophy

Garry Renison at St Hild and St Bede College Durham reading Theology.

Simon Mason at Bradford University reading Electrical Engineering.

Andrew Severn at Birmingham University reading Chemistry

Alison Alwright at Stafford Polytechnic.



It has also been a joy to receive news of our Chinese friends Gwen and Michael. They are now living in Peterborough where they are both working with refugees from Vietnam. Last week they had the joy of leading one teenage boy to Christ. We were thrilled to hear that Gwen and Michael plan to be married on October 18th. Yet another Chinese wedding!

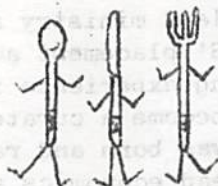
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Those who have visited the Convent at Belper will be sorry to hear that Novice sister Paula's father died recently. Leaving her widowed mother is an anxiety, so I know she would value our prayers. The community in Belper are greatly enjoying the tape which the Music Group at St. Nicholas made last summer. They are gradually learning the songs and using them in their own worship.

welcome

This month we welcome to Nottingham MARCUS and MARION STONE, OMF Missionaries who have recently moved from the Philippines and have been seconded to the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission to work full time with Chinese Christians in Nottingham. This is an important growth point for the Nottingham fellowship. Pray for them as they move, settle in, and work out priorities of time and involvement.

WANTED



THE
CUTLERY
GANG

Various members of the gang escaped whilst on parole during different Church functions. Could they be hiding in your drawer? Are there any spoons etc. lurking around with suspicious hallmarks? If so please arrest them and return them to their cells in the St Nicholas Kitchen, in order that they may serve the rest of their sentence.

new faces

BOB & CHRISTINE JACKSON

You may by now have gathered who the mysterious St Johns family are who began coming to St Nicholas last June, but for those who do not know us too well yet, I have again been asked to pen a few lines about ourselves. I say 'again' because my previous article for last month's magazine disappeared in highly mysterious circumstances, which I can only put down to the providential intervention of the final editor of all things. So, at the risk of tempting his providence again, I'll begin.

In accordance with previous discerning of the editor's wishes we came to St Johns to train for the Church of England ministry and I am spending my final year 'DPS' placement among you at St Nicholas gaining experience for this. Next summer I hope to become a curate in Sheffield, the city where I was born and raised and which I left in 1967 to read economics at university. After a first degree and research at a couple of universities, I went in 1972 to work in Westminster as a Government Economic Adviser, mainly dealing during my time there with railway policies and the construction industry. However, as I have now been at St Johns for two years I do feel absolved from blame for our recent sorry economic history. Christine also had a spell at university, and then taught geography for several years before the family came along, and they now keep her fairly busy. Matthew is a noisy nearly five year old, has just started school and is enjoying climbers. Ruth is a lively two year old who is allergic to the word 'crèche', but is quite happy to play with Benjamin in the crèche room instead.

As a family we like mountains and steam trains, which may explain why our own house is

now in Llanberis at the foot of Snowdon, the only village in the country possessing two steam railways. But most of the time we live in Stapleford, which helps explain why we are leading the Stapleford link group while Martin and Deirdre Offord are away. You may also encounter me taking part in Sunday worship sometimes, and I hope you will forgive the eccentricities of a man who was still a straight laced Baptist Deacon when accepted for the Anglican church. The great Editor having transferred me to this other publication in his portfolio I am therefore still trying to get used to Anglican ways, and we are finding it very enjoyable to be part of a typical Anglican Church. Typical? Well, in my experience every Church is unique and we are finding it a particular joy and privilege to be part of you for this year and we feel very much at home, and among friends. We look forward to getting to know more of you even better as our time here progresses.

Bob and Christine Jackson.



The Crèche

Everyone must be aware of the recent population explosion at St. Nicholas (see our birth announcements in recent months)! The Crèche is bursting at the seams with babies and toddlers, and more help is needed during morning service. Would you be prepared to share with others in looking after the children about every 2 months? If so, please see Cathy Pullinger (Tel: 583620)



There is a saying in Africa, "One head can't carry a roof", which grew out of the necessity to lift the heavy thatched conical roofs from the ground where they were made on to the walls of the huts. The villagers have always solved this construction problem by helping each other.

63 Teazel Avenue
Bournville
Birmingham B30 1LZ
Tel:021 495 5235

Dear Friends,

September 1980.

