

St. Nicholas News

December 1980

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30 BARRACK LANE THE PARK

December, 1980

Our dear Friends,

God is the God who comes! We are about to mark the season of Advent, that period in the Church's life when traditionally we dwell on the awesome fact that our Lord who came first to this earth as a tiny baby, will return in all His glory, splendour and majesty, so that we may be with Him and we will be transformed into His likeness. That is the good news which can penetrate the disillusionment pervading our impoverished country this winter.

The lovely thing about being unwell is that, conscious of weakness, one is also caused to be aware that God comes to individuals now in the present. And He comes in a variety of ways.

He comes to the sinner, the one who has deliberately rebelled against Him, with the free gift of salvation. And it is He who does the rescuing, the saving, the up-lifting, and not we ourselves.

He comes as the burden bearer to shift the weight of the responsibilities from our weary shoulders to His strong capable ones.

He comes with healing in His wings. His is the healing which is unafraid to stay with emotional pain, physical pain and mental dis-ease. His healing sometimes removes the pain. At other times it provides us with the energy simply to grow through the darkness. And sometimes He simply sends a shaft of understanding so that we can endure the pain.

His ways are beyond our understanding. His methods transcend human loving and yet they use human tenderness, caring and practical help.

For us the past days have been a mixture of discomfort and excitement. At times we have been conscious only of turmoil. And then ... He has come in one form or another to lighten our darkness.

And so we move into another Advent with confidence.

Are you aware that God is the God who comes?

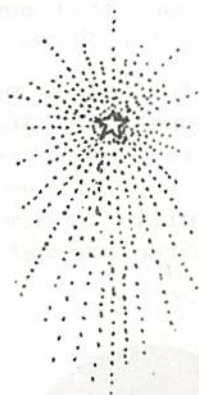
But Advent poses a second question. Are we ready for His coming? The meditation on Advent in this edition of St. Nicholas News rightly challenges our attitudes, our priorities, our heart-longings. Is He the one thing we long for? Or is Christ way down on our list of loves?

Paul challenged the Christians in Colossae to ensure that in all things Christ had the first place (1.18)

Is He the Lord of our attitudes, our lifestyle, our relationships?

May this Advent become a time when we reclaim Him as the Lord of our lives, so that if He comes soon, we shall be glad. And if He chooses to tarry, by our lives we shall be living signposts to the One who is King of kings, Lord of lords, and full of tenderness and mercy.

To those who are supporting us at this time in any way, we thank you. We are already surrounded by signs of His loving through you: the most beautiful night-dress Joyce has ever possessed



lovingly made by a member of the congregation she has never met! A warm bed-jacket, again lovingly crocheted by one who prays while she works with her hands. Cards, letters, plants, and some delightful straw stars from Germany which give the assurance that our prayer support is not localised, it is world-wide.



And so, as we thank you, we pray that your Advent and Christmas-time too may be enriched by Him who knows what it is to be weak and strong, poor and wealthy, empty and full. To Him belongs the glory of what is happening amongst us.

With our thanks,



David & Joyce.

BARROWBY



Who or what is Barrowby?

Barrowby is the Diocesan House of Ripon, situated near to Harrogate, and it is the venue of the St. Nic's Parish Holiday next summer, 22nd to 29th August 1981.

If you feel you would be interested, then book the dates now, as numbers will be limited to 32. Further details will be given later in a hand-out, which will appear soon.

TOYS GALORE



AND
MORE



Sunday, 21st December, will be the date to remember. On that date there will be an opportunity for our young people from 0-18 to give a gift to someone in need. There may be a Toy Service, the details aren't worked out yet. Anyway, please consider this as an opportunity to love those whom you don't know. Buy something you (parents may have to do some choosing) would like to receive for Christmas. Wrap your gift and mark it 'boy' or 'girl' with the age group for which it is applicable. We have found outlets already for these toys and gifts. Maybe your gift will indicate how much THE great CHRISTmas gift has touched you !

M.J.W.L.

help wanted

Are you in Nottingham at Christmas?

Could you help wheel-chair patients get to the General Hospital Chapel for a service at 10 am on Christmas Morning? Please contact Peter Bates if you are available.



family news

We send our loving congratulations to Hilda Wood and Jim Jakubowski on the recent announcement of their engagement.



