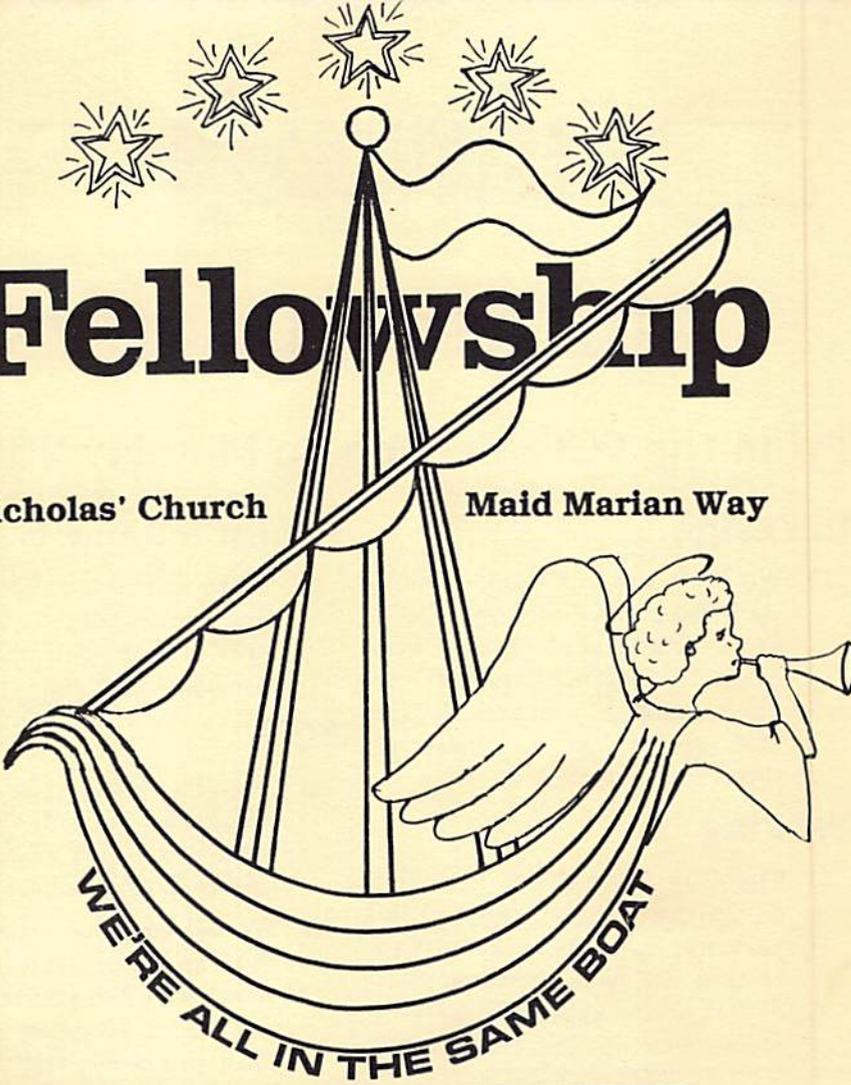


Pete and Margaret Bates  
\*\* Subscription Expired \*\*



# Fellowship

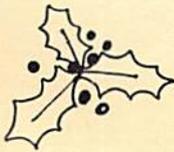
St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way

WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT

### In This Issue:

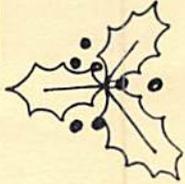
- ◆ Meet our new Curate!
- ◆ Living as a Christian in the real world.
- ◆ Adoption, the issues.
- ◆ Danger - Children at work!
- ◆ Growing as a family, growing in Christ.
- ◆ What happens to our money?
- ◆ What's on, Dec - Jan.
- ◆ All the latest news and lots more!



December 1990

Issue 10

Price: 40p





# Minute Minutes

From the PCC Meeting on Monday 26th Nov

## Redesign

- We have not yet received sufficient from the Gift Day to give the go-ahead, but we are very close. The decision was left with the standing committee. The PCC would like to thank all those who contributed.

## Parking

- The City Council are intending to impose a total ban on all parking in the side streets around St. Nic's, even on Sundays. Colin is fighting this jointly with the Congregational Church.

## Forward in Faith

The Diocese of Southwell has produced a pack called 'Forward in Faith', a five week course written for use particularly at Lent, but at any other time during the Decade of Evangelism as well. For more information, contact Paul Morris, 39, Davis Rd., West Bridgeford, NG2 5JE

## Rector's Report

- There will be a confirmation service on Sunday 3rd February with Bishop Patrick. This will also be a Guest Service.

## AOB

- Timothy Bates has requested permission to use the church hall for a Blue Peter 'Bring and Buy' sale on 27th January.
- We welcome the initiative of our children to organise an event where they can give of their time and talent to raise money. We want to encourage them in this, but do NOT want to open the doors to lots of bring and buy sales, etc. The PCC want to make it clear that this sale is endorsed because it is organised by our children, and because it is a one-off nationwide appeal.

