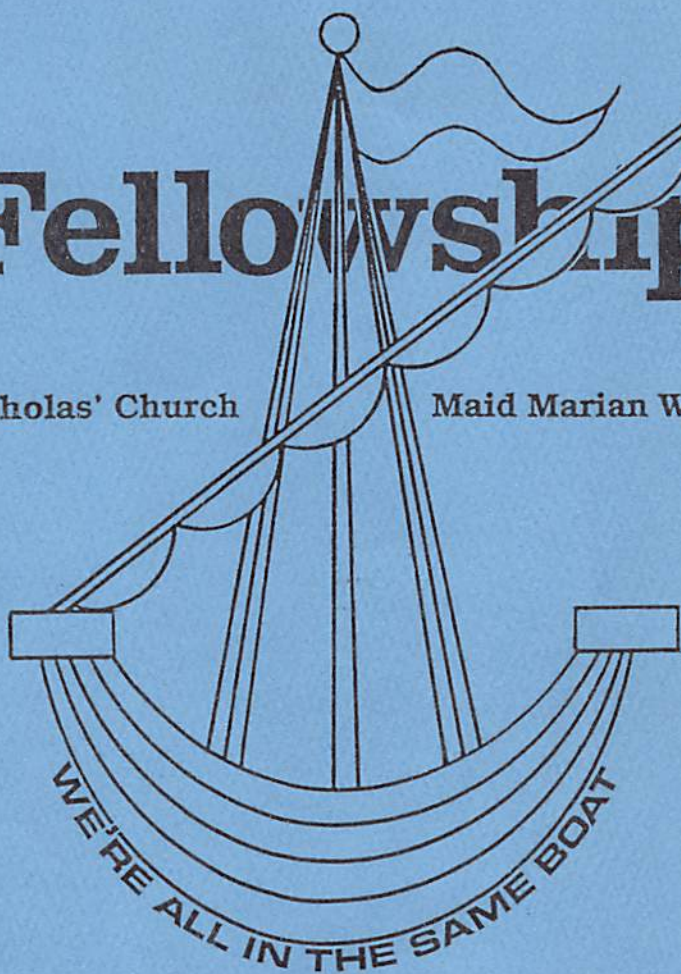


Fellowship

St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way



In This Issue:

- Drugs Haul - How it Happened !
- Report from Papua New Guinea
- Thinking Green, Thinking God
- What's on November - January
- Lenton's Local Link-up
- J. John live on Television
- Peweater the Woodworm
- All the latest News and Lots More !

November 1989

Price : 35p



Fourwords

Are you one of those people who have managed to collect enough Air Miles to get you to Skegness and back? If so, you could put them to better use by sending them to Missionary Air Miles who will use them to acquire tickets for overseas missionaries. Unwanted miles should be put in the Editors' mail-box, or sent to: Stan Gain, Missionary Air Miles, 133, Old Dover Road, London. SE3 8SY

Rev. Peter Phenna on Sunday 5th November, morning.
"I expect I will have to get used to people saying to me, 'are you Rachel's father?' - but I'd rather be in that position than David Huggett's when people say to him, 'are you Joyce Huggett's father?'"

The Christian response to Hallowe'en seems to have been more solid this year, and the effect is spreading:

Headteachers in Kent were asked to discourage trick or treating, following a police warning.

In recent years, many schools have ignored any mention of Hallowe'en because of pressure from the Association of Christian Teachers.

The Right Rev. Michael Baughen, Bishop of Chester, has written to clergy in the Diocese attacking "the wretched development of Hallowe'en events." In his letter, he says, "The 'trick or treat' idea and the advocacy of Hallowe'en in schools all seems like harmless fun, but . . . the power of evil is real, not imaginary - and the terror of many who move on to the occult and ouija boards is anything but a game."

In this issue, you can read about a dazzling celebration of light, organised to counteract the darkness of Hallowe'en.

A thought on the ordination of women - This is not an issue on which our eternal salvation rests, is it worth splitting the Church over?

♦ Did you know that J. John and David Beales are preaching at 24 carol services this Christmas?



For Advent and Christmas, a new design is needed for the poster outside church. Whip your artistic talent into a frenzy and send your entries to Roger - this could be the start of a whole new career!

*A fond 'Farewell' to
Jes Salt and Joan Edlin.*

*Jes has a new job in
Chelmsford, while Joan will
be worshipping nearer home.*

The current interest in Green issues has prompted a flurry of activity by all sorts of people and organisations. Politicians (of various colours) claim to be 'the greenest of them all', and supermarkets display an increasing number of 'environmentally friendly' items for sale. How are Christians to respond to all this? Is it a case of 'greening the church' or has God been 'green' all along? I would like to make three points.

- ☞ The created world is intended to lead us to worship the creator.