It was good to see JACK and PAM COOPER recently, and to learn that they will be moving to Derbyshire on December 29th. Jack is to be Curate of the Church at Ripley and they will be living within a mile of Swanwick.



It was also a great joy to spend time with DAVID and BECKY WIDDOWS last month. They are enjoying their first Curacy in Manchester and would especially value prayer for their involvement with the CYFA group (or its equivalent). They would love to receive St. Nicholas' News regularly. Would anyone who remembers them like to offer to send it?



Doris Eisenhardt,
Herrenberger Str. 22
7400 Tubingen,
Germany.

2nd November 1980.

Dear family at St. Nics,

This summer Rolf and I had the opportunity to work in Thailand in the refugee-camps for 2 months. We went with a small refugee organisation called "Youth with a Mission" (Y.W.A.M.); I am surprised and glad that you have just been introduced to this organisation by Peter Barrett in the July/August edition of St. Nicholas News. He can tell you more about their work in Europe.

Today we want to give you a glimpse of our work and experiences there. In Khao I Dang we spent only one day to visit and to get a general impression of the camp-situation. We stayed the whole time in Bangkok and worked there in the Transit Camps 'Rang Sit' and 'Suan Phlu'. Beside the distribution of supplementary food in 'Rang Sit' and the cleaning of the toilets in 'Suan Phlu' we had time to get to know some of the refugees personally. We realised that they are individual people with individual problems and needs and not just a big mass of people.

I came to know three Vietnamese girls who had come by boat from South Vietnam to Thailand. They had close relatives in the U.S.A. but because they were rescued by a French ship they were supposed to go to France. This caused many sorrowful days for them and a lot of work to write to the different embassies until they finally received the permission to go to the U.S.A. These girls asked me to teach them English; that was the beginning of my English-class which soon had about 10 Vietnamese young people, eager to learn English. They were also interested in Christianity so that we had Bible-studies with

them; it was a great joy for us when three of them dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.

Rolf had the opportunity to teach German to a Cambodian family which was about to leave for Germany. They are now here and we visited them some weeks ago. We also have contact to a Cambodian family which now live in Switzerland.

Youth with a Mission (Y.W.A.M.) has been working in Thailand since December 1979. Now they have 2 centres:

1. Aranyaprathet, 3 km. from the Cambodian Border, where there are about 30 people, working in Kha I Dang; and
2. Bangkok with about 40 people working in the Transit Camps and among Thai people. In Bangkok Y.W.A.M. has been renting 4 houses for the workers to live in, they are situated in a nice area just outside of Bangkok. The members of each house live together as a big family.

The climate was very warm and humid but we did not suffer from it. It is a great miracle for us that nobody of our team became really sick or caught a tropic disease - we are very thankful for that.

The whole project was a step of obedience towards God's call and we experienced that he was so faithful in every respect. During these 2 months we learned anew the importance of living in a close relationship with God and under his guidance in every step we take.

In His love



Doris

and

Rolf

advent

What if you were to come now,
Am I ready?
Is everything as it should be
or is there something I'd just as soon you didn't
see?

If you came now
would I really be glad to see you
or aghast?



Would you spoil the party
or fit in and be the most welcome guest?
If you came today and knocked on my door
would I leave the T.V. set



and answer?

or if you phoned,
would I pretend I wasn't in,
or hang up when I realised
who it was

calling?

If you came today
and my world came to an end,
just what would my reaction be?



Sometimes I get scared
when I think of you coming
because I can never measure up
to your standards -
there's always something that I wished
I'd done or not done
said or not said
thought or not thought.

Getting excited, eagerly awaiting your coming
is not me at all
I can't imagine what it would be like.
What if I didn't like it?
What if I found I didn't fit in
that you weren't as I expected?
Yes, sometimes I get scared
Most times, I try not to think too much about it
and succeed mostly!



You who are called by My Name
listen to Me.
I have come.
There's no need to be afraid
Consider how I came.
A baby, no different from you
not born with any special privileges
but in a bare, cold stable.



Look at your earthly kings and queens
how many have direct access to them?
Yet I wanted all of you to be able
to come to me and know my love for you
whoever you are
and whatever your circumstances
and so I came to Bethlehem.