*David Moore for PCC*

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# Sorting out Swanwick

It has been brought to my notice that the change of policy concerning the financing and programme planning of Swanwick '91 has caused considerable anguish to many of the families in the fellowship. Although I have written to each family, this article comes to bring before the entire church the dilemma we faced when considering Swanwick '91.

## Finance

When the staff met after Swanwick '90, we were made aware of the fact that the concessions which have previously been given to families cost the church nearly £1,000. We felt that some alternative arrangement should be made.

The plan which was drawn up was that, in the early Autumn, this need should be brought to the entire church, and that those who could afford to, and would see it as an expression of their care and concern for families, should be invited to contribute to a Swanwick Bursary Fund. Meanwhile, the Swanwick brochure would publish the actual costs so that

everyone could see just how much it would cost for families to attend.

## Pressure

We recognised that, faced with a potential bill of £150 plus, it would be unrealistic to expect families to attend so soon after Christmas - particularly where only one partner is a wage earner so we expected most families would draw on the bursary according to their assessed need.

Unfortunately Colin and I have been under tremendous pressure this autumn (and Pauline and Wendy are both very new to the St. Nic's scene) so we forgot to launch the bursary as planned.

Looking back, I now see that, having failed to put the plan into operation, it would have been wiser to have waited until next year to experiment in the way we had planned. In the event, we did not do that and this has resulted in a great deal of hurt and misunderstanding. I must take the full responsibility for the mistake and apolog-



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ise to the fellowship for the anguish caused.

## Family In-put

In addition I seem to have given the impression that families will not be catered for at Swanwick '91. This is not the case. On the contrary, after Swanwick '90, the staff reviewed the conference and reshaped the programme to ensure that families were better catered for - that they should not feel neglected, especially in terms of input.

Our aim this Swanwick is that it should be a memorable time for all the fellowship. It is our sincere hope that every strand of the Church's life will be represented and that we may enjoy oneness within the love of Christ.

## The Bursary

So may we encourage three things:

- ☆ That everyone seriously considers attending what we pray will be a memorable Swanwick.
- ☆ That those who would like to support families will contribute, even at this late stage, to the Swanwick Bursary Fund, c/o Malc Offord.
- ☆ That families will consider carefully how much they can realistically afford and, rather than deciding that they can't therefore come to Swanwick, apply for the bursary which has been set up precisely to support you.

*David Huggett*

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## Where does it all go?

Despite the appearance of being a rich church, St Nic's is severely short of money. Why is this? Firstly, we are committed to giving a large portion away to support missionaries at home and abroad, and to giving to social needs and "furthering the Kingdom". We aim for these to add up to 30% of the previous year's total income. This is because we believe that a healthy church is a giving church.

Secondly, we pay our staff. The Diocese provides stipends for our

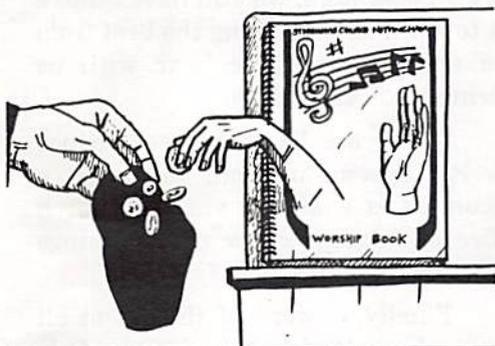
Clergy, but we have to pay for Colin, Pauline, Wendy and Helen, and to run the office. We only paid Pauline for half of this year, but I expect she will want paying for the whole of next year! We want to give our staff a fair rise in line with inflation, and would like to appoint a junior helper to assist Colin. This all adds up to £53,000, £13,000 more than last year.

Thirdly, we pay 'quota' to the diocese who pay, amongst other things,



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clergy stipends and housing. The Diocese aims to increase the clergy by a couple each year, and give a fair stipend rise. This year the Diocesan budget rose by 12.5%. In order to raise this money, they used to calculate how many people attended each church in the Diocese, and levy churches in proportion to their number of members. This scheme seemed harsh for



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some inner city and some rural churches. The rules have been changed in a number of ways including an 'ability to pay' factor based on the number of low income and high income members of the congregation. Our quota rose by 32%, while for some churches in Radford there has been almost no change. For yet others in the Diocese, it rose by 60%!

Although quota is not a binding demand, we ought to pay as much as we can. Certainly within a year or two we ought to be paying our full quota contributions. This means paying a real increase of 10% over inflation for the next three years, ie. an actual

increase of 20%. In the past, we have always paid our full quota.