This is clearly stated in Romans 1:20 and is there by implication in Psalms 8 & 19. This emphasis on worshipping the Creator prevents us from falling in to the error of worshipping creation itself. English romanticism can so easily slip into pantheism (the identification of God with nature). The recent Festival of Faith and the Environment held in Canterbury underlines the danger of this. Though Christians make common cause with others in caring for God's world, ulti-



mately the Hindu and Buddhist view of creation is very different to the Christian view. The focus of Christian worship must always be God revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- ☞ Mankind is to care for creation.

Although men and women are very much part of the created world, Genesis 1 and 2 indicate that they have a special place within creation. The command to 'fill the Earth and subdue it' did not mean exploitation for their own purposes, but that they were to 'work it and take care of it' on God's behalf. The Christian's motive for involvement in caring for creation is not simply enlightened self-interest ("We will all suffer if pollution gets out of control.") It is because it is God's world that we are caring for it. The Earth does not belong to us at all, we



are the Care-Takers, God is the Land-Lord.

☞ **Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Christ is the all important link between God and creation. Not only was the world created 'by him and for him', but also, as God the Son, he entered our world and 'became flesh'. He became part of the created world, though not created himself. His resurrection from the dead, both a physical and a real resurrection (vs. Bishop Jenkins), means that God both affirms the created world and will one day redeem it. Through his death and resurrection, Christ has reconciled men and women to God, and the effects of Adam's disobedience begin to be reversed, both in the individual and the physical world. At the root of the ecological crisis is human greed, and that can only be dealt with by repentance from sin and faith in Christ, with a subsequent change of heart brought about by the Spirit of God.

So, in our concern for 'green' issues, we must not be diverted from the primary task of proclaiming Christ as Lord, and inviting men and women to submit their lives to him. As that happens, so we move nearer the time when God will redeem not only the Children of God, but also the whole of creation. That will happen when Christ returns in Glory, the event we look forward to in Advent, the season which is almost upon us.

*Yours
Husc*

 *The Rector received the following letter in the week following Peter Phenna's sermon at St Nic's.* 

"I would like to tell you how much Peter Phenna's sermon on the protection of God (Psalm 91) helped me yesterday.

✿ "I am a first year student at the university and yesterday, I prayed in the morning as usual, and asked God to protect me. However, I fell over on my way to my first lecture and broke my arm. My first reaction was anger that God had allowed it to happen, and the second was guilt - that perhaps it was because of something I had done. But then the words of the sermon came back to me that our protection now is only in part and only fulfilled in Jesus.

✿ "I realised that God *had* been protecting me. I am so thankful that it is my *left* arm that is broken, and I am right-handed. He also gave me so many people to visit me and care for me, and real peace - a peace that is not of the world, as it was still there at 2am, when I couldn't sleep.

✿ "Because of all this, I was able to rest in God's love instead of shutting him out. At St Nic's, I am learning to listen to God, and I think he prepared me for yesterday on Sunday."

Catherine Sharples.

Catherine is now making a good recovery - Ed

A Sound Solution.

"Howl", "screech", "whine" with sounds like these, you'd be forgiven if you thought that we were about to launch into an article concerning the creche. Unfortunately noises like those just mentioned are often heard not from our more junior members but from the P.A. system. Part of the time these annoying intrusions into our worship are caused by good old human error, however more often than not it's the equipment we use that is at fault.

The existing sound system has more or less reached the end of its useful working life, currently being held together with sellotape and string! In the best traditions of the Anglican church a few members of the P.A. team have formed a committee to discuss the future of the sound system.

Whilst we are still some way from a proposed new system, we thought we'd let you know that things are happening. If you have any suggestions on how we might plan for the future or if you feel you have technical skills you could offer (especially in the area of speaker design) then please let one of us know. As the saying goes, 'watch this space' for more details as they emerge. There is a possibility of installing an induction loop system for those with hearing aids.



BEAR
WITH
US!

Finally we hope that you will bear with us as we nurse the existing system, howls and all, to the point at which it can be gracefully retired!

Jonathan Etheridge.





From Our Own Correspondent



Rick Sinfield is a third year Polytechnic student studying maths and physics. He spent part of the summer on a Crusaders building project in Chad. Here is part of his report:

I am delighted to report that there are now two more airstrips in Chad, the 'poorest country in the world'. These airstrips are a vital link; with radio contact regular missionary and medical visits can be made. An area of very flat land 800 metres by 40 metres is needed to land an aircraft, and there are not many places like that just lying round in Africa!

The first was built in Balangere, on the edge of the Sahara, where we shared fellowship in the tiny mud church. At Bousso, 300 miles further south, there is a Bible College. Here, we encountered the problems of building an airstrip in forest with lots of concealed roots! However, after a week of hard slog, the Chief of the area visited and walked along the completed airstrip twice! God truly had made all things possible and one day I hope to return to teach in Chad.



