



St.  
Nicholas  
News

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November 1980

REJOICE IN THE LORD

30 Barrack Lane  
The Park  
Nottingham

November, 1980

Our dear Friends,

We write this less than three weeks after our return from holiday but already the snow-capped mountains, hot sunshine and tinkling cowbells which characterise the Austrian pastures where we stayed, seem a long way away in time and distance. However, it was a good holiday and we are most grateful to those of you who prayed for us. During these days when it is so easy to be caught up in the whirl-pool of life with its rush and bustle, we find the need to safe-guard our times together as husband and wife more and more. So this 'second honeymoon' was most welcome.

As for Kevin and Christina, they enjoyed the experience of running the home for themselves and seemed to find life more than tolerable without mum and dad around!

During our absence, Albert and his right hand girl, Elizabeth, tackled the mammoth job of decorating our lounge. We left at the stage when Albert was struggling to peel off layer upon layer of thick, tubborn wall-paper. We returned to find it finished and now we are enjoying the effect. There's a parable there if you look for it!

As most of you know, November will be a strange month for us. We are discovering the truth of the statement that when one suffers, all suffer. The past sixteen months have been particularly difficult for Joyce and so in that sense we look forward to the healing hand of God through hospitalisation and surgery. But that entails upheaval for all of us. Many of you have kindly



offered to help and so we have tried to assess our needs in advance. We would value it very much if some of you could undertake to undergird us with prayer: that our emotional, physical and practical needs will be met.

At the moment Joyce is stocking up the deep freeze with meals for the ten days when she is in hospital but we would be grateful if some of you could offer to make a simple meal which could be frozen so that the freezer is replenished for her home-coming. Christina will cope with the Hoovering but if one or two people could offer to help with some ironing for a few weeks, again that would help us. We realise that it would be easy for Joyce to begin to feel out of touch and she would value visitors during the time in hospital and when she is convalescing. Since it's easier to cope with one or two at one time rather than several, if you could consult David about visiting we would appreciate it. Joyce goes into hospital on November 23rd.



### Authority

The word authority is a hot potato these days. You can do two things with a hot potato. You can drop it in the fear that it might burn your naked hands. Or you can hold it in gloved hands and enjoy it. A responsible attitude to that which we find irksome demands the latter approach. And so, in this edition of the magazine, we begin to examine some responses to authority figures. Martin writes subjectively describing the way God is whittling away his sharp edges in this area.



Two book reviews are intended to provide you with further thought about the prickly problem of authority and submission in marriage. And the article, 'Be angry and sin not' is an attempt to help us to de-fuse our emotions responsibly and in a Christ-like manner when we find ourselves clashing with those whom God has set over us.

The insights of the science of psychiatry help us to understand the varied attitudes of people to those to whom they must submit. There are those who always need to placate authority figures. There are those who always need to score points off those above them, who set out to argue in order to win the argument and who frequently resort to the use of aggression. There are those who cannot bear confrontation and there are those who find it hard to concede that the views, opinions and methods of others might contain a glimmer of the truth and might even be superior to their own. Each of these methods of handling that that which we find uncomfortable is a mask. They camouflage our own insecurity. We are not suggesting that you go round labelling others. We are suggesting that each of us discovers which of these methods we resort to and to ask a further question. How does my reaction affect other people?

Our Lord's final command to His disciples and that includes us, was that we should love one another as He loves us. Christian love transcends sentimentality, romanticism and the hugging which is sometimes a cover for uncontrolled feelings of the hatred which boils up within us. Christian love is described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. It is patience personified, it is bearing with insensitivity, it is kindness. Kindness is the love which involves itself in the nitty gritty of another's life even when you feel no emotional attachment to that person.



Let our love rise above the superficial, the shallow, the worldly view of slush and sentimentality for it is when the world sees how conflict, despair and life are transformed by Christian love that they begin to ask questions about the source of love's dynamic. John gives us the answer to that quest in a short sentence 'GOD IS LOVE'.

We ought to use the Prayer pages this month with these thoughts in mind, that each of us (for no-one is exempt from the need to be refined in the crucible of love) may be changed 'from glory into glory'.

