

St. Nicholas News

DECEMBER 1981

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30 Barrack Lane
The Park
Nottingham

December

Our dear Friends,

What an amazing month November has been so far. First there was the Parish Weekend at Swanwick when 130 members of the congregation relaxed, made new friends and enjoyed meeting Roger and Mushy Simpson again. Then there was the visit of David Pawson with all its important repercussions. And following closely, there was the Healing Service. All of these have made significant contributions to the life of our Church. Let's take each one of them in turn.

The Parish Weekend.

One aim of our time at Swanwick was to seek from God a fresh vision of the next phase of the life and ministry of St. Nic's. The vision God gave was exciting far reaching and demanding. The conference members seemed to sense an urgency in implementing the vision even though they were aware that it would be costly in terms of time, money, energy. Commitment, they felt, was a key word if certain changes were to take place. What are these changes ?

We seemed to be shown the need to train lay people so that we no longer have a congregation of 'generalists'. Rather trained specialists equipped to fulfil one role well would be our aim.

This training would include instruction in evangelism and people were encouraged to set up supper parties where evangelism could take place in their own homes.

As people are drawn into the fellowship, they need to be welcomed. The Conference felt God was challenging us to re-examine our strategy for welcoming newcomers to the Church; so often they feel welcomed for a week or two, then they are dropped.

Training, evangelism a constant stream of newcomers spell change. Change seemed to be an integral part of the vision we were given. With it comes the need each of us has to accept the inevitable disruption to our routine and comfort.

Change necessitates strong leadership. Leadership is useless unless it is accompanied by submission, obedience and a sense of togetherness. God seemed to be challenging us to pull together, even to strain every muscle in a striving together. This means leaving the past to the past and forging ahead unitedly and in strength.



And none of these things can happen unless members of the congregation are growing up into Christian adulthood; unless each Christian is a praying Christian. When individuals learn how to pray, group prayer becomes easier; more fluent. When the two's and three's meet together, God is there, blessing, speaking, directing, breaking down barriers. Therefore we must pray; we must get underneath this vision and pray it into reality.

Members of the Conference stressed the importance of passing the vision on to those of you who were not at Swanwick. So we have referred to it in detail here, we spelt it out on a Tuesday night meeting, you can go into it in more depth in your Link Group. Don't get left behind just because you were not at Swanwick. That would be tragic. So much of this vision dovetailed with the message God gave us through David Pawson on the two nights after Swanwick.

David Pawson's visit.

David Pawson urged the Churches of Nottingham to stop being life-boat churches; women and children first. There is an urgency about these times in which we live. The Church must be the Church on the march. Our nation is enemy occupied territory, but when the church goes on the march armed with prayer, the land can be occupied. This is our task.

If we are to surge forward, we need leaders. Many leaders. These leaders must be wise, understanding, experienced people. They must be chosen carefully. God will ordain them with His authority. They are to disciple the spiritual babies. They are to listen to God and not to men, for a leader who listens to the people instead of listening to his God forfeits his right to be a leader.

The most powerful weapon any leader wields is prayer. Leaders, and others, must set targets within their capacity to believe. What can you imagine God doing with your group? Ask for it. Trust for it. Believe it. Then ask for a bit more. This way the land will be occupied

Urgency, leadership, prayer. These were three ways in which David Pawson's ministry over-lapped with Swanwick. There was so much more. Make it your business to find out the 'so much more.'



The Healing Service.

As we write the healing service has not yet taken place but the evening for preparing those who will be ministering has been held. It was thrilling. God challenged us that night to stop neglecting the spiritual gifts with which he has entrusted us. Some of us were reluctant to use our gifts that night. Others refused to use them.

And God rebuked us. The gifts God has given to you are not toys to shut in the toy cupboard. They are tools, equipment for spiritual warfare. We must stop playing games and equip ourselves as soldiers.

The staff are thrilled by what is happening. We are ready to move ahead if you are with us. Are you? Are you prepared to pull your weight? Then God will bless you richly. (See Luke 6.38).

Excitedly in His service.

*With our love,
David and Joyce.*



1. Church Hall Boiler Room.

If anyone has things stored in the Boiler Room opposite the stairs up to the Rectory in the Hall, would they either clearly label them or remove them. We are going to purge this room particularly of broken items of furniture and also boxes of old clothes. We shall act upon this within the next month so you are warned. Thank you.