It has been a long time since we last wrote a link letter to you and much has happened. First, we want to thank each of our link parishes for their warm hospitality during our link visits earlier this year. We enjoyed ourselves immensely, and feel we certainly received far more than we could ever have given, including bottomless cups of coffee.

During those link visits we mentioned to many of you that our future was uncertain. Upon our return to the U.K. in December, Lynn resigned his position as Study Secretary of the Institute of Church and Society in Ibadan. Earlier in 1979, Revd. Dr. Adegbola, who had been the Director of the Institute for seven years, left the Institute and established an independent ecumenical agency called the Centre for Applied Religion and Education, CARE for short. Following a long series of discussions with everyone involved, CMS has now seconded me to work with this Centre. It may sound

straightforward, but believe me, it hasn't been. We certainly would not wish a similar six months of vocational uncertainty to anyone else. We began to feel at least a few of the self-doubts which must inevitably arise within so many of the 2 million unemployed people here in Britain.

But we are not returning to Nigeria as a family. For a number of personal and professional reasons, we reluctantly concluded that this painful decision had to be made. Lynn will be working for the Centre in Ibadan while we live together in our newly rented house in Bournville, Birmingham. He will be making three or four trips to Nigeria each year. This arrangement is only possible with the combination of prayer, creativity and determination by everyone involved.

How can Lynn help the work of a Centre from which he is separated by over three thousand miles for most of the year? He is involved in two primary areas of activity, first in producing and editing new textbook materials for extension education, and second in liaising with potential resource people and prospective donor agencies, both here in the U.K. and in North America and Europe. So you might imagine that there is plenty for him to do!

His first task is in editing a series of studies on 'development' for Nigerian pastors. Traditional attitudes toward development have been, 'That's the task of the government, not the church'. This 'head-in-the-sand' approach has led to increasing disaffection of many people from the church, both here and in the developing world, we feel. Thus, we at CARE are convinced that proclaiming the message of Jesus means to be concerned with the whole person - health, employment, standard of living, nutrition, mental well-being, spirituality, caring for others - these are some of the elements of the 'whole person'.

Peace to you all.

Lynn and Elaine Failing.

* * * * *

EXPLORING YOUR BIBLE

PATRICK MACKIE, a member of 'The Dispersion', as it were of St. Nic's i.e. who teaches in Swindon but is a regular member of the fellowship during the vacations, begins this month a series of studies on

ROMANS

Preface

For the next eight months we shall be studying together the first eight chapters of this, the most challenging of all Paul's letters. Obviously these notes are not exhaustive. I hope and pray that they will act as springboards to further and deeper study. May it be said of us as it was said of the Bereans of old, 'they searched the scriptures daily whether these things were so.' (Acts 17.11). Quotations are from the AV which I recommend for use alongside a modern translation. For further reading I suggest: the Tyndale commentary on Romans by Professor Bruce, 'Men made New' by J.R.W. Stott, and Dr. Lloyd-Jones' six volumes of sermons on Romans 3 - 8. To each of these authors I owe, under God, an obvious debt.

Introduction

This letter, written from Corinth c. 57A.D., was the first stage in Paul's plan to take the Gospel to Spain (15.28). He would call at Rome en route. We know from Acts that the Lord had other plans; Paul got no further than Rome. He lived there under various forms of constraint until his martyrdom traditionally at the hands of Nero c. 65 A.D. This letter paves the way for his visit. In it Paul gives his most comprehensive statement of the Christian Gospel.

Vocabulary

There is one theme in particular which runs through these first chapters and one or two words which Paul uses often and yet sometimes with different meanings. It would be helpful to isolate these so that we can have them clear in our minds before we begin:

- (a) 'The just shall live by faith'. This doctrine was, is and ever shall be the cornerstone of the Gospel. To establish it, Paul wrote both Romans and Galatians. Later in history it was the seed-corn of the Reformation.
- (b) 'The flesh' means (a) physiologically, human life, human descent, and even mankind as a whole (3.20) (b) theologically, our weak, fallen nature (8.3) or the 'old nature' in a believer (chapter 7). It is still in the believer although it has been crucified (Galatians 5.24), and is, ideally, being progressively disabled.
- (c) 'The Spirit' refers to: (a) the God-conscious part in man which responds to the promptings of the Holy Spirit (1.9) (b) the Holy Spirit in Person (1.4, 5.5) and expounded in detail in chapter 8.
- (d) 'The Law' is even more ambiguous:
(a) the Pentateuch (3.21) or the OT as a whole (3.21) (b) a general principle (3.27, 7.21, 7.23, 8.2) (c) the law of God which is holy, just and good (7.7-13, 2.17, 2.23) but NOT a basis for justification.



