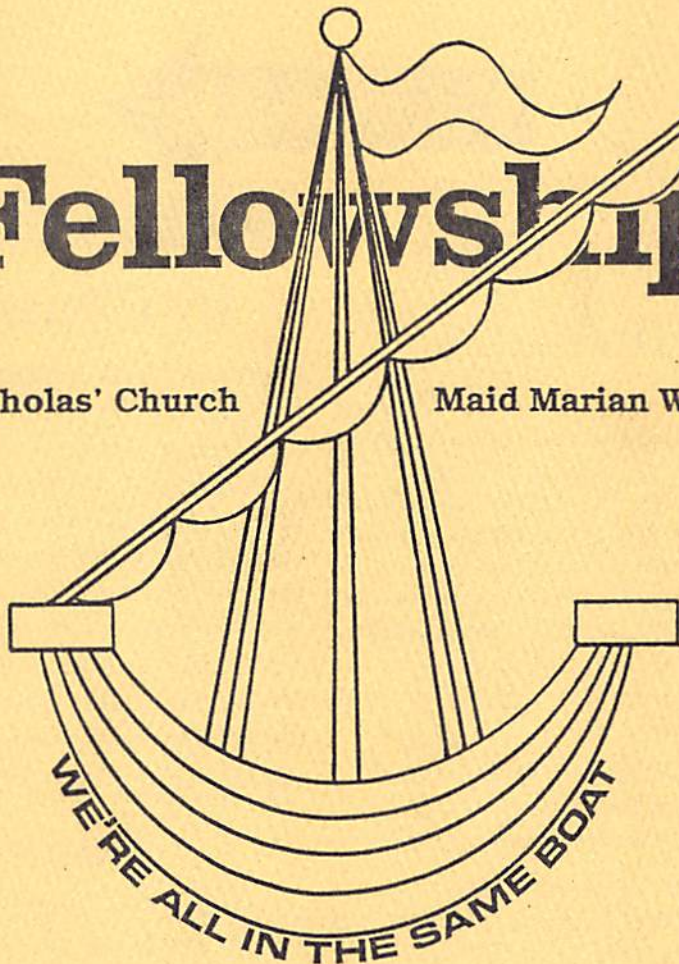


Fellowship

St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way



In This Issue:

- Around the World in 80 Words ?
- Papua New Gineau - really!
- New Series - The Other 6 Days
- The New Potter's House
- All About the Aussies
- What's on January - March
- Peweater the Woodworm
- Allthe latest news and lots more !

January 1990

Issue 3

Price : 35p



Nine New Bishops

Nine new missionary Bishops have been announced by Archbishop Adetiloye, the primate of Nigeria. This movement for the 'Decade of Evangelism' as the 90's are being called, could had a profound effect on one of our missionaries, Charlotte Barratt who is working in Nigeria. Archbishop Adetiloye said "Evangelism is the very life of the Church. The moment it stops evangelising, it dies".

Is this kind of commitment familiar to us as the decade begins?

The Editors received a note from the Church Office detailing a typing mistake in the address list. The last line of the note read,

"Please amend yoru address list!"

No comment!

Robin Hood in Church

Bishop Patrick recently announced the appointment of a Chaplin for Tourism. Rev. John Williams, currently the vicar of ChristChurch, Chilwell, will take up the post in the summer. It is the first post of its kind in the country. God willing, there will be those who come to Nottingham looking for Robin and find the living God.

Bishop in Powder Room

John Wayne (The Bishop of Chelmsford, not the actor), has just been appointed Clerk to the Closet! If anyone has any *privy* knowledge as to the nature of this post, please let the Editors know, before they all go *potty*. (or *loo-py*)

Bursting at the Seams

St. Leonard's Church, Wollaton is bursting at the seams! So many people worship there that an third Sunday morning service is now needed. Wouldn't it be nice if St. Nic's had this problem too?

Happiness is the art of making a bouquet from those flowers within reach.

It has been said that compared to mission, everything else happening in the Church is like rearranging the furniture while the house is on fire. Such a statement may seem extreme, but it challenges us to see the urgency of what Jesus has told us to do.

One day Jesus helped Peter to understand mission by using the imagery of fishing. After helping him to catch a large amount of fish, Jesus turned to Peter, and said, "Fear not, from now on you will be catching men." (Luke 5 v 10).

But . . .

"Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. There were many hungry fish in the waters all around. Week after week, month after month, year after year, the fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish and how they might go about fishing.

"These fishermen built large beautiful buildings called 'Fishing Headquarters'. The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do however - they didn't fish.

"After one stirring meeting on 'The necessity of Fishing', one young man left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught two fish. He was honoured for his excellent catch, and scheduled to



visit as many big meetings as possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell other fishermen about the experience. He was also placed on the Fishermen's General Board as a person with considerable experience.

"Now it's true that many fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received ridicule from some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt that it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?'"



No matter how much we talk about mission and our desire to bring others to Jesus Christ, talk will not get the job done.

The Bible does not say that there will be world conversion before Jesus returns, but it does say that there will be world evangelism. Everyone must hear, although not all will respond.

Evangelism means affecting and even upsetting, by the power of the Gospel, every level and value of society which is in conflict with the plan of salvation.

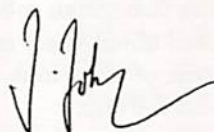
How?

1. Mobilising prayer to evangelise. Not only interest in prayer, but intercession for those in darkness.
2. Presence - Jesus constantly taught that if we are His followers, our lives will bear the stamp of profound love for God, for our neighbours, for ourselves. Our sociology ought to reflect our theology. How we treat others will be the clearest signal of what we think God is like. The first Bible most people will read will be our lives, long before they read the Book.
3. Proclamation - the Good News has to be communicated orally, intelligently and understandably. We need

to use our guest services and be creative, have meetings in restaurants, pubs, hotels, etc.