M-W-L.

RECTORY GARDEN

"The parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom..." (Is.35 v.1). Would the person with a burning ambition to transform the Rectory garden, possessing the vision of Capability Brown and the fingers of Percy Thrower please apply sending full c.v. to The Curate, Savoy Cinema Annexe, Derby Road - 'cos it's a right mess at the moment!"



Consider the lilies of the field,
they neither toil nor spin,
yet I say to you that not even Solomon
in all his glory was arrayed like one of these





ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The team from St. Nick's has been working in All Saints' for just over a year. In that time the Lord has moved out some people from the team, notably Robin Genner to Sudan and, most recently, Dorinda Bath to assume the responsibilities of a Link Group Leader. But the Lord has most definitely moved in the church in response to the awakened hunger of many people for learning about the Christian faith.

The striking difference in All Saints' now from the church of a year ago is that the congregation has grown three times larger. Many young people from the housing estates in the parish are finding an enjoyable involvement in the church's life. These people have been contacted through two projects, the first involving some students from Cambridge who undertook some door-knocking over the summer, and the follow-up visiting by the curate John Walker and Chris Lane, a student from St. John's. Our work is among the more established church people and we have formed particularly strong friendships with the West Indian folk in the area.

The church has been fortunate in being host to a St. John's Team who are working hard getting to know newcomers and making them feel welcome. And also fortunate to gain the services of John Walker and his wife Sue, who were previously in a church in Loughborough.

For Jeremy Lovell and myself, who continue to work in the church, please pray for the support of God's guiding hand in all we do there. Pray for the Lord's protection for us, and most importantly for the commitment and discernment to follow up people who are reaching out to Christ, ready to give themselves to serving Him.

Steve Holton.

WELL WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?



6 - 9. I blamed it on the cow pats. Careful charting of their location revealed our goal area had fourteen to their eight. The most elegant save was made in-elegant by the 'keeper's face ending in a cow pat. However, some managed to use them to their advantage: they made a handsome tee for corner kicks. Someone

commented on Mike's sun tan, but soon ate his words on closer inspection. Yes, you have guessed it!

Being with the church at Swanwick was 'slick', (the latest 'in word' for fantabadozy). It was simply good to be together with fellow believers sharing more than our usual meeting/service selves. A welcome opportunity for worship, deepening of friendships, and enjoying recreation. I at least benefitted from the planned lighter programme.

It was a joy to renew fellowship with Roger, Mushy (Swahili for Super), Thomas and Bump. Both Roger and Mushy are extraordinary in their ordinariness. Ordinary in that they came over as people like you and me who have doubts, fears and weaknesses. Extraordinary in that they share this from the speaker's platform, and have thrilling testimonies of God working through them. The increase in the fruit of the Spirit in their lives is proof of their growing stature in the Lord.

Roger's talks were brilliant. He was a good preacher before he left us, now he is even better. Being under John Stott has not affected his over-the-garden-fence style of delivery. The area that seems to have been affected was his starting point. Each time he began with Scripture, explaining illustrating and applying it. He preaches to himself as well as to his hearers. An informal delivery transmits challenging truths about God with authority.

The message was more crucial than the preacher. If we mean business for God we must pray steadfastly, be soaked in His Word, proclaim the Gospel, and we need to know how to do this where God has put us. Roger's vision for what St. Nic's could be doing for God in Nottingham over the next decade would have thrilled even David Pawson. Those that remembered his idea of the double-decker bus into all parts of Nottingham, found it replaced by: training courses for laity; week-end team evangelism from other churches; supper parties; agnostics anonymous; beginners groups; secular and Christian youth work; lecture courses on theology; occasional lectures on ethics; better organised pastoral care; and, a bigger fulltime staff to put all this into effect, which requires realistic giving on our part.

These are exciting times for St. Nic's. We are therefore more vulnerable to Satan's attacks. Let us pray for one another, particularly our leaders. Let us unite to bring glory to God's name in Nottingham.

R.A.S.