It confused and upset some people -
the unexpected

the unheard of
usually does!

But there were many, many more
who celebrated my coming.
Those who were ready for me.
They didn't know beforehand
exactly what to expect
but they did know who to expect.
And so they were not afraid
because THEY KNEW ME,

LOVED ME,

OBEYED ME

BEFORE I CAME,

and had already found me to be trustworthy,
loving, merciful, just,
and their whole delight.

Be like them.

Know me now

for yourself
so that when I come
and you see me

face to face,
I will not be a stranger
but your friend,

your Redeemer who lives
and stands upon the earth at last.



RICH



& POOR

A cheque for £150 was sent to TEAR Fund as a result of our Rich Man Poor Man lunch at the end of October, but raising money was not the purpose of the lunch.

For some of us it's easy to feel a quick pang of conscience about the poverty in the Third World and hand over our "conscience money" to ease our minds until the next television documentary on Uganda or whatever. For two thirds of the people of the world this grinding poverty has to be lived everyday and can never be put to the back of their minds - so for just a couple of hours in the the Church Hall we tried to live out this world situation.

Noone knew, until they drew their ticket as they entered, whether they were to be among the poor or the privileged rich. The poor had to queue for their bowl of rice and soup and eat it standing or sitting on the floor. The lucky twelve rich people, attended by immaculate, handsome waiters (!), sat down to much more sumptuous fare with luxuries such as napkins and flowers on the table.

We hope that actually experiencing the differences in lifestyle brought nearer to home a problem that we often feel is too large to appreciate. How uncomfortable did those 'rich' people feel eating in style? How hungry and frustrated did the 'poor' feel?

How can we follow on from this? -

- We can. - find out about the issues involved
- discuss them with others
 - think about our 'lifestyle' and how we are unwittingly contributing to world poverty
 - decide how we can live our lives in accordance with Jesus' words "to whom much is given much will be required, for their responsibility is greater".

(Anyone interested in discussing these ideas with a view to putting them into action - contact Di and Hugh McClintock or Martin Winbolt-Lewis).



On sale at the lunch were Third World crafts from Tearcraft and Traidcraft, World Development Movement tea and Campaign Coffee. The tea, from the Wavulagala estate in Sri Lanka, is a large-leaved Broken Orange Pekoe; the estate is owned by a charitable trust for handicapped children. Campaign instant Coffee is produced in Tanzania by a co-operative and 10% of the price goes to support an educational campaign seeking a better deal for coffee workers. Purchasing the tea and coffee ensures that a larger proportion of the price you pay reaches the tea and coffee workers rather than increasing the profits of giant multi-national companies.

If you wish to buy tea or coffee, or if a link group wants to take advantage of quantity discount please contact Ingrid Dixon (Radcliffe 5132).

Prices are as follows:

Coffee: 1 pack (100g) - £1.10; 10 packs - £10;
25 packs - £24; 50 packs - £47.50.

Tea: 1 pack (3 x 125g) - £1; 10 packs - £9.50;
20 packs - £18.

CHRISTMAS

Giving, sharing, presents, turkey - these are all different meanings people have of Christmas.

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?



What I would like you to do is to draw/paint a picture showing what Christmas means to you. Make your painting nice and bright, really interesting and so nice to look at.

I will put all entries up in church so we can all see the many different meanings of Christmas and then some friends and I will judge the winners.


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There is paper at the back of church for your paintings and when you have finished put your name and age on the back of your picture and either give it to me or place it in the box at the back of church.

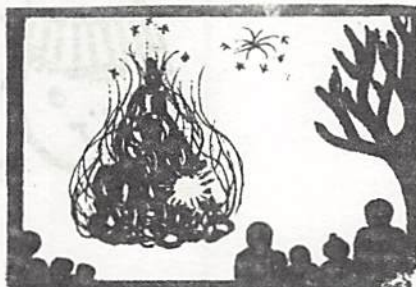
CLOSING DATE - Sunday
14th
December.

The winners will be in the magazine and there will be surprise prizes.

Happy Christmas
Denise 



MORE FIRE- WORKS



Last month we looked at the ease with which many of us destroy others with inappropriate anger. We also looked at the rightness of certain forms of indignation.