4. Persuasion - we must think carefully and make our hearers think, explain what they do not understand, and give reasons for what we say. We need to keep running Agnostics Anonymous groups or Open-to-Question groups.
5. Power - seeking and being open to God to move in a supernatural way to break through to people through wisdom, comforting and healing.

As individuals, we cannot all be operating in all five areas, but as a Church, we have no excuse!



- Items for the next issue of Fellowship should be sent to:
- The Editors, (David & Fay Moore)
- 54, Tranby Gardens,
- Wollaton
- Tel: 284828
- Or put it in the box at the back of church.
- Copy date is Sunday 4th March

The Potter's House

The Potter's House is a cafe run by Christians who wish to reach out to people in the city in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

On Christmas Day, the Potter's House became the proud tenants of No. 16, St. James's Street. The previous building on Broad Street was vacated with prayerful thanks that it was still standing after seven years gruelling service.

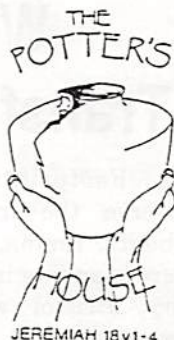
Our new premises were built and opened in 1877, and were called The Roebuck. It was a music hall which quickly developed a reputation for being the haunt of felons and prostitutes, and as a result has been closed down by the authorities for more years than it has been open. More recently it was refurbished and reopened as The Old Malt Cross with a licence for

alcohol, but once again it was closed down because of overcrowding. It has remained closed for the last two years.

We hope to be open sometime towards the end of January when we will be serving a wide range of foods, teas, cappuccino and espresso coffee and alcohol free drinks. We aim to open for three nights a week, and will be arranging some live entertainment. One of our aims will be to reach out to the many people who come to the city centre at night. We are not aiming to provide a 'safe house' but rather to pioneer new work in the city centre. Your prayers and support will be much appreciated.

Rod Beadles.

(The Potters House is looking for additional volunteers to help in the new evening opening times. - Ed)



NEW WINE

A group of people from St. Nic's. will be going to this holiday week. It is from August 11th to 17th at Shepton Mallett (Bath & Wells Showground) and J. John will be speaking. Since there may be up to 5000 other people there, if you want to go and be with the St. Nic's. group, it is IMPORTANT that all the applications are sent together (otherwise the computer can't cope). If you are interested, please contact Fi Shouler (283400) as soon as possible.

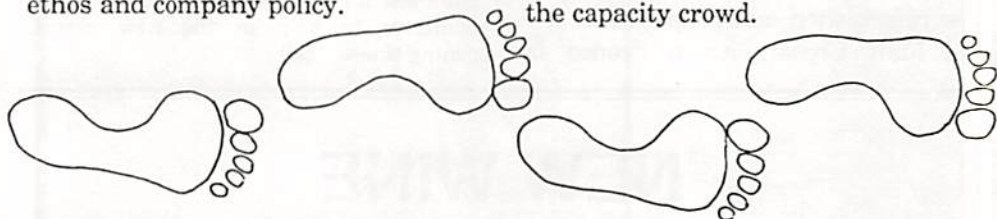
What a Transformation!

Footprints stepped back to observe the fruits of their frantic labours. Emma, Janet, Liz and Steve were standing in the University Refectory, Bristol which eighteen hours previously had been carrying out its more usual function of catering for large numbers of students.

In front of them lay a carpeted stage complete with a backdrop of some forty-odd Traidcraft cardboard boxes piled seemingly haphazardly upon one other and strewn here and there with pieces of Traidcraft material; around them, tables immersed by a profusion of third world products, were linked by streamers of bright yellow and green bunting. Challenging displays spoke of Traidcraft's ethos and company policy.

The occasion was the first of the special Traid Fairs which Traidcraft are holding around the country to celebrate the company's 10th birthday. Footprints were there to perform "Corky Canpacker's Crazy Coach Cavalcade", subtitled "An unusual excursion to see how justice can be done", which Traidcraft had commissioned Steve to write for the occasion. Janet plays Corky Canpacker, coach driver extraordinaire, ably assisted by Simon and Wendy Whittaker who adopt a number of characters from the third and first world through the clever use of masks.

Other events during the day included a group of Afro-Caribbean children, complete with home-made spears, ethnic costumes and shy, coy smiles, who performed African dances to the beat of drums behind them and an Asian women's dance group whose measured and deliberate movements and resplendent saris were admired by the capacity crowd.



OP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS . .

Since October Footprints have performed at three more Traid Fairs in Glasgow, Birmingham and Manchester. On each occasion Traidcraft's wildest hopes for the day have been exceeded with both numbers and sales reaching record levels. Three more Traid Fairs are planned for the early part of 1990 in Southampton, Cambridge and London.

Liz Leonard

Take me to your leader



John and Killy John

J. John was born in London into a Greek-Cypriot family and became a Christian as a student in 1975. Killy comes from Cambridge and is the daughter of Michael Rees, former vicar of Holy Trinity, Cambridge.

John studied theology at St. John's College. This was followed by a year at the Christian Renewal Centre, N. Ireland and then by two years as Eric Delve's assistant, gaining valuable experience of the work of a travelling evangelist.

John has been based at St. Nic's since 1980. He pioneered and continues to

head the work of the Philo Trust. He is not only a local speaker, but national and international. He has written five books and two more are to be published in March and June of this year.

Meanwhile Killy trained for three years in hotel and catering management. John met Killy while conducting a mission in Cambridge, and they were married in 1983. Moving to Nottingham, Killy became manager of the County Library Coffee Shop. She later gave that up to travel with John and to support the evangelism.

Michael joined the team in 1986, (on Killy's birthday), and Simeon followed in 1989. They now live in Wollaton, where 91, Woodbank Drive acts both as home and Philo Trust office.

Their leisure activities include films, food and liqueurs. Michael enjoys dragging his parents to Wollaton Hall. He attends the University playgroup (a good start for his C.V.) and gymnastics (well, tumble tots!). They all love Jesus.



are in the area of education - teaching, preaching and evangelism. I have a desire to unite evangelism and social concern.