Sally Stewart writes from a similar scheme in Bolivia.

My first view of Bolivia was a very memorable one - mile upon mile of beautiful mountains spread out below as our team of thirteen flew over the Andes. We were heading for Sucre, the historic capital to embark upon a building project at the 'Instituto Biblico San Juanillo'.

Our arrival was greeted with much enthusiasm and happiness by the students and teachers at the Institute. This was a pattern which followed wherever we went during our five weeks in Bolivia, and was very touching.



After a weekend of acclimatising to the altitude, and getting to know everyone, we started work. It took us nearly a month to build three dormitories using basic materials: rocks, mud, wood, straw, with a bit of cement and corrugated iron thrown in. It was hard work (I never realised mud and straw bricks were so heavy!), but good fun and really encouraging working with Bolivian Christians - most of whom couldn't quite get used to the idea of women brickies!

Our other project involved our optician of the team dispensing glasses at a number of clinics. The new owners of the glasses were so pleased with their new acquisitions that they refused to take them off for days.

After finishing the building, we had the opportunity to travel round for a week, and saw some amazing sights including a silver mine straight out of the 18th century, La Paz, Lake Titicaca (the highest navigable lake in the world), a typical country village (very primitive), and of course, the Andes.

We had a wonderful time in Bolivia, but the memories I treasure most are of the friends I made, especially the children, and of the joy of the people, even in the face of poverty and hardship.

May God bless them.



Drugs Haul in Prayer Meeting !

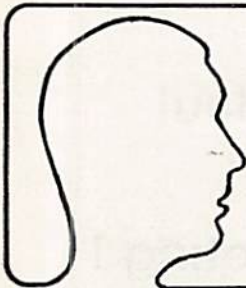
Twenty-eight people attended the Eight-til-Late prayer meeting on 29th September. We began by reading the day's newspaper and praying about some items. One article, about the drug barons of Columbia, stirred our hearts and the prayers came thick and fast.

In particular, we prayed specifically that the Customs staff and other officials seeking illegal drugs would be given help and information from God, and so know where to look. We prayed for definite results and evidence of success during the following fortnight.

The very next morning, the news reported a haul of cocaine seized in Los Angeles. It weighed 20 tons and was described as the largest consignment that had ever been captured anywhere in the world.

It is exciting and humbling when God answers our prayers. We continue to pray for people caught in the nightmare of drug abuse and that the church will be an attractive alternative for many people.

The next Eight-til-Late is on November 24th at 96, Burlington Road. We shall pray for the church and the world and spend time worshipping the God who hears our prayers.



Profile of a Group

Children's Groups

Every Sunday morning, while the adults are worshipping in the church, the children are meeting next door.

There is a creche for the under-3s and teaching groups for the older ones. The Pathfinder group (11 to 14s) meets for the entire hour while the others start with a worship session called Junior Church. The children then split up into smaller learning groups for the remaining half hour. The groups are: Scramblers (3+4), Climbers (5+6), Explorers (7+8) and Trailblazers (9+10). We use the Scripture Union teaching material 'which covers the topics at different levels of understanding according to age. The material is strongly Bible-based.

In order to continue running these groups we need people who are prepared to commit their time regularly on a Sunday morning to help lead one of the groups. We try to have several leaders for each group so that they can have Sunday off from time to time. We always have a need for more leaders, especially for the older children. If you think you might be interested in

helping, then have a word with the children's groups co-ordinator, David Hart, on 288413.

Singled Out

Singled Out is not just the name of a very successful conference last June with star speaker Kathy Keay - it's an ongoing initiative for all single people of twenty plus in St. Nic's and friends from other fellowships. See the noticeboard at the back of church for news of events.

At the back of church you will find our 'open house' diary; if you feel you could open your home one evening to whoever might care to come, enter your name by a date. You don't have to do anything except be in and have the kettle on, and if no-one turns up, well, just get on with your ironing as usual and offer again sometime.

If you have any questions, speak to : Clive Wright, Ro White, Martin Regnard or Maria Potik.

P.S. Tapes of the Singled Out weekend are still available from Margaret Bates on the Tape Stall, £6 for a set of five, but you get £5 back when you return them.

The Campbells and the Future

In a recent conversation with Bishop Patrick, he suggested that we looked beyond the diocese for our next congregation. So at the present time, Roger is putting his name and details on two lists which are circulated nationally to those looking for incumbents. This means that we will almost certainly be here until late spring, and most probably until next summer. We are still hoping, however, to move before next September. Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we seek God's will for our future.

Roger and Ginny



"I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT THE CATS OUT LAST NIGHT...."

J. John - Back in the U.S.A.



J. John visited the U.S.A in October as a co-speaker on a mission with Dr. Leighton Ford; also as a lecturer at Fuller Seminary and as a guest on a live T.V. chat show beamed to forty-five million homes.