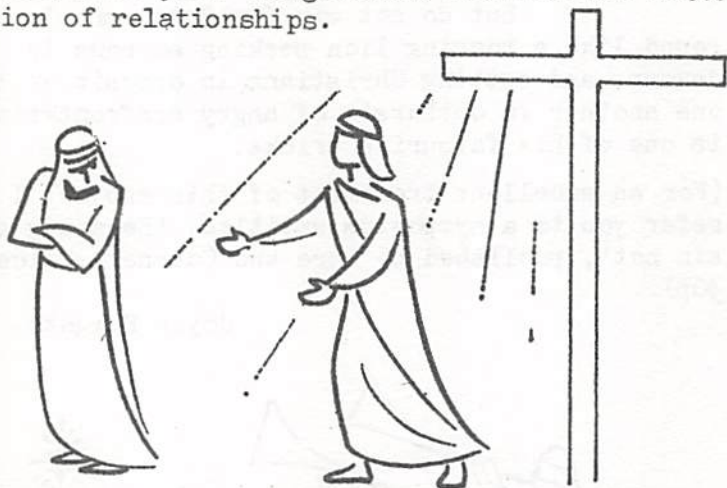
This month I want to suggest some well-proven methods of de-fusing the inner energy which, unless released, will blow-up in someone's face or else, to change the metaphor, will eat away inside of you and in the same way as a malignant disease gnaw away at the body.

If you are angry:-

Acknowledge your anger. Own it as a part of yourself. Find out with whom you are angry. Discover the reason. In order to do this, some people find it helpful to imagine that the person who has made them angry is standing or sitting in front of them. They then tell that person exactly what they think of them and the way they spoke just now, or acted the other day. If the feelings are violent, it can be helpful to thump a pillow or a cushion. (Better than the person's nose!) The important thing is to release the anger, to ventilate it, to avoid putting it into cold storage inside of yourself. Some people find it helpful to write down their angry feelings and great release is gained from tearing those pieces of paper to shreds! Some Christians who find that the energy drive of anger controls them, who discover their inability to master themselves in the pres-

ence of angry feelings, find that the best place to deposit their negative feelings is on the Cross of Christ. In imagination, they use their angry energy to drive the nails into His bleeding hands afresh and somehow a new perspective is gained.

When you have acknowledged the full force of your anger, the Cross of Christ is the place to which you must resort in order that you do not use your anger as an occasion to sin. Shout at your opponent in your imagination, swear at him/her, thump him/her, but then, in your imagination, go with him/her to the foot of the Cross. Allow the full force of forgiveness to flow between you and on you and over you. Forgiveness includes the restoration of relationships.



In the presence of the symbol of our redemption, the Cross, ask yourself some pertinent and penetrating questions. What is it about me which reacts to that person, that tone of voice, that situation with such violence? Lord, is there anything in my attitude which needs to be changed?

Most of us disregard our Lord's teaching about attending to the beam in our own eye; the chip on our own shoulder, the inner resentment which smoulders inside of us, the intolerance which lashes out at our opponents and we focus our

attention on that which needs to be changed in our brothers and sisters. But that is not a Scriptural perspective. The Lord requires truth in your inward parts. It is the truth about yourself which He would scrutinise.

Finally, allow anger to catapult you into appropriate action. Dr. Barnardo was angry when he stumbled over the bodies of orphaned children in London and he took action. If you are angry, deal with yourself before God and then do something positive to clear up the situation in which you have become embroiled.

Be angry

but do not sin for Satan prowls round like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour, and setting Christians in opposition to one another in outbursts of angry confrontation is one of his favourite tricks.

(For an excellent treatment of this subject I refer you to a symposium entitled, 'Be angry and sin not', published by Care and Counsel, Price 30p).

Joyce Huggett.



ARKELL'S ADVENTURES



46, Granby Gardens,
READING, RG1 5RT,
Berkshire.

12th November 1980

Dear David and Joyce,

It is good to be able to write to you again following the busy summer break. The last few months have been a very full and positive time. Our desire to be a part of helping to evangelise Britain continues to grow and it is a great encouragement to have you standing with us in this. You are the backbone of our ministry and we are fulfilled when we learn of any spiritual blessing that comes to you through being part of our support team.