I am keen on rugby and am an enthusiastic cricketer. I am interested in the theatre, music, literature, and religious education. I enjoy jokes - I even studied Biblical humour!



Janie:

I am the real Aussie, and came to England with my family when I was twelve.

I studied music, and have worked as a solo performer, ensemble, and member of folk-rock bands. I have written and produced 2 demo albums of music (Ed: see review on page 13). I am keenly interested in the Performing Arts and worked as a member of Christian Theatre Arts Company while in Perth. This combined drama, dance and music.

Other music involvement includes leading church music groups, both up-front and in a quieter capacity. I have run music workshops, have organised many youth and family services and I have worked in primary schools running music & movement and singing classes. I have run many

In an otherwise hectic family life, it is crucial for me to have sufficient time alone for quietness, meditation and contemplation. Most important for me is the time I can share with my family.

I enjoy drawing. I enjoy achieving personal goals of fitness and do aerobics regularly. I also enjoy reading, walking, watching movies and a variety of sports.

A Texan was visiting his Australian cousin:

Aussie: This is my house.

Texan: Gee! my daughter has a doll's house bigger than that.

Aussie: And here is my car.

Texan: Gee! my son has a toy car bigger than that.

A Kangaroo bounced up the drive.

Texan: Gee! Whats that ?!

Aussie: Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?



The Beales Family

Nine months ago, the Beales family moved from Australia to Nottingham. For their sins they have become regulars at St. Nics.



Dave is married to Janie and they have three children: Rachel, Kim and Shane. The Rev D. Beales works with J. John for the Philo Trust as the director of education and training. Janie has been the musical/spiritual/keyboard leader of the morning worship group in St. Nics for the last 4 months. Rachel (12) attends The Blue-coat School and her interests include drama, music, art and sport. Kim (9) is a keen cricketer and skate-boarder, and Shane (7) is an equally keen gymnast.

The Beales are currently living in a rented house in Beeston and hope to settle into a house of their own in the next 12 months.

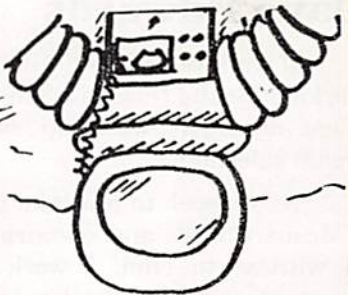
Dave and Janie

Dave and Janie met and married while they were both studying General Arts at Durham University. After graduating, they moved to Australia, and lived in Perth for 10 of the last 12 years. The other two years were spent in Nottingham while Dave studied theology at St. John's College.

Dave:

I worked as a missionary for a year in South Korea before going to Durham University and moving to Australia with Janie. I have had a variety of jobs including teaching, and working with unemployed young people. The call to full-time Christian ministry developed, leading me to train for ordination at St. John's. I became a curate, then a chaplain in Australia before starting to work for the Philo Trust last year.

My particular Christian interests and gifts



Dave Edwards

If working for the Philo Trust was like working for the theatre, then I would be the stage manager, warm-up singer and ice-cream salesman.

As we seek to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, and encourage His church to witness to Him, I work as a general assistant and as a worship leader and song writer.

I was born and brought up in Beckenham in Kent, and came to Nottingham Polytechnic five years ago to do a degree in 'communication studies' (a kind of exploration into how ideas are held and expressed). My family never went to church together and yet God has worked to bring both my brother and myself to new life in Jesus; we will keep praying for our parents!



I thank God for St. Nic's church as, although we are away for so much of the time, it is a place of support and refreshment for us.

My dream for the future is that God would help me to use music to reveal His truth, love and glory, and to help people draw near to Him. I am beginning to see, however, that my priority must be to draw near to Him myself. This is where I am happiest!

P
E
W
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T
E
R



"Yuk! Whats This...?"

"i think i know (BELLOW BAT)"



the visiting preacher wasn't joking when he said.....



..He'd have them glued to..
..their seats."

All Covenantors Please Read Carefully!

In April, the taxation system will change and husbands and wives will be taxed separately. This has important consequences if married couples have a joint covenant.

Normally with a covenant, a net amount of money is paid, but the charity receives a larger (gross) amount of money. The extra money is tax which has been reclaimed. Legally, the covenantor has agreed to give the gross amount of money to the charity.

After April, the husband and wife will each be legally responsible for half the covenant. If the wife has no income, or not enough income to pay income tax, then no tax can be recovered from her half of the covenant. She will then get a bill for the difference between the net and gross values.

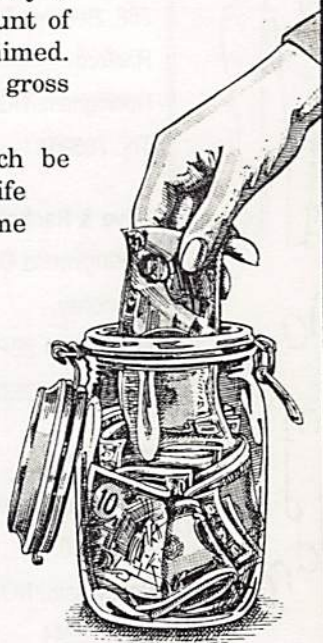
If you are in this position you should act now. The only way to avoid the bill is to scrap the existing covenant and replace it with a new covenant in the husband's name only. Scrapping a covenant requires the agreement of the charity benefiting from the covenant.

If you covenant to St. Nics, you should contact Chris Nurden, (the treasurer) on 0509 853280, or Bob Marlow (the covenant's secretary) on 231711. If you covenant using the Charities Aid Foundation, then call them on 0732 771333. Please act soon!

By the way, if you are considering increasing your covenant, then now would be a good time to do it.

(An identical problem may occur if the wife is the bread-winner and the husband has no income of his own.)