Please

Week 1

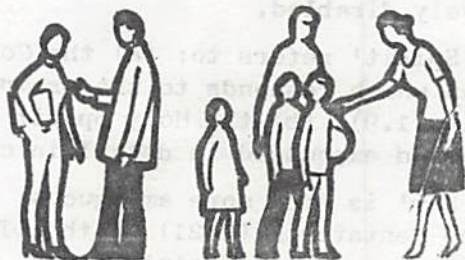
'You shall be my witnesses'

Pray for the team at All Saints, for their reaction and adapting to very different surroundings there; for compassion and ability to listen.

For Staff, Elders, Linkmen and activity leaders as we face a year of growth and fruit-bearing in the Gospel.

For David, Joyce and the church leaders at Millom as they listen to God for His plans for the mission in the summer.

For those who prepare, plan and are involved in the open air witness and drama outside Woolworths.



Week 2 Pray for students beginning their time in Nottingham, especially those who are involved with St. Nic's. For discernment in knowing how to use their time. For God's protection against the temptations of new-found freedom.

Our Guest service, for Mike as he preaches, for genuineness and sensitivity for all of us, and for gifts of teaching and pastoring for those looking after new Christians.

For God's blessing on the Y.M.C.A.'s Film ministry.

Pray...

Week 3 For those being witnesses overseas, our missionaries, especially David and Irene Green and Fay Rumley considering 'the next step.'

That Bishop's Girls' School does not have to pay full duty on their newly installed Generator which was a bona fide gift from us, for God's overruling in this.

For those we know who have moved recently from Nottingham, for their settling in and the witness of their lives in their new area, as well as for those who will specially miss them.



Week 4 For the Holy Spirit's work in the church.

That we might individually and corporately be a better advert for God's way.

For His work in our music, in its performance and in the life of the Worship Workshop.

For His renewing of our prayerful concern and our pockets: in the effect of the Richmen Poorman lunch.

Amongst those on the fringes and the outside of our church life.



ST NICHOLAS MISSIONARY WORLD

You're probably noticed that every week on the pew slip we have a feature called 'Missionary Prayer Topic'. Under this heading there are usually two or three things to pray about for either specific people or else a Missionary Society. The aim is to keep the congregation informed about the people and societies we support and enable us all to pray with knowledge.

At this time of year there are many newcomers to the fellowship to whom the names on the pew slip mean nothing. To help such people and to jog the memories of the rest of us we're including in this month's magazine brief details about each missionary along with the name of someone in the Church to contact for more information.

Mike and Anne Currie

Mike and Anne and their two small children (Alistair and Charles) went out to Pakistan last July. The Missionary Society which is sponsoring them is the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) but they are working for the Church of Pakistan. Mike and Anne are both doctors who met while they were medical Students at Barts Hospital London. For the past couple of years they have been working in Nottingham, Mike as a Surgeon and Anne as an Anaesthetist, and joined St. Nicholas. The hospital in Pakistan where they are now working is very close to the Afghanistan border which adds pressure to their work. They also have to cope with a new language, new culture, new climate and new food. For further information see Ann Hart.

John and Helen Davies

John and Helen work for C.M.S. in Kampala, Uganda where John is a doctor, and Helen, who was a teacher, heard God's call to be a missionary in St. Nicholas. After a short period of training she went out to Ruanda with Ruanda Mission to teach in a school for two years. While home on furlough she met John at a mission conference and they were married last February. Their first child is due in January. For further information see Kathleen Robinson.

Pat Dearnley

Pat used to be Director of the Shaftesbury Project and was honorary curate at St. Nicholas during this time. Two years ago he became priest in charge of Emmanuel, Holloway, London, and last March he was appointed Rural Dean of Islington. Although Pat is not strictly a St. Nicholas missionary we still support him in prayer, especially as CPAS is one of our Missionary Societies and Emmanuel, Holloway is a CPAS Church. For further details see Ros Richardson.