DAVID PAWSON'S VISIT I

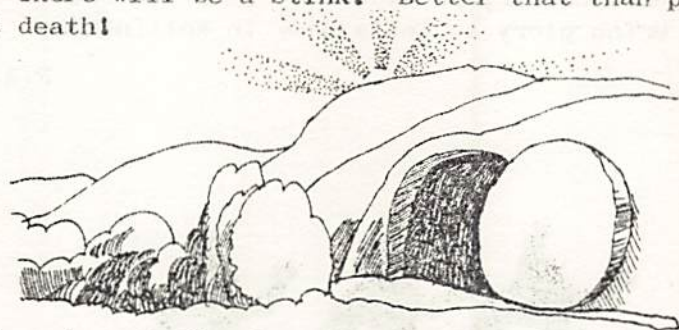
JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

As a result of the two evening talks on 'God's direction for this decade' and the meeting with Nottingham Ministers on the Monday morning several challenging points were made. Before the trail goes cold it may be worth passing some on to those who couldn't be there. Tapes of the two evening talks will be available for borrowing at the back of the church. I don't think we can take the risk that God is not saying anything to us through David Pawson. Hear, weigh, test and express what your spirit says!

Ministers' meeting Monday a.m.

SCRIPTURAL STARTERS - Is. 43 vv 16 - end - Forget the past; see and perceive what God is doing today. He is bringing a revival, but the net is not yet strong enough to cope.

John 11 vv 38-53. - The raising of Lazarus. Here a cemetery is the place of growth, a significant observation of 1980's Church Life. It is we who must remove the blockages - the stone in front of the cave. We put the blockages there. We must take off the bandages of preservation, our traditions which inhibit life. There will be a stink! Better that than permanent death!



Ephesians 4 vv 3-16 - We must work towards unity as children, and not wait until we grow up. Unity is an attitude of mind and heart not a unanimous vote on the committee!

LISTEN!

God is talking to us again. That is a cause for rejoicing. When God is not speaking we revert to our differing expository schools like the Pharisees and the Saducees. Expository preferences are a dead letter compared with the word of the living God. Since 1973 he has been saying 'let my people grow! He means don't hinder them! Since 1978 he has been saying 'occupy the land! We have been in retreat, imagining our spiritual ghettos were the same as the church militant! So often the bottlenecks have been the ministers.

THEY'VE GOT TO GO

To be a body who can cope with the new wine God is producing we must drop two features of our life which inhibit his work. These are a professional type ministry based on a caste system, and a club type membership in our churches. The one says to other members of the Body 'you're an amateur', and the other to unbelievers 'God's love is unconditional but ours isn't!'

CHANGES NECESSARY TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE.

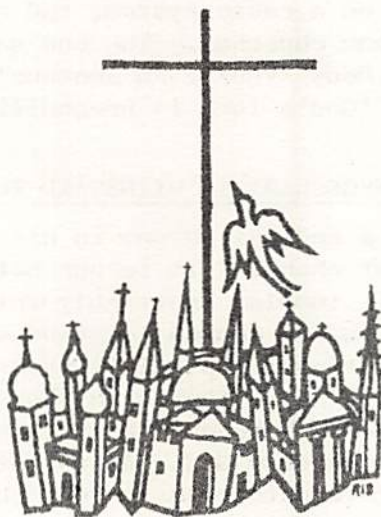
God wants a radical change in his church. He is giving us a last chance. It is our nation's last chance before it tumbles inevitably into collapse. He is getting ready a church to stand under pressure. Neither a professional type ministry or club type membership will stand. That's why London Cabbies can plant and lead churches! Britain has gone down because we have ignored God. As we return to him we shall grow and strengthen as society continues to plummet. After the displeasure of the religious authorities we must expect savage reaction from society. That will find out leaders ready to fear God rather than men. A reviving church will then meet a godless society head on. That will be costly. God wants a a body that can save the nation. It is urgent. The division in the church will be between those who hear what God is saying and those who don't. He is doing this because he still loves the world (John.3.16).

prayer topics

Week One.

Praise for God's goodness in allowing his church another chance to obey him and be a spiritual force to be reckoned with.

J. John at Evangelist's Conference, Swanwick, for input. Elders night away on 3rd/4th; for a clear word from God. For the Staff, Link Leaders and their groups as they discuss what God has been saying; through Swanwick and David Pawson.



Week Two.

Praise for the overseas missionary burden amongst people, for the Spirit's leading in our congregation for this work. Pray for each of our overseas links personally. John and Helen, John and Wendy, and Anne, Robin. For Barry Harrison on his visit to us on the 13th for God's word to us.