Tim Lee



Changes of address should be passed to the church office, so that church records can be kept up to date. These will then be automatically published in 'Fellowship'.

Gill Wyles,
588, Berridge Road West,
Radford
Nottingham. NG7 5LF
Tel: 786904

Clive & Rachel Moody,
6, Kingswood Gardens,
Roundhay,
Leeds. LS8 2BP
Tel: Leeds (0532) 661557

Gill Waters,
44, Costock Avenue,
Sherwood,
Nottingham. NG5 3AS
Tel: 623244

Samantha Bell,
30, Woolmer Road,
The Meadows,
Nottingham. NG2 2FB
Tel: 863798

Peter & Susi Artis,
25, Tavistock Avenue,
Mapperley Park,
Nottingham. NG3 5BD
Tel: 621313

Sue Troth,
64, Wimbeldon Road,
Sherwood,
Nottingham. NG5 1GW
Tel: 604123

Correction

Claire Dawson's telephone number was printed in the address list as 528772. It is, in fact, 582772.

Change
of
Address

Change
of
Address

The Other Six Days

This is the first article in a series. We will be looking at the problems and challenges we all face as Christians at home, at school or at work. Being godly is easy in church, but what about The Other Six Days?



It is Sunday, the church is full, the congregation is praising and worshipping God. The preacher will tell us a little more of Him to help us through the

week. Sunday worship for we Christians is the high point of the week. It's also the safest. We're freed for a while from the demands of our secular lives.

One of the reasons why I prefer biblical exposition and clear biblically based themes in the sermon is that too often I find that anything else is a lifestyle homily that does no more than highlight the gap between my everyday experience and the preacher's understanding of my experience.

Is worship relevant?



I am a solicitor, and conduct company disputes. There is not

much of the caring profession in this job. My clients are seeking to win points against their opponents. My practice employs about 110 people and one of my tasks is the appointment and, unhappily, the dismissal of staff.

If the spiritual high of corporate worship is to be relevant and honouring to God it must, surely, equip me to perform the tasks my job demands. There should not be a separateness in my life, one part safe in church and fellowship groups, and the other part so far involved in my secular life that God and my faith cannot be seen by those I touch.

Age Old Problem



The role of the solicitor doing court work is to prepare the evidence. One of the commonest problems is finding that the evidence has been manufactured. This is a more subtle danger than the age old problem of acting for someone we know to be guilty. Although I am not a judge, I have a duty to ensure the evidence is genuine. Clearly this accords with my Christian obligation to do only that which is right and to do it to the best of my ability. It can be a tough task telling a client that



the case is weak because the evidence will not be believed, and it causes arguments and difficulties that are commonly personal and confrontational.

As an employer, where does the duty to love one's neighbour take me, when the neighbour is a member of staff who is not able, willing or capable of doing the job? I have to train and also to remonstrate with people. Such causes distress to the individual and sometimes to me as well. I believe my caring for others means I must act fairly to ensure not only that the individual is properly treated, but also that colleagues are not expected to bear a greater burden by carrying someone.



Language Barriers

Even the language we use to one another as Christians is a separate language from the one we use to our friends. All jobs have their own specialised vocabulary, and I accept that sometimes Christians use special words to encapsulate the mystery of the faith. I am also sure that much of our Christian language creates a barrier between us and our friends and colleagues so that we cannot clearly express our faith. A few weeks ago, I was challenged by someone at work who wanted to talk about religion. He could only do it in a pub, and far be it from me to turn down the chance of a

drink, so we went to a pub at his behest to talk about God. An out-of-the-blue challenge like that left me gasping to keep my language clear and simple. I hope that he and I will have more dialogue, and that I can clearly speak to him.

My great relief is that God accepts me as I am. The empty hands that are held up at the communion rail are a key symbol. I believe that as I go about from Monday to Sunday making mistakes, being careless and insensitive, He knows who I am and that He still accepts and loves me.

Pete Ellis.

Theme: Evangelism

- What is evangelism?
- How should we evangelise?
- How do we train others?
- How do we nurture and keep new believers?

This is a training day for existing and potential church leaders who are interested in evangelism. J. John and Dave Beales, with Rev. Roger Simpson from Edinburgh will be speaking:

At: St John's College, Bramcote

On: 3rd April Time: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Cost: £14 including notes and lunch

Phone the Philo Trust Office on 282162, or write to J. John at 91, Woodbank Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2QW.

Somewhere To Be

"Somewhere to be" by Janie Beales is a tape now on sale in the bookstall (£6.00). It comprises 10 tracks in a colourful variety of musical styles. Lasting about 40 minutes, it is a mixture of songs and instrumental pieces, drawing on Janie's considerable musical abilities. She weaves in the sounds of a number of different instruments including Clarinet, Oboe and soaring Violin as well a synthesizer, percussion and piano. She uses her voice with amazing flexibility either as an instrument or with words getting across meanings and dialogue.

The songs are covertly Christian, and explore human situations and feelings, sometimes of Biblical characters such as Joseph in "Which side pulls the stronger". This

JANIE BEALES



makes the tape a particularly good one to give to a non-Christian friend as the words are thought-provoking without being "Christian propaganda".

The musical styles of the vocal tracks are carefully and powerfully chosen to suit the lyrics. The instrumental tracks produce different moods and impressions from the exuberant "Eutyclus" to the contemplative and compelling "If you come by my shore". I particularly liked this latter track which makes use of the natural sounds of seagulls and waves breaking on the shore.

The music is all written by Janie Beales. It is professionally performed and recorded and the result is an excellent and very enjoyable album.

Dorothy Grace.