And pray for us that we too might be enriched by love, chipped into shape by the divine sculptor of love, and learn the lessons of love personified when those who resist our authority act unlovingly.

Your servants in Christ,

David & Joyce.



We wish to thank Miss Shepherd for the gift of a lovely cloth which she has given to the Church. Although she is not a member of St. Nic's, she enjoys attending from time to time and particularly appreciated the School of Prayer in the summer.

We are delighted to announce the recent engagement of COLIN TAYLOR to CAROLE FOWLER. Colin and Carole hope to be married in February of next year.



Brian Pepper (the drummer!)

has just announced his  
Engagement to Anne Gredley.

# Family Pages



Julia Popp has written enthusiastically about her new job in Woking. 'I'm looking forward to my new job starting. Have had an extremely warm welcome from my new church family. Still don't have a place to stay, but hope the right thing will be found. Am living with a very nice family until something is found. The 1st (October) I start work and the 4th & 5th at the Harvest Festival Service, I get commissioned.'



Louise Sears writes from Birmingham:

'This month seems quite strange - a new place to live, with new people and a new job. It was marvellous because, until a couple of days before I was to arrive in Birmingham, I had nowhere to live. And I am staying with a Christian family with whom I already feel at one. There is a lot of laughter, which is very healthy, and also I feel that I shall be able to talk to them about the things which will inevitably come up with work.'

We look forward to Louise's return in November.



Congratulations to Jane and David Brown on the birth of a second daughter Erica Maria on Thursday 23rd October.



## Congratulations

Our best wishes and prayers go with Frank Wright on his election to the General Synod of the Church of England. He will be one of three lay members from the Southwell diocese.

## Christmas Choir



We hope this year to have a choir for our Carol Service, the rehearsals for which are on Thursdays Nov 27th, Dec 11th and Dec 18th, plus a possible short rehearsal at Swanwick. I have borrowed copies of 'Carols for Choirs' Book 2, - and we will be doing some items from there - so if you have your own copy, do please bring it. As we will be doing new material you are urged to attend the three main rehearsals.

Thank you to all who came and participated in the Sing-along Saturday Special, which was both enjoyable and helpful.

Jo Chandler..



## Lord, Show us the Father November 26th

This will be the title of the next New Way Nottingham Celebration, following on from Clifford Hill's previous two visits. Rev. John Finney will be the speaker and this will take place at St. Nicholas' on Wednesday 26th November during our Advent course. We shall require stewards for the evening.

New Way Nottingham carries of the Evangelical Alliance thrust for Evangelism in the City, following the launching of the Decade of Evangelism in Prestatyn in April.



Please remember the National Day of Prayer for U.C.C.F. and its work amongst students, on November 1st.



# AUTHORITY —



## A PERSONAL VIEW

When I was at school my moderate fear of authority figures grew. One feature of authority there was the predominance of justice over mercy. When I was 11 I was beaten for the possession of sweets (times have changed). At 18 I was threatened with the loss of my prefect status for the allegedly illegal use of an electric toaster. These memories are bound to linger. So for me, authority has lacked adequate heart to be viewed dispassionately.

### Hang-ups

To talk of authority in its Christian understanding as exercised in the church often resurrects this kind of hang-up. I can see that many people at St. Nicholas need to shake free of this sort of influence in order to see clearly in this area. By God's continued grace I can see more clearly than ever before, long may it last. We all have a great need, as God's children, of effective leadership and real spiritual authority. Because of our general distrust of authority (the 'man in blue' image) we can well do without 'it lorded over us' unless we are particularly stubborn or lazy! Because of our hang-ups (speaking personally, as I am) we can easily misunderstand one or two things about authority.

### The gift of leadership

One mistake we often make is to lump both leader-



ship and spiritual authority together. It seems to me that they are not necessarily the same thing. You may have a gift of leadership (Romans 12 v 8) which results in your being asked to fulfil a role or office of leadership in the church. Ideally this is to be attained in stages. Leaders are expected to progress from bottle-washer to Chief Cook, so to speak. At any and every stage their potential for handling people and situations is assessed by the flock. During this time there may be little evidence of spiritual authority or there may be much, but it is the side issues of consistency which win the day.