For the work of the Missionary Committee under Malc. Offord's leadership.

Week Three.

Praise for the Living Word, the reality of God brought down to earth. Pray for Jesus at Christmas not a time of Christmiss.

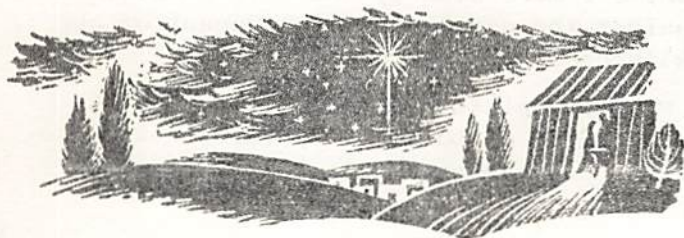
For the Carol Services, our own and those who we welcome and at which we minister; for the power of the Spirit through worship and word.



Week Four.

Praise for all that Babe became; for the mustard seed of faith and what it can achieve in Nottingham. For opportunities to show Christ's love in action this Christmas.

For the older members, for the single and the suffering this Christmas.



DAVID PAWSON'S VISIT II

Monday p.m. Albert Hall. Let my people grow.

"Samson's hair is growing again!"

Judges Chapters 13-16 provided the inspiration for this talk. David had asked God what he was doing in the nation and the reply was simply that "Samson's hair is growing again." Judges 15 v 22 tells us that this indeed happened. God's church is beginning to grow in Britain.

WEAKNESSES

He talked about Samson's failures; his indistinct lifestyle; he became like everyone else. Do we recognise the Church here? He said how Samson didn't know that the Lord had left him (15.20), do we? He became blind (15.21), are we? He was in chains; like our traditions? He was looked upon as entertainment (15.25) as so often we are. His enemies say 'our God is strong (15.24), doesn't our society say that of the god of self reliance, the god of materialism, the god of reason and convenience?

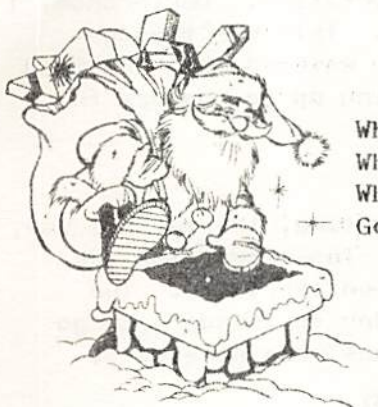
THE WAY FORWARD.

In the end the key to Samson's success comes, he asks of God, 'let me die' (15.30). Without God's power he was just what he was created. nothing. His hair was not what power depended upon, it was God's Spirit given upon obedience. In the end, to save his nation and conquer the Philistines he has to humbly ask a little boy to help him to put his hands on the pillars which held up the temple. It is the young people today who see more clearly where to address God's power against the enemy. Will we repent of our weakness and blindness and let them?

Remember we had a picture at the Swanwick week-end allied to a feeling of being ready for a new phase of a temple like in the Acropolis? Could this tie in? Let my people grow!

Children's Page

Where do all the Snowmen go,
Tell me please, I want to know -
Where do all the Snowmen go ?
Disappear dear, with the snow.



What does Father Christmas do
When the winter nights are through -
What does Father Christmas do ?
+ Goes on holiday, Like you !

Never rely on
A Lion,
When he lends you a shoulder
To cry on;
He'll pretend he's a friend
But then in the end,
When you're dyin' you know that he's lyin' !



DAVID PAWSON'S VISIT III

Tuesday p.m. Albert Hall. 'Occupy the land'.

Nearly twice as many people came this evening. There was a greater sense of expectation. Deuteronomy 1 was the passage to point the way. This was the description of the people of God who wavered then remained in the wilderness rather than going up to possess the land God had promised them (v.8).

LAST CHANCE

If the church misses it this time, the message was, Britain would go down the drain. The assumption was that this country is enemy occupied territory. The same went for Nottingham. In order to invade - to go in to occupy the land, three things were necessary.

1. STRATEGY



The church in Britain had been in the wilderness since World War I. We needed an objective now. It was to reclaim territory (people, power structures, means of communication etc.) from the enemy. We must not settle down and get comfortable but 'go up'. This requires setting our sights within Nottingham. Have we faith to believe God for just a little encroachment on Satan's ground - then exercise it? Then let your faith grow so that more ground is won. 'See I have given you this land.'