GIANT BUSTER

Now on in a Bible near you! 1 Samuel 17

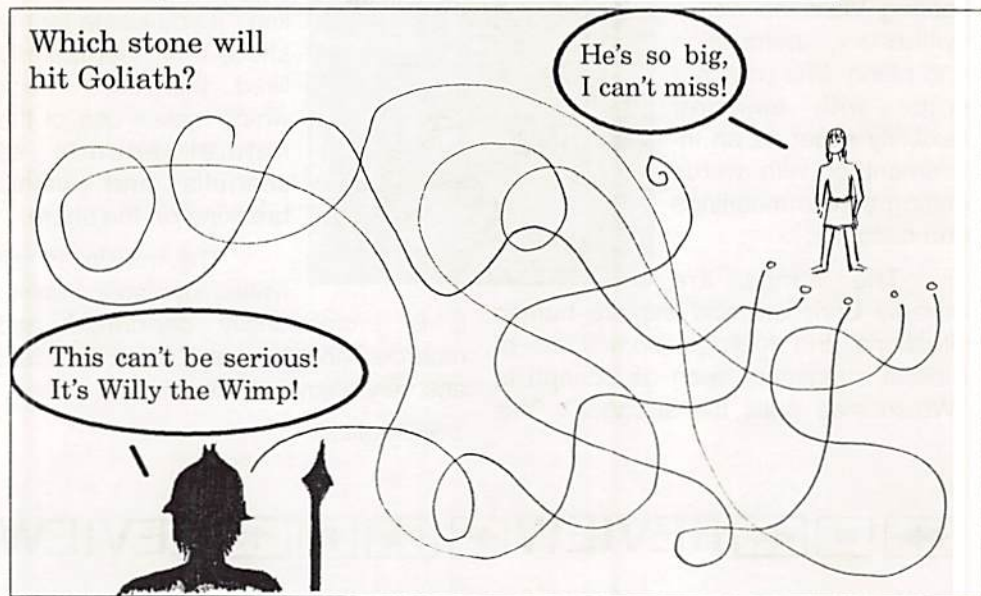
Don't
Miss

TESTAMENT
PRODUCTIONS PRESENT
DAVID & GOLIATH

Don't
Miss



WARNING: Some scenes may be unsuitable for weaklings.



➤ Now help David with the Word Sleuth . . . and maze . . .

Army Battle
 David Flesh
 God Goliath
 Helmet Hit
 Kill Lord
 Philistine Saul
 Sling Stone
 Tall Thousand

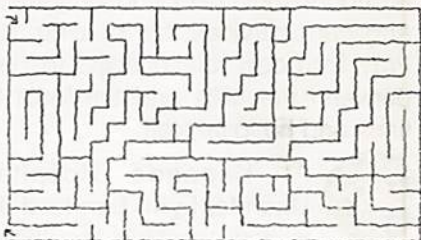
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O	I	M	L	E	L	L	L
H	N	F	L	E	S	H	I
T	G	T	E	M	L	E	H
G	O	L	I	A	T	H	P



And now . . . Read the plot in 1 Samuel 17

1. What is the name of David's home town?
2. What items of armour and which weapons did Goliath use in battle?
3. How many brothers did David have?
4. What was David's job at home?
5. How many times did Goliath repeat his challenge to the Israelite army?
6. What rewards did Saul offer to the one who defeated Goliath?
7. What did David take with him to fight Goliath?
8. What did the Philistines do when Goliath was killed?
9. How tall was Goliath?
10. What two things did David say to convince Saul that he could do the job?

- ANSWERS**
1. Bethlehem.
 2. Helmet, coat of armour, greaves on his legs, javelin and spear.
 3. Seven.
 4. Shepherd.
 5. Forty.
 6. Wealth, his daughter, no taxes.
 7. Five stones & a sling.
 8. Turned and ran.
 9. Over 9 feet tall.
 10. He had killed wild animals and God was on his side.



Around the World in 80 Words



Ian and Claire Ferrer in Nepal report that Rosemary remains well and is gaining weight rapidly. Ian is now working part time in the casualty and part time in the INF clinic. Claire hopes to finish her general practice training when they return to Britain while Ian will be looking for a G.P. practice to join.



Barry and Anthea Harrison report that there is growing interest in South America amongst the students at the Bible College in Belfast. They themselves feel that in the long term they should go back to Peru. With this in mind they are planning a five week trip to Brazil and Peru in the summer.



Lionel and Mary Mills are well settled in Rwanda. Lionel works mainly with malaria, maternity orthopaedics and trauma, but AIDS is getting more common. Mary is working part-time as a physiotherapist and says that her Kingyawardan is improving(!) The local Christians are very enthusiastic about their faith and announce the Anglican services by beating drums! Pray for good relationships to develop between the Mills and the local Christians and hospital staff.



At Kagando Hospital in Uganda, **Lynn Lennard-Jones** is now teaching two 'First Aid' sessions per week as well as English in

school, and has been asked to run a Netball club! Andrew's surgical feats continue to amaze Lynn, and the Hospital Board have decided that Andrew should be the next Medical Superintendent there in January. The both wish all of St. Nic's a belated "Wasinga Ekiro Kikulhu!"



After three years at Quebec Lodge, **Nick and Sue Brotherhood** and family have moved to the heart of the city of Montreal. Nick is now chaplain to Anglican students at McGill University three days a week, and assistant at St. Stephen's church the other three days. They have been given a tremendous welcome, and Nick is playing drums regularly in church, preaching, and co-ordinating cell-groups. Whilst Sue makes curtains and unpacks boxes,

Matti is attending nursery school four afternoons a week, and is loving it! Pippa and Katie are going to a school called F.A.C.E. which focuses on fine arts, so lots of music, drama and art. Adam has really taken to his new school Westmount High, and everyone except Matti is equipped with a bike.

Their new address is:

3498 Harvard Montreal QC
H4A 2W3 Canada

Telephone 0101-514-489-4158

(Actually, it's about 400 words - Ed)

People Power, Peristroika and Prayer.

For at least a generation, the countries of Eastern Europe have been under-developed compared to their Western neighbours. Communist (and usually repressive) governments have been in power. Ordinary people have had a low standard of living; shortages of everyday items have been the norm.