#### Growing in trust

As a possible leader grows, people begin to recognise commitment and care, humility and application. These things single someone out (1 Tim 3 v 1-7). The simple truth is that some people command respect more easily than others and this emerges as people are involved in fairly ordinary ventures like making coffee after church or cleaning the Hall. Accordingly people begin to give their trust to these leaders in the making thus accepting their leadership and authority. This makes for a sense of safety. 1 Peter 5 v 1-4 spells out signs to watch out for, 'not lording it over those who are entrusted to you, but being examples ...'

#### Spiritual authority

About spiritual authority I imagine there to be less agreement. This is a more subjective thing. It has to be. To say one statement is more authoritative than another requires more than an opinion; it requires discernment. Discernment is more intuitive than it is objective (excuse the long words). In order to prove something to be spiritually authoritative, say for instance a statement, we are more likely to know by the manner in which it is stated, than its content, provided the content is in accord with the Scriptures. Secondly, we

must wait to see if this statement validates itself in the long term. This, of course, is a true test of prophecy as well.

### Test the spirits

If I say from the pulpit, with great confidence, 'The Lord is telling us to go to the Market Square on Saturday to await his Second Coming', you can make certain tests. Is it Scriptural? If so you can go down to the Market Square and wait. That would prove whether my statement had authority or not, but it would be a bad use of time! You could, on the other hand, do a thing which I am suggesting as a test, and short circuit the whole affair. You could assess the way I make the statement. Am I open to disagreement? Is my prophetic word too cut and dried, too dogmatic? Do I have a bee in my bonnet about the Second Coming? In all of these subjective ways I believe we can discern spiritual authority (James 3 v 17). Finally, it would be fair to say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, something happens or doesn't!

### Leaders and authority

Thus leaders in the church have authority because their gift is recognised. They must prove themselves to be reliable. They need to be trusted and called to office. We hope, by that, to allow them to lead by serving us. We hope also to give them the right to lead by being prepared to be under their authority ourselves. To constantly criticise is to undermine this authority. We are under God's authority ourselves (like Jesus), both directly, and through His appointed leaders. We trust also that they too are under authority





(Like the Centurion in Matthew 8) to God and their leaders (Bishop etc), finally under that spiritual authority vested in every member of Christ's Body, the church (1 Cor 12 v 7). It may be that God will want to reveal an idea, a command, a rebuke, a prophecy etc. (in accordance with Scriptural revelation of course!) to an elder or a member of the Monday Fellowship, or anyone at St. Nic's to share with the leaders. This may be tested as described above but we truly owe it to each other to share spiritual insights, because they may carry more authority than we recognise (Parable of the talents, and all that).

Finally brethren ...

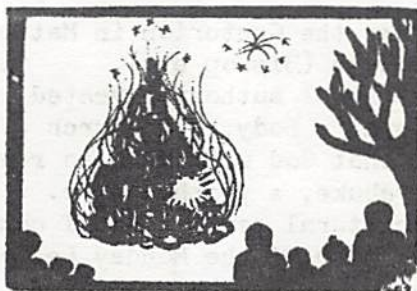
Pushing our own views whether we are leaders or not is not consistent with the exercise of spiritual authority. Fortunately I think we can trust our leadership to recognise that! Reacting angrily because of our fear of authority figures isn't spiritual authority either. Nor is the repetitive grinding of those traditional axes which are not getting their share of recognition in St. Nic's life and ministry. Nor is the persistent criticism of the status quo with no alternative to replace it. Nor is the kind of griping and grumbling which springs from past hurts ('fings ain't wot they used to be!') or personal vendettas. All these things spring from the 'flesh', not the Spirit. We've all done them, my time at Highbury was soured by such attitudes on my part, but we must grow out of such childishness (Eph. 4 v 15).

The greatest of these is love

All these things are far from spiritual authority. In the final analysis, true spiritual authority is found in Jesus Christ who came to serve, himself a man under authority, and like his Father the hallmark of his highly authoritative ministry (Mark 1 v 22) was self-denying love. And this is the mark to look for.