I spent a fortnight in Turku, Finland at the beginning of August at our European staff conference. What an encouraging time!

Following Finland we re-united as a family. I immersed myself again in John's Gospel which I taught at our Summer School of Biblical Studies where 200 of our British staff, students and some German students gathered at Aberystwyth. I love teaching this book which seems specially designed to lead men to Jesus. In fact, over the last couple of years our staff have developed a series of Discovery Bible Studies based in John's Gospel, which we are now using extensively to introduce non-Christians to the person of Jesus. They are proving most effective. About a year ago Kate started to lead a series of these studies for parents who came to our church requesting their children be baptised. Several mums have come to personal faith in Christ and in the context of church life at St. John's are continuing to grow as Christians.

Through one such series we have come to meet and grow very fond of Judy and Tony. Judy trusted Christ following one of the studies. Tony, her husband, is very near. Pray for them that they grow in their faith.

The responsibilities of national director are slowly dawning on me. I am surfacing (for the second or third time!) following the summer. We are working with a team of very faithful and warm-hearted staff. We could not be in a more exciting place as we pray, dream, plan and work at doing all we can to help reach Britain for Jesus.

All is well with the family. Beth started nursery in September and is now staying for lunch. She loves it. It is part of our church school attached to St. John's where we worship. Domestic life has been hard work for Kate. We are praying for an au pair girl.



Please join us in this request. I have just written to one girl in Switzerland who we have recently heard about. We will need a place for her to stay but we are sure that a home will be found for her close by.

Our financial support has taken a battering over the past year or so but has now turned the corner. Thank you, those of you who give so generously and regularly. God has provided for us in some special ways: We have two new "chariots" - a beautiful pram for Christopher (who is a beautiful child) which was given to us by a couple at church. Another Christian couple gave us a pram seat for David.

David is now walking and talking! The second "chariot" is a slightly larger car. We exchanged models during a recent visit to Nottingham. So, we are grateful for God's provision, and grateful to you who have helped us.

Please keep in touch and let us know if we can pray for you.

Our appreciation in Jesus,

John and Kate and Family.




WHAT the DICKENS....

... do I want? Well, that's it in a nutshell. I have a Congolese friend with whom I have been corresponding since leaving college. He is a committed Christian, and teaches English in a brand new Secondary School near Brazzaville. He and the school are short of money, and English language books are very difficult to obtain. Now another friend of mine, Len Miller can pull a few strings in TEAR Fund, and may be able to arrange for some books to go to my Congolese friend without their equivalent of the Mafia diverting them to the black market (no racist pun intended!) This is where you come in. If you have any of our literary classics in paperback and not too dog-eared, that you no longer need, could you give them to me to give to my Congolese friend? What do I mean by 'classic'? Shakespeare, Dickens, Golding, Sheridan, Fielding, Bronte, Austen, Hardy, etc.

With many thanks,

Robin Scott.



News from Link Groups

Arnold Link-Up

Imagine a slice of cake with its point at Victoria centre and one edge being the Mansfield Road containing N.E. Nottingham and you have the Arnold/Sherwood Link group. A further diagonal slice of the cake at the Ring Road separates the two new groups.

The division was quite hard to accept by most members as the group was only 9 months old. However the Lord has really honoured the decision and two very lively groups now exist.

Arnold, the smaller has a regular core of seven though numbers fluctuate according to the duty rota of the City Hospital (mostly the Maternity Block!) We have been very encouraged and excited by the introduction of new members and have a very high percentage of Arnold members attending. Many feel that the weekly meeting of a smaller number provides greater continuity and ease of sharing.



Sherwood Soirees Ltd. (and Linked Assets!)

How does one describe a living, moving, growing community of friends? We have met for Bible Study for several weeks now, about a dozen of us each time, and we enjoy an often hilarious yet deeply serious time. We share prayer needs and the list of thankyou's and requests seems longer each week.

Over the Advent School we are Ten-pin bowling, walking in Derbyshire, party-ing, carol singing, celebrating communion, having a meal together. It is a group of friends, who are sharing their lives with each other, loving one another, gradually learning how to express that love.

The "Extra Study Class" meets on a Saturday morning to pour over basic Bible Study guides and talk, talk, talk ...