"I found the nine-day visit most stimulating and learnt a great deal. The mission was at a church in Pasadena, California which already had five thousand members ! Leighton Ford spoke at twelve of the meetings and I spoke at six. Some meetings were for specific groups, eg. Politicians, Senior Citizens, Medics, Teachers, Singles and Couples. On the Sunday there were three services. Leighton Ford preached at two of them and I preached at the final service. Over five hundred people made professions of faith.

"I was introduced by Dr Eddie Gibbs, a professor at Fuller, who is a world authority on church growth. I was humbled by the opportunity of sharing with highly qualified folk from all over the world. The T.V. interview was quite a surprise, as well as being interviewed, I was given seven minutes to tell the viewers what Christianity is all about !

Is J. John going back ? "Well, the invitation has been issued to return . . . I'm not sure"

Love your Local Student

My work with the students has started well, but it would be wrong to be satisfied with what has been achieved so far. I do not want simply to maintain the current level of student involvement, or the amount of support currently given to students, but constantly to improve them. I believe that students have much to give St. Nic's and St. Nic's has much to give them.

To increase student involvement, effort is required from all the church family - both students and non-students. Accordingly, the following suggestions apply to us all ...

Get to know one another

We need to find out about the challenges that face others as Christians whether at college, at work or at

home. We can then support and encourage each other and pray.

Make good use of Sunday

The involvement of most students in St. Nic's is on a Sunday. How about non-students talking to students or inviting them to lunch? How about students talking to a non-student or finding a way of helping during the service eg. reading, stewarding, or coffee-making.

Support the Christian Unions

CU's meet on the University campus, and at the Poly. on both the Clifton and City sites. Do we know enough to pray for the CU's work and witness? Have we considered giving towards their running costs or supporting specific events?

Recently, I was both encouraged and somewhat daunted when over 70 students attended an after church meeting. I am endeavouring to meet the needs of individual students and to support and encourage the students as a group.

May I encourage you all to get involved in breaking down the barriers and in building bridges with the student world. I believe that the church family could be strengthened and enriched as a result.

Rachel Phenna



To Ordain or Not to Ordain?

... That is the question. Whether it is right now; whether it is God's will for us today; whether we have the authority; whether it is *possible* for a woman to be a priest. All these were debated and affirmed by a massive majority of almost 2:1 in General Synod earlier this month. In two days of debate, we considered clause by clause draft legislation to allow women to be ordained priest. 464 amendments had previously been considered by the revision committee.

Only one short paragraph

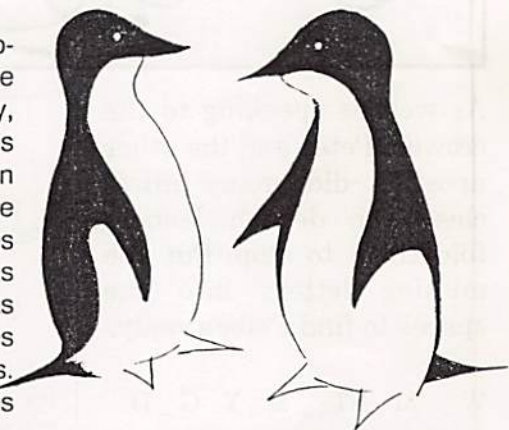
The legislation to permit women to be ordained only needs one short paragraph, but because of a significant minority who, in conscience, are unable to accept it, the issue is made more complicated. The difficulty has been to draft legislation that will not divide the Church of England.

Amendments to establish a sort of parallel Church of England with a slice of its assets, or to establish non-geographical Dioceses were wisely rejected. However it will still be possible for a parish to pass a resolution not to accept the ministry of a woman priest. In addition, a Bishop currently in post may declare that he will not ordain a woman in his Diocese. One of the amendments that *was* accepted was to remove a time limit of 20 years on these objections.

Polarisation

An important factor in the acceptance of the measure was the positive support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is renowned for his fence-sitting. This time, he declared the ordination of women to be an enlargement and extension of the ministry of the church, although he does fear polarisation in the church. None of us want to see 'no go' Dioceses, and he was casting his vote in favour so that Dioceses could vote, and they may surprise us. There will be an open meeting on this issue in our Deanery for all to attend.

John Holden.



... and stop calling me
'Reverend Mother' !

FAMILY PUZZLE TIME

Acting Strange !

On the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke to the crowd and many people became Christians. Follow the lines to find which of the people in this crowd came to Jesus.



As well as speaking to the crowds, Peter and the other apostles did many miracles. The Jewish leaders told them to stop. Put the missing letters into the spaces to find Peter's reply.