Martin Winbolt Lewis.

# FIRE- WORKS



If you place a lighted match in a box full of fireworks, sparks fly, there's an explosion and people in the vicinity are burned.

When you place some Christians in an office, on a committee or in the intimacy of a family circle, the effects are not dissimilar. Their aggression sparks off more aggression.

Anger is energy whose expression is as dramatic and sometimes as destructive as ignited fireworks. But the Bible makes it clear that anger, of itself, is not wrong. On the contrary, the Bible commands us to 'be angry' (Psalm 4:4)

When you see men and women destroying one another physically, emotionally and psychologically, anger should blaze within you. When you hear of Christian pastors leading their flock into error, you should be full of indignation. When you witness the work of Satan who still rampages through God's world, you should hate it. If you don't see the chances are that the malaise of complacency is creeping through you, deadening your senses to that which is just and pure and good.

For these are examples of righteous anger. It is the anger which rose within Jesus when He saw men defiling His father's house. It is the anger which prompts appropriate action.

As Christians, we must be angry. It is a command. It is a sign of compassion, concern, the discernment between right and wrong.



We must be angry but we must not sin (Ps 4:4). Sin is born of selfishness, it is un-Christ-like behaviour, sometimes anti-Christlike and it cares nothing for the rights and needs of others. Moreover, it is unconcerned for the hurt inflicted on those on whom we deposit our anger.

Misplaced anger leads to sin. Misplaced anger occurs when you have had a bad day at work, for example. You arrive home only to find that one of the children is clamouring for attention. The frayed edges snap. The anger which was bottled up all day is poured on the head of the unsuspecting child, and he gets hurt.

Misplaced anger usually demands that someone else should bear full responsibility for the grotty way you feel inside. So we pin the blame onto someone else. 'It's all his fault .... 'We accuse' and we retaliate by crushing another into fine powder. And that kind of behaviour is un-Christlike. It lacks the honesty to face up to what is wrong with me. It is devoid of self control, if the fruit of the Spirit and very often it is characterised by rudeness which is the antithesis of love (Corinthians 13).

Christ wants to convert all anger into something positive, healthy, productive. Anger need not destroy. It can propel people into positive action.

Next month, we examine how.

Joyce Huggett.

# january

## Confirmation

The Bishop of Sherwood will be conducting a Confirmation at St. Nicholas on Sunday, 25th January, at 6.30 p.m. Anyone wishing to be confirmed, please contact Martin Winbolt Lewis.

# prayer topics

## Week 1. - For Tolerance

Pray for the fellowship that it may be characterised by love. Love is patient. Patience is tolerance with bad taste, insensitivity, the personal preferences and habits which make another different from me. Pray that you personally might become more long-suffering. Suffering that which you do not like for a very long time.  
Pray for Fay Rumley in Uganda.



## Week 2. - For Kindness

Pray that kindness might be predominant in the fellowship. Kindness is non-sentimental caring which is unafraid to be involved with people, unafraid to get it's hands dirty, well prepared for personal sacrifice. Kindness is the tough compassion of a Mother Theresa of Calcutta, the surgeon injuring in order to heal, the protection of another which sometimes seems like cruelty.  
Pray that you may become more kind.  
Pray for David and Irene Green as they prepare to come to Swanwick.





Week 3. - To be real

Love is not boastful, arrogant or rude. Pray that boastfulness, that need which pushes us to exaggerate our own accomplishments might be banished from the fellowship. Pray that rudeness, that method of communication which rides roughshod over others might be exorcised from among us. Pray that you may become 'real' and cease to be boastful, arrogant or rude.

Pray for David, Joyce, Kevin and Christina this week.

**LOVE...**



**SEEKS NOT HER OWN**

Week 4. - 70 x 7

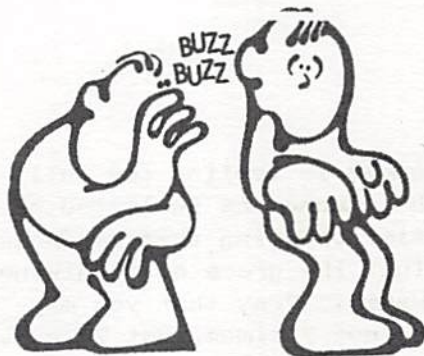
Love forgives. Forgiveness is feeling the full brunt of the pain which someone has inflicted on you while at the same time offering them kindness, love in action. Pray that the grace of forgiveness may permeate our fellowship. Pray that you may learn to forgive others, not 7 times, but 70 x 7. Pray for the Parish Week-end at Swanwick.