Lynn and Elaine Failing

Lynn and Elaine are an American couple who came to Britain so that Lynn could do research for an M. Phil at Nottingham University. While in Nottingham they worshipped at St. Nicholas and Elaine worked briefly as the Rector's Secretary. They then went to Nigeria for two years with CMS working at the institute of Church and Society after six months furlough they started a new job last June. They are now based in Birmingham with Lynn commuting between Britain and Nigeria. They have two small sons Aaron and Jason. For further details see Ann Hart or Gerald and Anne Cooke.

David and Irene Green

David and Irene used to be our CMS link missionaries. Up until July this year David was vicar of a church in Kenya but they have now returned to this country.

Barry and Anthea Harrison

Barry and Anthea work with the Evangelical Union of South America (EUSA) in Peru. They live in Arequipa and work to train Church leaders. They organise a Night Bible Institute, Sunday School Teacher Training, Women's Bible Institute, Church conventions and retreats. Their current project is to organise Theological Education, by extension (TEE).

They have two daughters Judi and Claire who attend the local School in Arequipa. For further information see Jo Chandler.



Nigel and Ruth Jukes

Strictly Nigel and Ruth are not Missionaries in that Nigel is rector of a Church in Durban South Africa. However, we continue to support them both in prayer. Nigel trained at St John's and was attached to St Nicholas in his last year. Ruth trained at Clifton College and became a Christian through St. Nicholas where she met Nigel.

After working in India with CMS for just over a year Ruth returned to this country and she and Nigel were married in St Nicholas Easter 1979. Since then they have been working in Durban (Nigel is South African). For further information see Ros Richardson.

Fay Rumley

Fay is teaching at a Girl's School in Uganda sponsored by C.M.S. She trained at Clifton College and joined St. Nicholas during this time. After completing her studies she taught in Nottingham before going to Uganda for two years. She is due to return to this country after Christmas and is looking for a job. For further details see the West Bridgford Link Group.



Missionary Societies

St. Nicholas supports six Missionary Societies and we have a special prayer and gift day for each society once a year.

Bible Societies	Bob Marlowe
C.M.S.	Hugh and Di McClintock
Ruanda Mission	Kathleen Robinson
Leprosy Mission	Eric Turner
Tear Fund	Wendy Sayers
C.P.A.S.	Olive Wilmott.





Mengo Hospital,
P.O. Box 7161,
Kampala,
Uganda.

August 19th

Dear David and Joyce,

Nottingham has been very much in our thoughts these last few days as we've had Fay Rumley staying with us - and expect to see her again in a few days on her way back from Nairobi. We had a good time of sharing with her, and were glad to have some filling in of the Nottingham news from her.

Kathleen Robinson may already have passed on to you the news that John and I are expecting a baby early January 1981. We're very delighted and are beginning to make preparation. Apart from the usual nausea and tiredness etc. I've kept very well, and we're praising the Lord for His keeping. Praise Him too for answered prayer for our adjustment to each other in the early days of the marriage. As you know, the potential difficulties were many, but problems have been few, the Lord has helped us, and we are very happy together.

We were very interested, incidentally, to hear that Joyce's book is now published. May we have a copy please?! (Not yet! Ed.)

After a lull in visitors during July (opportunity for John and I to "catch up" with each other!) we are again seeing a lot of folk who are calling to see us on their way for holidays in Kenya etc. - I begin to realise what my mother did for us five children during all those years of cooking for seven etc.!!

John continues as busy as ever. Many problems in the hospital remain very "hard work" but the Lord is helping him to persevere, and we

trust for changes for the better before long. He had a long weekend in the famine area of Karamoja the other week, helping a representative from Christian Aid (who have been given £3 M for relief in Karamoja) to assess needs and projects there.

We are looking forward to our own holiday soon - a fortnight with British friends in Tanzania - We hope nothing dramatic happens in Uganda while we're away!! Of course, elections are due at the end of September and anything could happen then - please pray for a peaceful time and election of a just government.

Very much love to you all,

God bless you and keep you
in His love,

John and Helen.