People have feared the secret police and have had no influence on government policy. Yet the last year,



Ruth Churchill chips away at the Berlin Wall for a piece of history.

and in particular, the last 4 months, have seen more changes than the last 40 years. Let us look at the countries of Eastern Europe:

The countries of Eastern Europe

Poland: "Solidarity" was legalised. A general election was fought, and a Solidarity government took power from the communists. The Catholic church is very strong and has supported Solidarity consistently.

Hungary: The communist party decided to become the socialist party and is planning a general election.

Romania: President Ceausescu, who was once adored, became a tyrant. His feared secret police tried to arrest an outspoken priest in Timisoara, and caused a huge demonstration which they attacked with guns.

When news of this spread, people demanded change. The army supported the people and fought gun battles in the streets against the secret police. Ceausescu was captured and later executed. The communist party was outlawed. General Elections are planned for the spring.



Czechoslovakia: In 1968 there was a popular uprising, "the Prague Spring", which was brutally crushed by Soviets. The same reforms are now being welcomed by the USSR.

Bulgaria: The old hard-line government has been replaced. The new government has given many new freedoms. This has immediately caused problems with the Turkish minority who wish to restore their Muslim traditions.



The message declares Checkpoint Charlie redundant.

East Germany: There was a mass exodus of people to the West. Late night prayer meetings became mass demonstrations. Honnecker, the leader of the government, was sacked.

The Berlin wall was climbed by Berliners from both sides, and new crossing places have now been built. There is a desire for a reunited Germany from both Germanies.

Yugoslavia: No known change yet!

Albania: Religion was officially abolished in 1967, and the state is officially atheist. As yet there has been no news of any change. This is hardly surprising as Albania is a closed country, and almost no-one crosses its borders.

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Why are these changes happening?

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Are these nationalistic uprisings, or a desire to be prosperous?

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What is the difference between prosperity which we think is good, and consumerism which is bad?

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What are the theological implications of a united Germany?

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Is the desire for reunification purely Nationalistic?

?

What should be the Christian response to Nationalism?

?

Why are people demonstrating and demanding change? Is it a desire for freedom and justice? Is it simply the desire to live without fear? Or even to have enough basic provisions like bread, meat and soap?

To what extent is Gorbachev a tool of God? He may not understand, or even approve, but his actions have enabled all the changes to take place.

We should pray for him, for his wisdom and protection.

A vision for the future

In order to help the Eastern European countries, we need to reconsider many of our governmental policies, and to see how we would like things to become. We must pray that Eastern Europe does not go from Communism to Consumerism - one idol is as bad as another in God's eyes.

Aid Policy: At present we send vehicles packed full of food and medical provisions to Poland, and this is

good. Yet what we really need is not short-term aid, but long-term infrastructure investment in hospitals, factories, agriculture and roads. This requires bank and western government loans. However the currencies in Eastern Europe cannot be freely converted into other currencies; this deters long-term investment.

Arms Policy: We must rethink the amount of money we spend on defence. From whom are we defending ourselves? Would the money be better used if we spent it to help Eastern Europe?

Immigration Policy: East Germans automatically have the right to



a West German passport. In 1992, citizens of the EEC countries will be able to move to and live in any other EEC country. The East Germans, who are effectively economic refugees, could move to the UK. At the same time, the British government will not allow most of the Hong Kong Chinese to live in the UK even though they have a form of British passport. We repatriate the Boat-People from Vietnam who are economic refugees, but accept East Germans. Why?

Perhaps we need a yet larger vision of Europe, including possibly the Baltic republics? Larger even than political unity across Europe, be that an enlarged EEC or a United States of

Europe (West and East), larger even than a common European currency.

Our vision should be based on God. Who else could have made the changes we have seen in so little time? Perhaps this rearrangement of Europe, with its new freedoms, is but a preliminary to a larger result. We should be expecting God to do yet greater things. We may see a united Europe in a small number of years. Who dares to expect a united church, Catholic and Protestant, by the end of the century? God is on the move!

Tim Lee

Many thanks to Ruth Churchill for the photographs - Ed



The Brandenburg Gate.

Questions of Faith

Finding Priorities

The questionnaires sent to Linkgroups on the vision for the church have been assimilated with the following results. Corporate prayer and mission were seen as the main priorities. Use of the Church building during the week, help with the Potter's house and with teenagers were also mentioned.



Step of Faith

The PCC are taking a step of faith. They are hoping to appoint a new lay pastor. This was considered last year, but no suitable applicants responded to the advertisement. St Nic's currently does not have enough funds to support an additional member of staff. The Rector felt that God would provide the money for this step of faith, as to cut back was not God's plan for us. He felt we should be making decisions for spiritual reasons, not for financial reasons. If God wants us to do something, then he will provide for us. As a result, the PCC decided to accept the deficit budget, and the implications of trusting God that people would increase their giving to match.



Emmanuel House

Emmanuel House is an ecumenical venture that provides food, shelter and support for the homeless. St Nic's used to give meal and snack vouchers for Emmanuel House to people in need who called at the church office. This worked well until the system was abused. The number of vouchers any individual could collect was then limited. However, in the summer, Colin was attacked when refusing to give a voucher. St Nic's now give directly to Emmanuel House and this is administered by the Outreach Committee.

OOPS!

J. John will NOT be preaching on 18th February as shown in the sermon card. He will be taking to the pulpit on 18th March instead. You now have a month longer to persuade your neighbours and colleagues to come with you!

Second Mercy Mission

In the last issue, we reported Clare Hamner's trip to Poland. In late November, she repeated the trip, taking many items donated by companies free of charge. She took her supplies through snow-bound roads, driving for up to fifteen hours a day past numerous road crashes.

Once in Opole, Clare made many deliveries. She revisited a surgical hospital and was delighted to find that one of the three operating theatres was now open. The trip was an emotional occasion for both the visiting and the visited. Clare hopes to return to Poland in the Spring.