# EXPLORING YOUR BIBLE

- the letter to the Romans (2)

## Chapter 1. 1-17: Introduction

Paul does not plunge 'in medias res'. He begins by establishing his credentials and by showing his concern and care for his fellow-believers. v.1 - Paul is described as an apostle 'chosen and called' by God. Notice that he is thereby different from the Christians at Rome and, by implication, from us. They, and we, were called (v.6) but not chosen as apostles to be witnesses of the Lord's resurrection. In that respect the apostles were unique and possessed a unique authority. Yet, even in these early verses the subject of the Good News is made abundantly clear. v.3 explains 'the gospel of God' of v.1 - it concerns 'His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord'. In the same way our ministry should centre upon the person and personality of the Lord Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. vv 6-7 explain the dual nationality of believers - they were in Christ and in Rome. So we are citizens of heaven and of Nottingham. The Bible is always careful to maintain this balance between being 'in' the world but not 'of' it (John 17.9-16).



good  
news



# ROMANS

As so often at the beginning of his letters, after the initial greetings, Paul allows us a tantalizing glimpse of his prayer ministry. His love for the brethren at Rome shines through vv. 8-15 in a way which contrasts most noticeably with the perfunctorness of much of our praying. 'I thank ... without ceasing ... I long ...' - all speak of Paul's self-disciplined approach to prayer and his dedication to their service. Is the same true of me? It's a lovely touch, too, in vv. 11-12 when he acknowledges that the benefit and blessing from their meeting will be mutual. Great man though he was, he was always willing to learn. Today visiting preachers may feed us from the pulpit; we, in our turn, can encourage and feed them by our fellowship and by our prayers. Finally, in vv. 16-17 Paul introduced his main theme: the gospel of Christ. It is the gospel that Christ came to proclaim and of which He is Himself the subject. The GNB says 'the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself'. How? you may say. By faith as the O.T. says '(Hab.2.v 4) 'the just(ified) shall (be made a)live by faith' 'Oh,' says someone, 'I'm alright. I do my best; I support good causes and even go to church from time to time. The gospel is for sinners and so doesn't concern me'. Paul takes up this very point in the next, long section of the letter.

Next month: Chapter 1.18 - 3.20 - the need for justification.



## MISSIONARY LIFE

My dear Friends,

This comes to you all with much love and a longing to see you all again to share with you in fellowship in person. Meanwhile although we are all of 4,500 miles apart, we are still one in Jesus, and we can still come together in prayer and there are many reasons why we are in need of even more intense prayer support than ever.

Within the country as a whole there reigns chaos and apathy. The military government has done nothing to alleviate this, since they came into power, there have been no allocations of basic commodities e.g. salt, sugar and soap. This has triggered riots in some schools, and Muyebe was not without a few rumblings itself - a sack of salt was eventually obtained at the cost of £250.

The elections were postponed from September to December, and now there are rumours that they are to be moved to March or even June next year. Even more persistent is the thought that a certain former president will be the main figure in a future coupe. Meantime, aid is being obtained from Cuba, openly and practically in the form of sugar, but secretly and politically in the form of what we know not what.

Overall, life is far more difficult now than it was during the Amin reign and the war. Now there is no hope, now no one has an answer. What a privilege it is to be able to look to Jesus and in Him see a future, for our situation clearly shows that man holds no future security or answer to his own problems.

In Kabale itself, water and electricity supplies are very infrequent at present, raw sewage flows over the pavement in certain places because spare parts aren't available to unblock and mend pipes. The shops are full of every kind of commodity, all at Black Market prices - £10 for a small tin of jam, £3 for a very small loaf,



£3 for a small time of meat, £2 for a kilo of tomatoes, 14p for one banana! How we praise God for you faithful provision of dried food parcels!