Uganda

Fay Rumley writes (21st September):

An electrician friend spent Friday and yesterday working to wire up the big generator. So . . . last night all classrooms and two dormitories were lit up, and the girls were in a real tizz with excitement! When the next electrician comes out at the beginning of October he'll be finishing off the wiring so one room at a time (including our bungalow) will also be lit. Many, many thanks to you all. Not having to bother with obnoxious pressure lamps is one daily nightmare less.

let the light
shine! 



SHERINGHAM

Following the pattern set last year at Thwing, about 30 of the St. Nicholas congregation met at Sheringham during the last week in August for a week of fellowship by the sea.

The weather was pleasant and we were never prevented from getting out each day - a number beginning with a walk to the sea front or into the town before breakfast. After breakfast and a brief "Thought for the Day", skilled hands prepared the packed lunches and groups were organised for the many and varied excursions. Some made nostalgic trips on the steam railway, others sailed on the Broads. There were trips to stately homes like Sandringham, Blickling and Felbrigg, outings to the coastal towns and churches and to the bird sanctuary. On the Sunday morning we helped to fill the parish church at Cromer to take part in a traditional 1662 Matins and hear an admirable sermon and some excellent singing by the Choir. There was table tennis indoors and putting in the grounds. In short there was never a dull moment and we really got to know each other well during the week.

But it was the evenings that seemed to bring us all closer together in a warm family atmosphere. We were delighted that Tom and Rene Anscombe had found it possible to join us - Tom was Rector at St. Nicholas in the 50s and has just retired from his Yorkshire church at Kirkheaton. He spoke to us on several evenings on "moving on in the Christian life" - basing his thoughts on Abraham on the move

to the Promised Land. One evening stood out - a moving service of Holy Communion with prayers for healing.

One thing is certain. We all learned a great deal that week. We had a lot of fun, our fellowship was deepened, and many were encouraged in a very real, and perhaps a new way to press on in the Christian life.

T. & K.R.

TERCENTENARY

How old do you think St. Nicholas Church is? In fact there has been a St. Nicholas Church since the 11th Century but the present building is not that old. Back in the days of the civil war the Royalists fired from the tower into the castle yard held by Cromwell's men. Consequently the old Church was demolished and nothing of that building now remains. After the restoration of the monarchy a new Church was built and completed in 1682. So we are 298 years old!

So in two years time we shall be celebrating the tercentenary of St. Nicholas Church. The P.C.C. has set up a small sub-committee to consider best how this occasion could be celebrated. If you have any ideas or suggestions do please pass them on to one of the Church wardens who will be able to see that the committee receives them.

P.S. One suggestion is that a new booklet be produced on the History of our Church.



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'Reaching out' - Henri Nouwen

This may not be the book for you. If it is, and you thrill to its questing and challenge you may read it again and again, chewing over its mysteries and implications for life until you've drawn out all its goodness.

If you don't want to reach out to your secret self, to move from lamenting your loneliness to appreciating solitude, then it isn't for you. If you simply don't want to be hospitable in heart and home in reaching out to the folk around you, don't read it, just rest in your suspicion of others. If you would rather rush about doing self-justifying good works, insisting that you know 'what life's all about' and never really entering into the awe of the God who's never typecast - avoid this book at all costs !

If you do read it, and begin to understand some of the godly wisdom of this widely travelled Dutch priest, I wouldn't be the least surprised if you don't become a little more at peace with yourself, open to others and at home with the God who says 'I will be who I will be.'

As for me, I must read it again !

(Fount Paperbacks 95 p.)

M.J.W-L.



Rev. & Mrs. Peter Mott,
75, Desmond Avenue,
Hull, HU6 7JX
Tel: 0482-43789

August 1980

To all our friends at St. Nic's,

Greetings from Hull! This gives us an opportunity to thank many of you for your letters, phone calls and, we know, prayer support, and to fill you in on our news over the past two months. But first we'd like to express again our thanks for your gift of the TV set which has been a real joy - and not too much of a distraction! Anne will be appreciating it increasingly as the nights draw in and Peter is out more in the evenings. So thank you all, very much, for this expression of your care and concern for us.

We think nostalgically of what it was like to go into a church and know the names of at least the majority of the congregation! But we are beginning to feel a little less strange; Peter has been able to do quite a bit of visiting, and Anne has linked up with the 'Tuesday group' where many, if not most, of the wives have husbands who do not share their faith. They are a delightful group, very mutually supportive, and many of them coping with quite difficult situations: one has an eight-month-old baby and a husband away at sea for six months; another has multiple sclerosis, cannot stand without help, and has five children under twelve.