2. TACTICS

How do we plan to use our resources? Deuteronomy 1 verse 19 goes on to talk of the delegation of leadership and the division of membership. We must learn not to fulfil the expectation of people ('but the Vicar's never visited me') but of God himself. God will raise up the leaders. John Wesley saw this by bitter experience.

The church is neither a democracy nor a dictatorship, both are unbiblical. Wise, respected men (verse 15) are to be chosen to lead. House groups were to be the means of coping when God brought great spiritual fruit in the years to come (what Brian of Evangelical Alliance said in September!) A house group in every street in Nottingham was the tactic.

3. MORALE

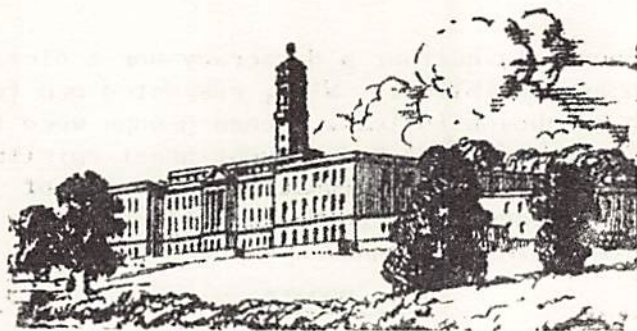
Because Moses listened to the people and not to God he couldn't be allowed into the land (verse 37). We must make up our minds whether to go in to possess Nottingham for Christ, or pull back. The ten spies were daunted, but Joshua and Caleb saw the land through the eyes of faith. Their morale was dependent on God's promises whilst the others saw through the eyes of their flesh. Their morale slumped.

God will carry us into the land. He has given us Nottingham, it is his, he wants it back.

We all represent some territory which has fallen into enemy hands. We must start now to exercise faith of mustard seed proportions to win it back. God wants to give it. There will be a cost. The Cross lay across Jesus path. Beyond it lay the Joy of succeeding with God in his plan for the nation. Occupy the land! Over to you.

M.J.W-L.





NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN UNION

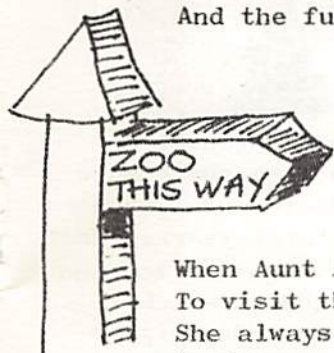
The New term is now past half way through, and it is exciting to look back at the way the Lord has been working among us.

In "Week One", events were well patronised including a very entertaining Barn Dance and an excellent concert by Bryn Haworth. Our start-of-term outreach culminated in a meeting in the second week with J. John. We had some unexpected extra visitors, who had come thinking the room was booked for ballroom dancing!

Our regular Saturday night meetings have been well attended and a spirit of participation is very evident. We really praise God for the way He has added folk to us and we are praying that He will lead many more to Himself, as we witness on campus. By the time this article is published, we will have had a couple of midweek meetings with Justin Rees who has been working with the "New Heart for the Nation" team. We are also planning a Carol Concert in December to which we hope to take along many friends.

Thank you for your support, especially in prayer for the work the Lord has given us at the University.

What is the nicest thing you ever do ?
Between you and me it's a trip to the zoo;
I love to see penguins, and zebras and yaks,
And the funny baboons with their young on their
backs.



When Aunt Agatha comes up to town
To visit the dentist or buy a new gown,
She always says to me "What shall we do now;
As long as its just what your mother'd allow ?"

I know that the zoo's what my Aunt most enjoys
In spite of the crowds (and the smell) and the
noise;
She waves at the chimps and points at the bears
And laughs at the apes till her eyes fill with
tears.

When the hour gets to five and time we should go
My Aunt is still walking and enjoying it so;
Then I have to be firm and tug at her sleeve,
For otherwise Auntie would just never leave!



cyfa ventures



Crazy Youngster Fooling About; Campanologists Yearly Foundation Appeal; I never have been quite sure what C.Y.F.A. stands for even though Rosie and I have been involved in leadership for two or more years. What I can tell you, is the kind of things we get up to, and who we are. C.Y.F.A. is the group in church which caters for those aged up to about twenty. Our aim is to provide for the spiritual needs of that group of the congregation whilst remaining an integral part of the church.