At Muyebe, we are thankful for our new electricity supply, may the Lord bless all of you who gave so generously towards it! Today, Paul Darrel arrives to complete the wiring and we hope to have lights in our own house before too long.

We do need your prayers so much at school. Our girls have been sent home to register for elections, however, no forms etc have materialized yet, so their leave may carry on indefinitely. 'O' level equivalents begin on November 4th and there will be so very little time for revision when they do return. Pray too for our health and strength. We are very short staffed and also feeling very low physically. I have recently recovered from giardia, and now have a heavy cold-all signs of being run-down. Finally, pray for our safety-we have to pass through a road block each time we go to and from town and if there is no policeman there, the armed soldiers can be very difficult. They are often young Tanzanians who don't speak English or the local venacular.

My personal news is very cheering!! I am going down to see Ruth and Nigel and other friends in the new year, before returning to Nottingham at the end of February! I really do look upon this as a treat from the Lord. I shall be living with Jane Bott on my return - do pray that we will quickly adjust and settle. The immediate future is not yet clear, but I have applied for a place at All Nations Christian College for September '82! to study with a view to further work overseas, tho as yet know not where!

Finally, rejoice with me that my younger brother Simon, whom I love so very dearly was saved this summer whilst at CYFA camp!!



All My love

Fayx

30, Church Street,  
Champlain  
NY 12919  
U.S.A.



Dear Joyce,

Herewith my first Alastaire Cooke effort from America. I hope this makes the November edition of the magazine with an "update" of our news. "Update" is a very useful word I intend to import into Britain - note it is used as a noun - isn't that interesting. Perhaps it will rapidly enter the St. Nic's vocabulary. Apart from that we've resisted too many Americanisms. Violent execrations greet the children when they deviate from the mother tongue, but Abaigh has taken to eating "budder" rather than "butter" recently (still, I am ashamed to admit, with her fingers).

It seems we've been here an age. Our most vivid recollection of our arrival is the knock on our Manhattan hotel door at 7 am just after our arrival and being greeted by Paul Zahl, come to join us for breakfast of pancakes and maple syrup.

I can't work out quite what my students think of their English English teacher. Everything, I imagine from a pain in the butt (another quaint Americanism I shall not be importing to St. Nic's) to something approaching ap stolic, because I have actually seen the Beatles. So many of our pre-suppositions about American Society have been explored. My students aren't like Starsky and Hutch at all; many of them are very unsophisticated, insular and sheltered. It's certainly different discussing their hobbies: trapping, hunting and snow-mobiling!

We're temporary Methodists at present. The local church has really welcomed us and much about the concerns of the church are very familiar. Remember, though, all those St. Nic's choruses I



used to moan about - well I miss having them to moan about. Deirdre and I felt at our most homesick when a familiar refrain from many a Tuesday night was performed as an organ voluntary.

In an impulsive rush to gather new experiences Deirdre rushed headlong into the local Rural Theatre Group. These rural thespians love collecting props, building sets and making costumes but not acting - Result - Deirdre now has lead part and for once in her life is lost for words. Not only does our Methodist minister belong to this group, but so does the Episcopal priest, so we rehearse in the Episcopal church, even if we don't worship there. In fact we encounter the clergy in all the wrong places. Deirdre was introduced to Father O'Reilly, the Catholic priest, in the liquor store - guess what they've got in common apart from an appreciation of Californian Burgundy at a £1 per litre!

This country really is beautiful and I suspect that you Joyce would derive a good few meditations from the changing colours in the 6 million acres of forest of the Adirondack mountains this Fall. It is difficult to describe the wonder and spectacle of the changing foliage. It happens so suddenly when one morning you wake up to discover that some midnight sprite has danced through the night lightly touching the very edges of the leaves with a magic brush, tinting them various hues of red, gold, amber, flaming orange. Then day by day these colours spread inwards towards the trunk, radiating as if a heavenly light has been switched on inside the bark. Imagine mountain sides of trees changing like this and you can not fail to feel deep striving within, striving to express your joy and praise to such a wonderful God for this visual feast of His creation. We would you could all see this with us.