W _ M _ ST _ B _ Y _ G _ D
R _ TH _ R TH _ N M _ N .
AA EEEE OO U

Answers

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9. Sheet | 6. The book of the prophet Isaiah. (8:28) |
| 8. Jesus | 7. A devout Roman centurion who was and to prayer. (2:42) |
| 7. Baptised | 8. Ephesus. (19) |
| 6. Gentiles | 9. Malta. (28) |
| 5. Unclean | 10. Paul and Silas, and Peter. (12 & 16) |
| 4. Angel | |
| 3. Holy Spirit | |
| 2. Centurion | |
| 1. Received | |
| men. | |
| God rather than | |
| We must obey | |
| 1. Antioch. (11:26) | |

In Acts chapter 10, Peter has a vision and visits a strange person. Answer the clues and read down the sword to find his name. If you get stuck, read the chapter, all the answers are there!

1. In this story, the people _____ the Holy Spirit before they were baptised.

2. Roman commander of 100 soldiers.

3. He fills believers.

4. Messenger from God.

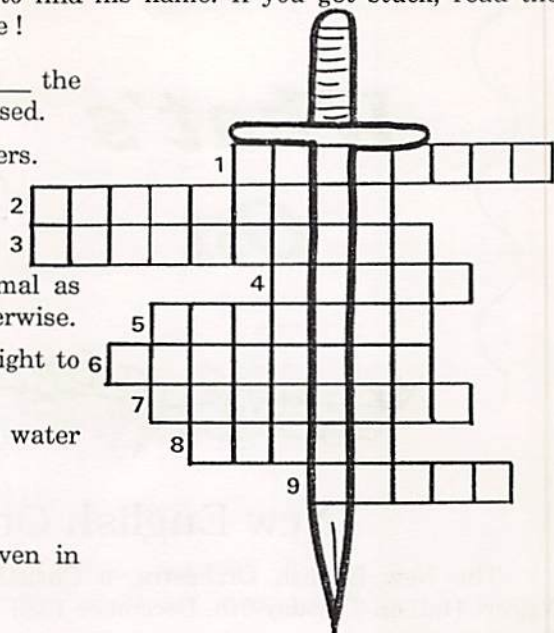
5. Jews see certain types of animal as being this, but God told Peter otherwise.

6. God told Peter that it was alright to visit these people.

7. The people were _____ with water ...

8. ... in the name of _____.

9. This was let down from heaven in Peter's vision.



An 'Acts' Quiz



- Where were the disciples first called Christians?
- To which four things did the three thousand new believers devote themselves?
- Why did Ananias and Sapphira die?
- At whose stoning did Saul stand by, giving approval?
- Who met an Ethiopian on the desert road?
- What was the Ethiopian reading?
- Who was Cornelius?
- In which city did the silversmiths riot about their loss of trade, because of Paul's preaching?
- On which island was Paul shipwrecked?
- Who were released from prison by an earthquake flinging the doors open, and who by an angel?

What's On



Christopher Butler & Ruth Welbourne would like you to help them to celebrate their marriage on December 24th by being at church at 1:30.



New English Orchestra

The New English Orchestra, a Christian group, return to the Royal Concert Hall on Tuesday 5th. December 1989 at 7-30 p.m. as part of their pre-Christmas tour.

The programme this time will be more "up-beat" than before, with Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Duke Ellington's Sacred Songs and Vivaldi's Alla Rustica amongst music from Godspell and seasonal carols.

Tickets priced £2.50 to £6.50 are available from the Royal Concert Hall Booking Office (tel 482626: credit cards 482525).

Check with your Link Group Leader: some groups are planning to see the show . . . and it is an ideal occasion to invite along friends and colleagues.

TOONS

by Dan



A Left Elbow and the Number Four

Have you ever wondered what happens to the 'words' which are given out at the front of church ? Do you, like many others, check your left elbow and sigh with relief to find that they didn't mean you ? Would you like to know if there *was* a left elbow ?

If you would like to know what goes on in the prayer minisry , come along to 'Prayer Minisry - A Taster Session' on Saturday January 20th in St. Nic's Church Hall from 2pm to 6pm. All are welcome



Could you be the number four ?

Dragon-Ware

After Tupperware comes Dragon-ware, a range of goods produced by former drug addicts and criminals from Hong Kong's notorious Walled City. You may have read about it in Jackie Pulinger's books 'Chasing the Dragon' and 'Crack in the Wall'. These any many other high quality goods are available throughh church reps. or through mail order from Tearcraft and Traidcraft.

Why not do all your Christmas shopping the easy way this year - you'll be helping to make the world a fairer place at the same time.

Thanks !

Many thanks to all who have contributed an item for Fellowship. Due to space constraints, we cannot publish everything, some has had to be shortened, some laid aside and some held over for future issues. Be assured that everything is read and valued - keep it coming !

For those of you with an IBM-compatible PC, a small supply of floppy disks is available by the Editor's mailbox for you to use to supply a ready-typed article.

Copy date for the next issue is:

Sunday, 7th January 1990.