The church in Opole which organises much of the distribution wrote a letter of thanks. Part of it is given below.

ODDZIAŁ CHIRURGII OGÓLNEJ
Wojewódzkiego Szpitala Zespołonego
ul. Katowicka 64, tel. 350-21
45-060 Opole

Opole, dnia 1. XII 1989 r.

We are deeply touched by your heart of gold which you give for our country. If there were more people like you all over the world, we are sure, there wouldn't be hunger and destitution.

In the name of our patients, and all of us, we would like to thank you for such necessary help, for making our work easier, and helping our patients survive the difficult period of disease. You probably don't know how very useful are surgical gloves, bandages, and everything we have received from you.

Please accept warm thanks, and send our mercy to all who helped bring such necessary gifts.

Your sincerely:

ORDYNATOR Oddziału Chirurgii Ogólnej
Wojewódzkiego Szpitala Zespołonego
ul. Katowicka 64
45-060 Opole

[Signature]



From Our Own Correspondent



Nigel and Sue Hyde - Tent Makers

Some newer St. Nic-ites may not know who we are, so here's a potted history: Nigel went to Nottingham University and then took his professional accountancy exams. Susan meanwhile did her General Nurse training at the Q.M.C. In April 1986 we were married at St. Nic's and then left the UK in November to travel for 8 weeks arriving in Papua New Guinea in January 1987.

Papua New Guinea is just South of the Equator and just North of Australia. It is hot and humid, especially where we were, in the coastal town of Lae. Nigel had an accountancy job there for two and a half years, while Susan worked in a pathology lab. It was an exciting time. The climate, culture, everything, were very different. We settled into a United Church of about 450 Papua New Guineans and 50 ex-patriots, and were involved in leading our local home group.



We spent last Christmas with friends doing literacy work in a village with Wycliffe Bible Translators. We left there in May, and travelled back via Africa to arrive in the UK in August 1989. We look



forward to sharing our spiritual and cultural experiences with you at St. Nic's.

In September we began a four-month Discipleship Training Course based in Haywards Heath, Sussex with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). We have had a three-month lecture phase where we learned about practical Biblical living, and strengthening our relationship with God.

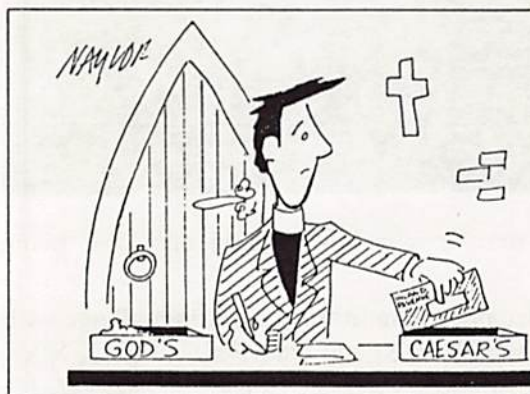
In November we went to Augsburg, West Germany for the one month outreach phase. This emphasised evangelism, in this instance, to refugee camps of Eastern Europeans, people from the Middle East and Africans, youth groups, a US base and open airs in the town square. The course was most challenging for both

of us, and has really strengthened our Christian foundations and vision to spread the Gospel.

We believe it is right to return to Nottingham. Nigel has just started work with an accountancy firm in Derby, while Susan is preparing for the arrival of our baby, due in early March. At the moment we are staying with Alec and Valerie King, but are busy house-hunting! We are looking forward to being part of St. Nic's again, and becoming involved with what is happening in Nottingham.

*With love from
Nigel & Susan.*

Smile a While



Seen outside a church in the USA:

"The Episcopal Church welcomes you, regardless of race, creed, colour or the number of times you've been born"

Terry Waite was taken hostage in Beirut on the 20th January 1987. He was there as the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, on a mission to seek the release of other hostages. Let us all remember him and his fellow captives.

A Prayer for Hostages

Give grace, O Lord, to those held captive at this time.

When loneliness envelopes them, may they sense your presence.

When turbulence surrounds them, may they have inner peace.

When hardship burdens them, may they receive new strength.

When they are tempted to doubt even their own worth, may they know how much they mean to you and to us.

In the soil of their suffering, may the seeds of a better world be planted.

We ask our prayers in the name of him who died and was raised, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



"Get Well Soon" wishes go to Kim Beales, who broke his arm last week. Be more careful next time!

Use this space to send greetings, sell unwanted items or make announcements. Make the magazine your own!

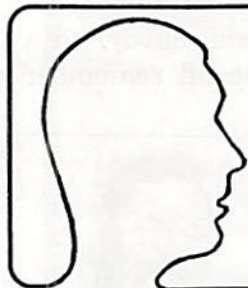


Congratulations!

Our congratulations go to Susan and Chris O'Callaghan and to Susie and Steve Helsey who were married on 20th January.

For sale: Mans/Boys bike Raleigh Hustler with: 19" frame, 3 speed Sturmey Archer gears, drop handle bars, and grime! Contact 287690.

For sale: Stainless steel double drainer kitchen sink 21" by 63". Contact 287690.



Profile of a Group

Kidsworkshop

Kidsworkshop is now over 5 years old. Started by Sue Brotherwood it then offered kids over the age of seven a chance to explore the performing arts - dance, drama and music in the context of a Christian group.

Five years on, dance is less prominent but the general aims of the group remain much as then. We meet after school on Tuesdays. For two terms of the year we work towards a goal such as a Family Service or performance. During the Spring term we meet less frequently for one-off workshops for which we import "experts". These workshops vary in content and have included a variety of creative activities. Our intention has been to develop skills that might be of use in future performances but that are fun and of value in themselves.

We try to avoid being just another after school club where the kids can let off steam. Commitment and discipline are an integral part of working towards performance of any

kind. At the same time we have a lot of fun together. The kids are a talented bunch and we hope that they are learning to use what God has given them whether simply for enjoyment or for leading others into worship.