Much love,

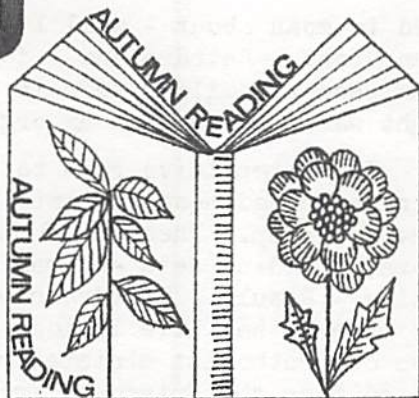


Martyn, Deirdre and the girls.

# review

## LOVE, HONOUR AND BE FREE

by Maxine Hancock  
(a Christian woman's  
response to  
today's call for  
liberation.)  
Pickering & Inglis.



'I am not a particularly domestic sort of woman. I would rather read a book or write an article than sew or knit. I am too distracted to be a very good housekeeper. So, naturally, there have been dark days when I have thought, "A woman like me should never have married." I belong in a career - teaching in a university perhaps, reading erudite books - and here I am, hanging out diapers. Since neither by temperament nor by natural talent or inclination am I the sort of woman who fits gracefully into the wife/mother pattern, I am just the sort of woman to whom women's lib philosophy is most attractive.'

In her book, a brave attempt to describe the struggle some Christian women have to interpret and implement the Bible's admonition to 'submit', Maxine Hancock raises some relevant questions and arrives at some unexpected conclusions. Who are the career girls? What does the Bible say about the ministry of women? These and other burning questions are tackled with integrity, insight and from an evangelical standpoint.

This book is especially relevant to young mums who may be finding motherhood or home-making costly, demanding or exhausting emotionally and spiritually. As the authoress admits, 'I don't expect that you



will accept all my conclusions. But if you will grant the relevance and reliability of the Bible, I do not think that we will differ widely on basic principles. And from that point, you will be able to work toward your own stance as a Christian women in a changing society'.

I did not find the book particularly well written; some of the Americanisms and more particularly the illustrations from American society irritated me, but as I closed the book at the end, I had to admit that I had been challenged by God through what I had read. In many ways, what she is saying about voluntary submission, mutual submission and practical, loving submission is not new but from time to time I need to see these truths in print.

I have a hunch that if several young mums from Coffee Club read this book, the rumbling would continue for a very long time and some might learn again Paul's injunction to be content in whatever state one finds oneself.



### GOD AND WOMAN

by Dorothy Pape

(a fresh look at what the N.T. says about women)

Mowbrays, £3.50.



A male member of our congregation suggested that I read this book and it is one which I have found fascinating, illuminating and instructive.

Dorothy Pape, a missionary in Japan, began her study into New Testament teaching about women as a reaction to a footnote in the Amplified Old Testament stating that the woman in Proverbs 31 was 'God's ideal woman'. Was this 'brawny, bustling matron of Proverbs' God's ideal? What of Mary, the thoughtful meditative mother of our Lord? What of Elizabeth, the elderly woman so full of faith, and righteousness, who was blameless before God?



I found Dorothy Pape's research intriguing. She examines the place of women in the gospels and concludes that Christ, at least, regarded women as worth communicating with, capable of comprehending deep spiritual truths, of receiving new spiritual insight, exercising strong faith, setting the highest standards of sacrificial giving and exercising special responsibilities. In other words, with Christ, it is exciting to be a woman.

Her study of women in the Acts highlights the conversions of various women and outlines their active place in the early Church. She concludes that women, like Priscilla who taught the great biblical scholar Appollos, had a definite ministry from the beginning; of prophecy, of prayer, and of hospitality; she recognises that women were full members of the Church, victims of persecution, but equally recipients of the healing ministry. In the early church, it would seem, to be a woman was to be fulfilled and fully involved, though Acts gives no clue to the personality traits of that elusive person, 'the ideal woman'!