The Editors,
54, Tranby Gardens,
Wollaton,
Nottingham.
NG8 2AB
Tel. 284828 or 287690

"Oh hello, is that Southwark Junior School ? Could I speak to the headteacher

please ? Yes, I'll hang on . . . Oh hello, Miss Howse ? Hello, my name's Wodgersay . . . W . . . od . . . ger . . . say. Yes, that's right, Wodgersay."



So begins Footprints new play 'Wodgersay Reports'. Nearly two years have elapsed since the Footprints team first met

Wendy Titman (an expert on child abuse issues) That meeting sparked off a process of collaboration which culminated with the first performance of the tour on September 24th in a junior school in Derbyshire.

Setbacks

Progress was not always smooth: First thoughts concentrated on a play specifically about a Christian response to child sexual abuse but this was soon dropped. A short story was written and then later shelved whilst auditions were held in February '89 for a summer tour which never took place.

Any steps backwards, however, were compensated by far greater steps forward: In January '89 Michele and

Following the

Steve began writing those first few sketches which were to form the backbone of the new play and In April '89 the NSPCC said that they were interested in sponsoring the tour as part of their 'Listen to Children' campaign.

Beginnings

Thus, on August 21st three 'old' faces (David Purveur, Liz Moody and Michele Taylor) joined two 'new' faces (Linda Baker and Mike Bernardin)

and, with Steve Stickley directing, rehearsals began. Staff and visitors to St. Nic's Centre over the next four weeks were disturbed by sounds such as fast-moving raps or simulation telephones, all coming from the

church hall. Parcels and deliveries of varying shapes and sizes arrived, containing such

goodies as stage lights, dance floor and pieces of set deftly constructed by Chris Winrow. As the

weeks flew by, so the pace increased, with not a few frantic 'summit' meetings about last minute difficulties with costumes.



Footprints

Rehearsals culminated on September 14th when an apprehensive team of actors and stage manager, along with a less apprehensive director and company co-ordinator, drove in at the gates of Robin Scott's school, Hillocks Primary, for the dress rehearsal. An hour later the lights went down and the curtains went up (metaphorically speaking) to reveal a black and white floor; a video bearing an uncanny resemblance to an old toaster; chairs which double up as a taxi and a bunk bed; and a table which turn into both an oven and a space escape hatch.

"It opened my eyes"

Seven weeks later and the response has been favourable with such comments as, "It opened my eyes

because you do those things all the time but you don't realise it. I recognised myself in everything I saw" A

father who came in saying "If I'm the only b_____ man here, I'm going to the

pub", ended up taking the most active part in the discussion afterwards. It was at this same school that a parents' support group was suggested. In another the

parents of a child with behavioural problems came to the evening performance when they had ignored all previous attempts by the teacher to make contact. Communication was re-established as a result.



Frontiers

It's in ways like these that we'd prayed that we'd see the frontiers of God's kingdom gently but firmly being pushed forward, bringing more of God's shalom into families. It's immensely gratifying to learn that *that* is indeed what is happening.

Liz Leonard

An article can only hint at the real thing. If you want to see the show yourself, don't forget the special performance at the Bonington Theatre, Arnold on Wednesday 22 November. That performance will be crucial to deciding the future of the project so your support is needed. Phone the Footprints office (586554) for details.



To Poland with Love

Mary and I departed for Poland in a Diahatsu with a large trailer. Our precious load for the people of Opole included thousands of pounds worth of children's vitamins, 53,000 disposable syringes, baby foods, baby milk, food and clothing. A smooth crossing from Hull to Rotterdam was the start of a journey of over 800 miles.

East Germany

On Wednesday night, November 1st, having driven through Holland and West Germany, we stayed within ten minutes of the East German border, at Helmstadt. We crossed before dawn on Thursday. There were many armed guards, but eventually we got responding smiles and we cleared the border on only an hour. Frightening surroundings: arc lights, barbed wire and high walls, but I felt happy and unafraid and so aware that God was with us. Thirteen hour drive through East Germany and Poland - atrocious roads, Russian army on manoeuvres with tanks. As we arrived in Opole at 5pm Friday, there was a dreadful bang - the roof of our vehicle had begun to collapse under the weight of vitamins. We completed our journey at 5mph with the hazard warning lights flashing and thanking God for such perfect timing and safe arrival.

£7 per week

Saturday, Distribution: Some to the church in Opole, some to a medical hospital with enormous needs (no soap, even in the doctors' basins, but still doing all they could in a desperate situation), some to a surgical hospital, now doing the minimum of emergency operations because of desperate shortages such as surgical gloves, which we were able to provide.

Hospital cleaners are in such short supply that they are paid more than the doctors, who earn only £7 a week. With the lack of cleaning, there is much secondary infection which leads to the unnecessary deaths of some patients. Staff are disillusioned and desperate - one highly skilled surgeon was embarrassed by so much of what he showed us, but was grateful for the things we had taken.