Our activities revolve around two major meetings. Perhaps the most important of these is the fortnightly bible study on a Saturday night held at our house in Lenton. About 15-20 people are involved in this Study which is prepared beforehand by everybody and discussed on the Saturday night in small groups. Afterwards we have Coffee and relax together.

Perhaps our most prominent meetings are the ones after church on a Sunday night. These are meant to be lighter than the Saturday meetings, occurring as they do after the church service. Up to 30/35 of us meet in the Lower Lounge for a very varied programme ranging from debates 'this house believes that christians should 'drop' the bomb' to talking and book reviews etc.

Over the past two years, we have set up teaching and fellowship weekends where a good proportion of the group has been away to the East Coast - a good chance to get to know each other. Summer Camps are also a key feature, for many of the members and leaders.

Please pray for the leaders of the group as we meet and plan our full programme, and also as we seek to expand and accommodate the spiritual needs of our young folk in the city centre.

THE NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE

cordially invite you to join a coach outing to London on

SATURDAY, 9th JANUARY, 1982

to see a sparkling new Musical at the Westminster Theatre

"GAVIN AND THE MONSTER"

It is a real inter-city show, complete with conflict, humour and a variety of music, monsters (real and imagined), and a WHITE KNIGHT who is BLACK.

It has many delightful shafts of spiritual truth and a magical ending.

The coach will leave St. Nicholas Church, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham at 8.30 a.m. promptly.

The outing will include a tour of Central London and enable visits to the Houses of Parliament or Westminster Abbey - arriving at the Theatre at 2 p.m. for the performance at 2.45 p.m.

A packed lunch is suggested - also there is a snack bar at the Theatre.

COST: £9 per person

£7 children and students

FOR TICKETS PLEASE APPLY TO:

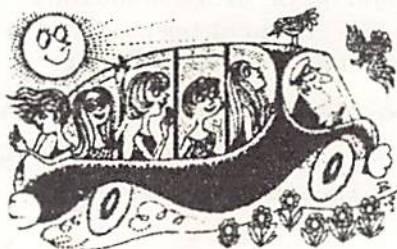
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hawthorne, or
16, Chestnut Grove,
Nottingham

Miss G. Norman,
174, Nuthall Road,
Nottingham.

Tel. 625335

Tel. 783097

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PLEASE.



LIFE - STYLE



How many of you saw the recent television programmes on the Brandt report, or followed the news items on the Mexico summit of world leaders? Through these our attention was drawn to the problems of our divided world - how can rich western nations and poor developing countries work together for a fair deal for all? All this sounds very remote from our everyday lives - should we leave such issues to the figureheads of world politics or can we as Christians and ordinary folk have any influence? Here are a few guidelines that perhaps we as individuals and as a church can be thinking about.

General Principles

- to live more simply than others may simply live
- to give to those less fortunate than ourselves
- to make decisions on what to buy and how to spend as one who wants fair shares for all
- to resist the pressures of advertising to buy what we don't need
- to challenge wasteful packaging and built in obsolescence
- to avoid the exploitation of others
- to work for economic and social justice in the world.

Practical points

We cannot achieve an 'Ideal lifestyle' overnight, in fact there is no such thing, as there is no one blueprint to aim at.. Each individual and family will have different needs and ways of responding. Don't be overwhelmed by the size of the problem. Start in a few practical ways - here are some ideas:

Recycle - milk bottle tops, envelopes, stamps

Food - consider buying Campaign coffee and WDM tea.
Try new recipes using less meat

Read - Ronald Sider "Living more simply", New Internationalist, Third Way

Give - consider how much of our income we should give away, support such organisations as Tearfund, Christian Aid.

Action - consider buying Tearcraft/Traidcraft goods, or joining such organisations as WDM, Amnesty International, War on Want, organise transport to save energy - walk, cycle, share transport.

Watch this space in future months for more ideas and suggestions.

Di McClintock

Ingrid Dixon.



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SUNDAY SERVICES AND WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship.
Creche. Climbers. Explorers. Pathfinders.

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
Area Link Groups Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.00 p.m.

Fortnightly

Women's Fellowship Mondays 2.30 p.m.
Coffee Club Wednesdays 10.15 a.m.