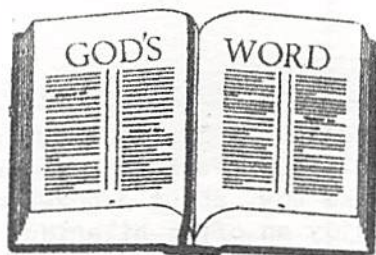
The Cultural Clique are going to watch "Under Milk Wood" (no advertising please!)

The Ladies' Tea Circle seem to be endlessly inviting each other to tea, as well as visiting some of the older members in their homes.



I can't keep up with the activity ... we are beginning to belong to one another ... slowly. We have much to learn, a long way to go in prayer, honesty and being outward looking. And yet we are very grateful to the wider fellowship of St. Nic's for being a greenhouse for our plant pot and to the Lord for "giving the increase".

P.B.



ROMANS

Chapter 1.18 - 3.20: the need for justification

In this long section it is important to see the thrust of Paul's argument as a whole before examining its parts. He is proving that EVERYONE needs to be justified in God's sight ('justified' is a legal term and means to be declared righteous, or 'not guilty'). Paul then puts into the dock three different sorts of people, representative of mankind as a whole:

- (1) 1:18-32 the out-and-out pagan who we all would say needs to be forgiven;
- (2) 2:1-16 the ordinary chap who does his best and lives according to his lights, typical of so many today as then;
- (3) 2:17 - 3:8 the Jew, the religious man who, in their eyes of the world, can surely have no need of forgiveness.

Conclusion 3:9-20 ALL need to be forgiven. Q.E.D!

Let us now take each section in turn.

(1) 1:18-32:

This is Paul's view of the world without God. Pagans have the evidence of the natural world (v.20) to convince them of the existence of God. But they wilfully overlook that (v.21). As a result God 'gives them over' (24,26,28) to the consequences of their own freewill. The 'rake's progress' begins with a wrong view of God and leads to an ever-widening catalogue of sins, both private (26-28) and public (29-31). The result is that 'they are worthy of death' (32).

(2) 2:1-16

Paul, good pastor that he is, now brings the discussion nearer home. Notice the emphatic 'you' in v.1. But even the 'good' man is in the same boat. He has the witness of creation, as had the pagan (1:19-20) and of conscience (v.15) but stands condemned out of his own mouth (2:1-3). It's not just a question of knowing or hearing about the law; it is actually doing it that counts (v.13). The implication is that the law which the Gentiles acknowledge by virtue of their humanity will, at the day of judgement, pronounce them guilty (v.16).

(3) 2:17 - 3:8

But surely I, as a Jew, am O.K. (v.17-20)? In the remaining verses of the chapter, Paul proceeds to demolish their self-righteousness with some withering rhetorical questions (21,22,23,26,27).

In chapter 3 Paul answers four possible objections (2,3,5,7) before concluding the section.

3:9-20

THEREFORE BY THE DEEDS OF THE LAW (whether mediated through the world of nature, the conscience, or the scriptures) SHALL NO FLESH (=mankind) BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT.

Well, you say, how gloomy! Where's the Good News in that? You say we are all guilty before God and can do nothing about it. The next section of the letter provides the answer.

Next month: Chapter 3:21 - 4:25 - the way of justification.

Patrick McKie.





Please

Week 1.

That this Advent season our hearts may rejoice at the wonder of the message that He who came will return. That Advent may see us ready to meet Christ if/when He returns 'like a thief in the night'.

If He came at this moment, is there anything you would regret, be ashamed of, want to hide from Him?

Walk in the light.



Week 2.

Pray for teachers who will be relating the Christmas story to children in school this month. Pray that the Holy Spirit will wing their words and convince the children of the truth that God came as a baby because He wants to be found. Pray against the childish confusion which blurs Father Christmas and Jesus.



Pray...



Week 3.

Pray for a right perspective on spending this Christmas. Pray against personal worldliness, greed, grasping. Pray that contentment might characterize Christians during this season.



Week 4.

Pray for the variety of Carol Services this month that God's Spirit will convince and convict men of sin and their need of a Saviour. Pray that Christ may be the pivot of your Christmas festivities, not parties, alcohol, presents or food.

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH NOTTINGHAM

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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.