1000% inflation

On then to a residential children's home - 140 handicapped children looked after by 14 nuns. Finance is a great worry, 1000% inflation this year, but no increase in the government grant for food. The situation here was desperate, but there was an atmosphere of joy and love. I do not believe anyone could do what these

lovely nuns were doing without the strength of God. The passages were gloomy because electricity is too expensive to use more than is essential, yet the feeling of love gave everywhere a brightness that passes all description. This place will remain very close to my heart.

Comfort

The next few days were a mixture of media and newspaper interviews, of talking to students and the great privilege of talking in the church. I spoke about the God of all comfort, (2 Corinthians). My comfort on our journey had been finding for myself that the power of Christ's love was so much greater than fear. Praise was continuously in my heart and overwhelming thankfulness for the privilege of being in this grey land with such wonderful suffering people, many of whom are now impatient for change. There is hope for the future.

Clare Hamner is setting off again on 21st November, and will be back by 1st December. There may be further trips in the spring, when the Polish winter lifts - Ed



Dazzling !

On 31st October, the United Reformed Church in Burton Joyce once again saw hundreds of people flocking inside. The reason ? 'Razzle Dazzle', which is the Council of Churches' response to the more sinister aspects now developing on Hallowe'en.

It was hoped that more people would come this year than the two hundred of 1988, and, Praise the Lord, we had about 325. The evening began with choruses, then there was a fancy dress competition on a 'brightest and lightest' theme followed by a procession through the village with more music and bright lights.

Having had the first course of a three-part meal, the feast of fun, food and praise continued at the primary school. A packed hall enjoyed sketches, songs, and plenty of food. The need to follow Jesus and experience God's great love was the message.

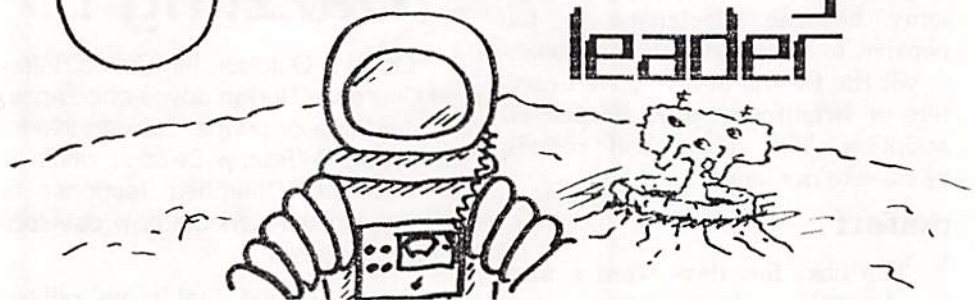
Another torchlit procession led to Chesterfield Drive Free Church for more celebrations around a huge bonfire., with sparklers and a final sweet source.

The whole event was surrounded by prayer, and we praise God for his faithfulness. As a follow-up, 'Come Again' takes place on the first Sunday in Advent.

Roger Mayfield



Take me to your leader



Gordon Walker



I am one of the 'older' members of St. Nic's, having served and 'fellowshipped' with four rectors, one vicar and three curates. Past service has taken different forms, each for a number of years: as church warden, link group leader and elder; also as a PCC members for the last twenty-five years (perhaps I should be forcibly retired!) Just as important to my way of thinking are my present roles - part of a band of volunteer church cleaners, and chairman of the Practical Ministries Committee - if it is static, it comes under our domain.

Jean and I always look forward to holidays away in our caravan, enjoying the beauties of this country. I like to spend time in the garden at home, (not always sitting down), and having the occasional game of golf or bowls.



Helen Smith

In the beginning... I was born and brought up in Northwood, Middlesex. After leaving school and working in a variety of jobs, (variety is the spice of life), I moved to Earl's Court, London, to live and work in Community at the Lee Abbey International Students' Club where I stayed for eighteen months. Here I met my husband David.

Fifteen years ago we moved with our two daughters to Nottingham. Time flies - they are now teenagers - one at college and the other in the fourth year at Bluecoat school.

I have been working as office secretary at St. Nic's for almost two years now and I still enjoy it! In my spare time I like gardening and painting / decorating and I run a small cake-making / catering business.



Martyn Offord

I am married with two teenage daughters, have been attending St. Nic's since the early seventies and have been on the PCC for rather a lot of that time. My professional life is divided between heading the English department at Bilborough Sixth Form College and being an assistant chief moderator for English Literature for the Midland Examining Board. However, I prefer travelling, holidays, gardening, reading, writing, racquet games and cross-country skiing. My finest fulfilment is to be found in writing the PCC minutes bimonthly [a likely story - Ed].

Travellers, Tentmakers and Tea.

You may think that the command "to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations" is confined to a few people willing to give themselves to full-time Christian service, But . . .