The Sunday worship is in an interesting stage of transition - new forms of service and new songs are being introduced, with all the attendant confusion and uncertainty this inevitably causes, and many are hungry for greater depth in worship. But, for a start, the building itself does not help - it is big, and long, so that from the communion table the back pews (always occupied!) seem miles away.

How fortunate indeed is St. Nic's with its square shape and resulting homeliness. It will be very interesting to see what develops in the coming months, and we feel that we have come at an exciting and crucial time. Do pray for this.

As for ourselves, we are very happy, laugh a lot, are sure we're in the right place, and are really appreciating our first home (having both been birds of passage for some years), with all our wedding presents around us as constant reminders of so many friends. Our little garden grows gooseberries, currants and raspberries, while the tomatoes we planted have some lovely (green) tomatoes on them, and we have sampled some of our own French beans.

We value so much the continuing prayer support of our friends at St. Nic's in these early days, and at the moment our main prayer need is twofold:

1) that Peter may begin to discern in what areas he should particularly devote his energies - there is so much going on, so many groups for this and that, that it would be very easy to diffuse activity too widely. Also, having only been here for two months, and those during the holiday period, we have not yet been in a position to get a true picture of the work in the parish as a whole.

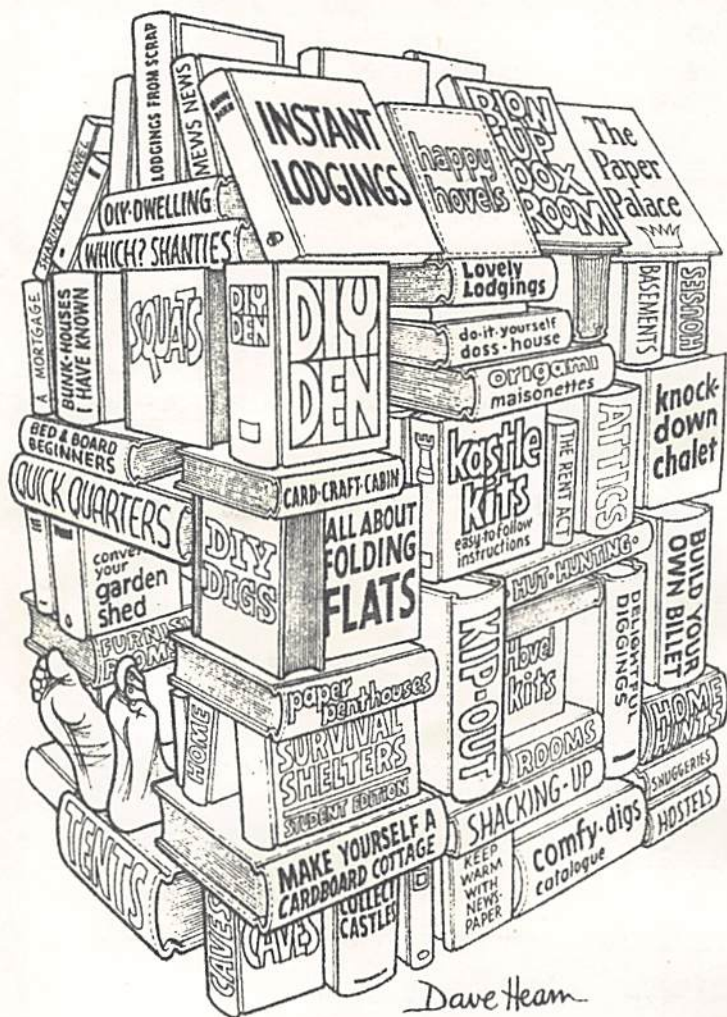
2) that Anne may know the extent to which she should be involved. Again there are so many possible openings, but with the baby's arrival expected in the second half of January, any regular commitment is out of the question. So it is more a matter of seeking the Lord's mind over each circumstances and decision as it arises, and gradually His plan and pattern will unfold.

Our prayers and thoughts are often with you,

In His Service,

Peter and Anne Mott.





Greetings also to the church
that meets in their house.

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH NOTTINGHAM

STAFF

Rector:	David Huggett	Tel: 411383
Clergy:	Martin Winbolt-Lewis	Tel: 46952
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: 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.