Dorothy Pape writes with humour, she has a mind of her own and is unafraid to challenge fuzzy thinking of the past (mostly male!), she writes well so that her book is easy to read. Her wide research into these chapters:- 'Women's Church role : mute benchwarmer?' 'Woman : The second and subordinate sex?' in which she explores the variety of meanings of headship, in which she investigates the nature of the ministry of women in the Church and in which she examines the meaning of subordination not only widen our horizons, deepen our understanding but pose interesting questions about the place of woman alongside men in the Church, in the home and in society.

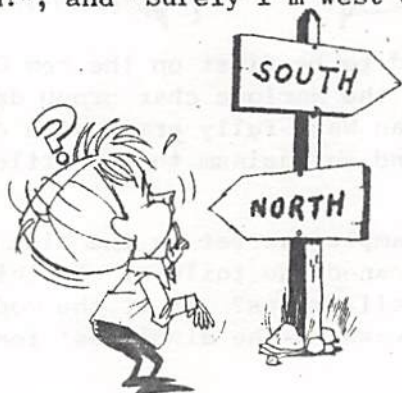
I believe this is a book to be read by men and women for as the dust cover claims, 'For all those who believe that the traditional interpretation of the New Testament consigns women to a subservient and secondary role in the church, Dorothy Pape's book will come as a disturbing ray of illumination!

# ROUND UP

News from

Link Groups

Lenton-South Link Group - that's us, at least, I think it is. The truth of the matter is though that with a few of our members there is not a little confusion. Let me explain. It may seem perfectly logical to many of you that if the Lenton group were to split into two (as it did in September) then the obvious manner in which to split it would be through the middle, North and South, either side of the Derby Road to be precise. However, as the master-plan of the redrawn boundaries was unfolded and expounded before the old Lenton group, the blank looks on some of the faces, and the worried frowns on others gave some cause for concern. A series of tentative questions soon indicated where the problem lay: "Is the topside north or south?", "Isn't Derby to the east of Nottingham?", and "Surely I'm west of the Derby Road."



To add to the confusion it had to be explained that our area also included the north and west fringes of the Park. After two months of meeting however, having carefully drawn a map on our programme, I think most members are beginning to be quite clear on where they should be. It was fashionable a year ago for one link group to challenge others to a Bible quiz. We would be more than willing to take on any other group in this or any other competition, with one proviso:- Geography is not to be included!

As we get into our stride this autumn, it is becoming apparent that certain characteristics which were a feature of the old Lenton group are still very applicable to us. For example although we have a good nucleus of 'regulars', a number of new members have joined us, and the indications are that because of the nature of many people's jobs (a lot of nurses etc. at the hospital) the turnover of members is likely to continue to be quite high. Please pray that everybody who comes along will feel welcome and at home in the group even if they are only around for a short time.

M.M.



Privileged to be first on the new Church Hall cleaning rota, the Marlowe char group descended from Maid Marian Way, fully armed with dusters, polish, mops and enthusiasm to do battle with dust and dirt.

A fine example was set by the Link Groups leaders who cleaned the toilets. Is this a precedent for all groups? Is it the modern equivalent of washing the disciples' feet?



Actually everyone set to with a will and the tasks were performed quite quickly. Working together revealed some new talents. Did you know that Jo loves polishing windows? Why not invite her round? Biddy is pretty good with a floor polisher (should be good experience for her when she graduates). Geoff can wield a broom, and Debbie rolls up carpets to leave no dirt undisturbed. Hilary arrives just in time to make the coffee, commenting "You can smell the difference!"

Seriously we hope the new rota for cleaning really works, and that other groups enjoy working together as much as we did.

J.H.



# wanted

WANTED: an iron, a Hoover,  
ladies bicycle, carpets,  
a single bed,

Certain items of furniture are required for the Chinese Community in the Rectory, including a chest of drawers, and a carpet.

Contact Joyce with any offers, please.



## Prayer for the Church

After Joyce Huggett's Summer School on Prayer a number expressed interest in praying for God's Spirit on the Church and its work. We have had two meetings, and have been encouraged by God's new opportunities which seem to be opening up everywhere.

Join us at 7.15 a.m.!! at 9, Lenton Road, The Park, on Tuesday, 4th November for half an hour, or 24th November at 56a North Road, West Bridgford.

# 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	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.