Travellers



How many of us travel to different countries to work or on holiday? While you are there, try to seek out the local congregation of Christians. Many places are closed to overt Christian outreach and possess few Christian books; to leave a Christian book or gospel in your hotel room or to

give a tract to the taxi driver may plant a seed. Literature in the appropriate language is available from the Bible Society and Scripture Gift Mission.

Tentmakers



With the advent of the single European market in 1992, working in another country may be a more viable option than you think! Working and living alongside people in other countries opens up opportunities for evangelism. This may be your chance to use the gifts God has given you.

Tea



In Britain today, there are many people from different ethnic backgrounds who have little contact with Christians. Indeed, few have stepped across the threshold of a British home. Be aware of 'your neighbour', overseas students can be particularly lonely at Christmas time.

Our church is a world-wide church - you can reach out to others and "live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose".

Wendy Sayers (from Martin Goldsmith's sermon, October 15th)

[If you hear an exceptional sermon, and have the urge to write about it, please do - ed]

BB
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Q. What's white, and comes out of a cake-shop beating its chest ?

A. A meringueotang

Oliver Lea-Wilson, 9

Doctor : "Good morning, Mr Jones. Liver transplant, is it ?
Yes, well, we're a little short on livers at the moment. I could do you half a pound of sausages, though. Oh, not too keen, I see. I could always use a kebab, if we can find a suitable doner.

Tim Lee, 28 (big kid !)

Patient : Doctor, Doctor, I feel terrible !

Doctor : Stand by the window and stick your tongue out.

Patient : Will that make me feel better ?

Doctor : No, but I can't stand the chap who lives across the road!

Anna Lea-Wilson, 6

Did you hear about the idiot who won the Tour de France ? He did a lap of honour ! - Robert Hart, 11

What do you get if you cross . . .

An Ice Cream and Football ? - Aston Vanilla !

A caterpillar and a parrot ? - A walkie-talkie !

Alex and Daniel Cooke

Science can add years to your life,
but only Christ can add life to your years !

What's an Ig ?

An Eskimo's house without a toilet !

Lydia Cross

"Isn't it great to see so many people go out from St. Nic's ?"

PE
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"Indeed, especially that nice lady who drove to Poland"

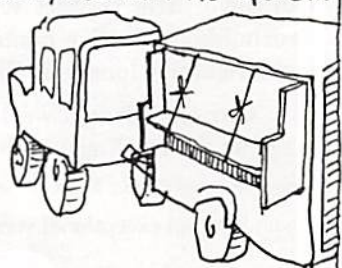
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ROISSIW



"on yes, my uncle Warsaw woodski was...

delighted with the spare...



..pew we sent!"

DIARY

November

- Fri 24th 8:00 pm 8 'til late Prayer Meeting
Mon 27th 7:45 pm P.C.C. Meeting
Tues 5th 7:30 pm New English Orchestra at the Royal Concert Hall. £2.50 - £6.50

December

- Sat 2nd 7.00 pm Handel's 'Messiah' at the Royal Concert Hall. £5.50 - £7.50
Sat 9th "What's on the Other Side?" St. Nic's. Drama Group presents an evening of entertainment & buffet
Mon 11th P.L.G. meeting
Wed 13th 12:45pm Nottingham Insurance Institute Carol Service in Church
Sat 16th 9:00 am Decoration of Church for Christmas
Sun 17th 10:15am Family Christmas Celebration Service with Kidsworkshop
Sun 17th 6:30 pm Carol Service
Mon-Fri 18th-22nd "Uncle Bartholomew's Picture Book" at Bonington Theatre, Arnold
Tues 19th 6:30 pm Barclay's Bank Carol Service in church
Thur 21st 2:00 pm Townswomen's Guild Carol Service in church
Sun 24th 10:15am Baptism of Abigail Shouler
Sun 24th 1:30 pm Wedding of Ruth Welbourne & Chris Butler
Sun 24th 11:30pm Midnight Christmas Communion

January

- Sun 7th 10:15am Dedications of Simeon John and Chloe Scott
Sat 20th 11:45am Wedding of Susie Powell & Stephen Kelsey
Sat 27th 10-5:30 "Puppet on whose strings?": Christians and the Media St. John's College & Ald. White School
Sun 28th 10:15am Baptism of Rebecca Whitehurst

February

- Fri-Sun 2nd-4th Parish Week-end at Swanwick. Speaker: Rev. Michael Mitton Director of A.R.M.
Mon 5th Form 2T Bluecoat School visits the church
Sat 10th Together Ministries Celebration at Royal Concert Hall
Speaker: Bob Gordon

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DINNER AT PNU'S
NEXT THURS

CONTACT

Below is a list of the members of the PCC and the Wardens of St. Nicholas' Church. If any information is wrong, please contact the Editors.

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