If you want to find out more, please contact:

Fi Shouler Tel. 283400 or Janet Stickley. Tel. 397235.

Pathfinders

Pathfinders is a group of about fifteen 10 - 14 year-olds who meet twice weekly (give or take the odd family service). We explore not only Christian basics such as prayer, worship and Bible study, but also the issues which will face tomorrow's adult Christians. We have had guest speakers in to talk about Relationships, Mission Evangelism and the Role of Women.

This term we are looking into social issues in a program called 'Faith in Action'. We will have some

members of the congregation talking about their beliefs and experiences; and going out to help in practical ways

Each month we have a social meeting - we go bowling, swimming or watch a film. Once a year we have a Weekend away - which is as riotous as it sounds !

A year ago, Bishop Patrick confirmed about a dozen Pathfinders,

which was a tremendous highlight.

Please pray:

That new leaders will be forthcoming.

That the venue and speaker for our next weekend away will be sorted out.

Praise God for the growth, in maturity, commitment and numbers of the group.

Rachel Hobbs

Face-to-Face

This group grew out of the six-week "Basics for Belief" course to help new Christians fend for themselves. Our aim is discipleship.

A modern word which conveys the Biblical meaning of 'disciple' is 'apprentice'; the learner who is with the master at first to watch, then to dabble, then to do. Jesus called the twelve 'to be with him' in an intimate learning process lasting one and a half years. His character 'rubbed off' onto the disciples through their daily living together.

Sharing lives

Paul writes in 1 Thess. 2:8, "We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." This kind of discipling not only teaches about God's love, it demonstrates it. The truth is not simply acquired, it is lived.

Living out this philosophy is not

easy. Commitment to this sort of relationship is costly and the openness required makes you vulnerable. No pedestals for leaders, no places to hide when you fluff it and no pretence. If the relationships are real, the people soon realise when you are not.

I feel that often we forget that the commission to "make disciples" is not fulfilled with a conversion. Without the follow-up of discipling, evangelism is a bit like expecting new-born babies not only to eat solid food, but to cook it themselves!

I look forward to the time when discipling is no longer seen as a ministry, but as a normal part of church life. I say this still as a learner. I know, and more to the point, the people in Face-to-Face know, that I'm not the world's best discipler. However, I've had loads of fun, and they have given me some of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences I've ever had.

Simon Fairington

B B
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S S

Big Telephone : What's that strange ring ?

Little Telephone : Oh, I'm engaged!

Big Telephone : You're too young to be engaged!

Jessica Offord (11 on January 23rd !)

Mother: Why did you throw the baby downstairs, Spike?

Spike: Aunty said he's a lovely bouncing baby, and I wanted to see if she was right!

Andrew Walker (10)

Knock, Knock !

Who's there ?

Egbert.

Egbert who ?

Egbert Nobacon, thankyou !

Joel Stickley (7)

Knock, Knock !

Who's there ?

Isabel.

Isabel Who ?

Isabel necessary when I'm knocking on the door ?

Sarah Medley (10 on January 29th !)

Doctor, Doctor ! I feel like a goat !

How long have you been feeling like this ?

Ever since I was a kid !

Stephen Medley (5 1/2)

We had Australian Pudding yesterday.

What do you mean, Australian Pudding ?

We had Boo-meringues !

Rachel Sayers (10)



1991



THANK!

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DIARY

January

- Mon 22nd P.C.C. Meeting at 5, Tattershall Drive.
- Fri 26th 8pm 8 'til late Prayer Meeting at 96, Burlington Rd, Sherwood
- 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. Speaker: Rev. Michael Mitton Director of A.R.M.
- Sat 3rd 7.30pm Ray Bevan - Albert Hall. Tickets from the Christian Centre.
- Mon 5th Form 2T Bluecoat School visits the church
- Sat 10th 7pm Together Ministries Celebration at Royal Concert Hall
Speaker: Bob Gordon
- Sun 11th Newcomer Lunch in the Lower Lounge/Church Hall.
- Mon 12th P.L.G. Meeting
- Mon 12th] 7.30pm Special 3 day showing of "Caught" at Y.M.C.A. Shakespeare
Wed 14th] Street. Tickets either in advance or on the door.
Fri 16th]
- Sun 18th 6.30pm This will NOT be a J.John guest service, as previously advertised.
- Fri 23rd 8pm 8 'til late Prayer Meeting at 96, Burlington Road, Sherwood.
- Wed 28th 10.30am Ash Wednesday Communion Service in Church for Women's Fellowship and any others who would like to attend.

March

- Wed 14th Possible Confirmation Service at St. Margaret's, Aspley.
- Sun 18th 6.30pm Guest Service with J. John.
- Wed 27th 7.45pm Church AGM

Future dates

- Tues 3rd April Evangelism Training Day - see notice elsewhere in this issue.
- Spring Harvest 1990 in Skegness. 7-13th, 14-20th, 21-27th April
- Together '90 25th - 29th May at Newark Showground.
- New Wine 11th - 17th Aug at Bath & Wells Showground



DINNER AT PAUL'S
NEXT THURS

CONTACT

Pastoral Leadership Group

The PLG consists at present of six members:

- David Huggett . . . 411383
- Roger Campbell . . 815665
- Peter Bates 604480
- Di Payne 845238
- Gerald Cook 283835
- Peggy Wright. . . . 472201

The general areas of responsibility covered by this group are:

- membership groups,
- care and support (including training & prayer),
- worship.

New members are actively being sought. The group is at present planning more effective training for at least one area of church life, and is also looking into ways of strengthening the prayer life at St. Nic's.

Next Issue

On this page in the next issue, we would like to list members of the congregation who offer a service, such as gardeners, plumbers, carpenters, baby-sitters etc. The idea is to list people who will do a good job and charge the going rate. Please send in your name, trade and phone number, or drop it into the Editor's mailbox by the end of February.