Last year, the total income of St Nic's was £125,000. Our proposed budget for this year (full quota, 30% missionary budget and all staff) adds up to £166,000. This includes no money for Redesign, which is a completely separate fund. The church needs a rise in income of £41,000 (or a third) to balance this budget. The PCC felt that the most optimistic level of income that we could count on was £151,000 - an increase of 21% but still giving a shortfall of £15,000. It was not considered responsible to approve a deficit budget, so we have had to cut our costs. The PCC agreed the following measures:

#### Staffing

We wanted to appoint a more senior lay pastor to replace Wendy Prebble in September. We can only afford another junior member as has been the trend in the last few years.

#### Missionary Support

This has been fixed at last year's level of £34,000. As we are committed to giving missionaries some rise, there will be less available for volunteers.

#### Quota

We have restricted our quota to a 15% rise. Note that this is lower than we ought to pay in order to reach full quota in three years.

*David Huggett and David Moore*

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# Hearing Aid?

A few months ago, at the height of the almost forgotten summer, there were strange goings on in St. Nic's. Who were those scruffily dressed people moving around inside church in the early hours of the morning? What would the powers that be have thought of their highly-respected Church Administrator if they had seen the way that he attacked the pulpit with a claw hammer at well past midnight? Why did Martin Kennard insist on playing with a jigsaw when all around were working? Why did Iain Slater and I spend so much time slaving over a hot iron?

The answer to these (and many more unprintable) questions must have had something to do with the installation of Phase 1 of the new P.A. system, though now it all seems like a distant and bad dream. So then, what have we ended up with after over a year of design, and several hundred hours of installation time, other than four black boxes hanging from the rafters?

Well, amongst other things, there's a mixer with in excess of 495 knobs and switches (eat your heart out, Kenwood). Well over a kilometre of cable. Steel wires approved by Lloyds of London that would do justice to an ocean-going yacht. At the last

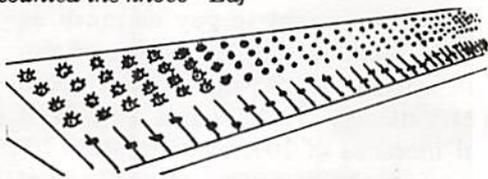
count, three amplifiers (if you think the P.A. is loud then as the saying goes, "Ya ain't 'eard nuffin yet"). Hopefully, the end product of all the planning, work and expense has been more than worth it, producing a clarity of sound never heard before in church. As P.A. operators, we still have quite a lot to learn about getting the best from the system, so please bear with us during these early days.

If you are likely to need to use the P.A. system 'up front' in church, a document is available via the church office explaining a few of the things that the system can do.

Finally, a word of thanks to all those who helped in bringing the P.A. redesign to fruition, whether in practical ways or in much valued prayer. Please don't stop praying or making suggestions now as we use the system week by week, and as we begin to think about the next phase of the P.A. system. If you want to know what that involves then watch this space!

*Jonathan Etheridge*

*[He won't say during whose sermon he counted the knobs - Ed]*



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Let me



introduce you to . . .

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## Jeremy, Julia and Nicholas

Who are these people coming from a strange land, and what are they like? Perhaps the following may help.

### Nicholas

- Age: nearly three.
- Interests: Thomas the Tank Engine, Postman Pat, Fireman Sam, swings and slides, sweets, railways.
- Occupation: Full-time toddler and video operator.
- Ambitions: to be able to drive the car.

### Jeremy

- Age: thirty-something.
- Interests: Sport, music, juggling, books.
- Occupation: presently curate of Stratton Church in Hartlepool. Formerly a student at St. John's, Nottingham, and before that, an English teacher in Belper.
- Ambition: To be at the match where Bradford city gain promotion to the First Division.

### Fletcher. Julia



- Age: just a bit older than Jeremy.
- Interests: sewing, music, organising Jeremy, space films.
- Occupation: Presently full-time home person, formerly a conveyancing solicitor, Birmingham and Hartlepool.
- Ambitions: To have an illness-free family holiday where it doesn't rain either.

We are delighted to be coming to join you all at St. Nic's, after an exciting and challenging time in the North-east. Nottingham is Julia's home town, we lived near Derby for six years, and we've worshipped at St. Nic's on occasion, so we feel like we've been here before.

We're certainly humbled and exhilarated by God's guidance and clear call for the next stage of our pilgrimage. Since no introduction can do what is required, we look forward to meeting you all and finding out about you, as you find out about us. It will be good to see what God will do with us in the next few years . . .

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# Struggling for God's

**T**he struggle is between what I want to do and what

God wants me to do. The prayer is to ask God to help me to see things from His perspective, for Him to help me change my attitude. The aim is to use my life on Earth in a way which is pleasing to God, giving me great joy, peace and security in knowing what I'm here for, and why.

## Dilemmas

I have been married for four years and have a nine month old daughter and am forever being faced with these dilemmas, where I have to go back to the Bible for guidance. Imagine I go to the supermarket specifically for tomato sauce and find, after I've put my whole trolley through the check-out, the tomato sauce unpaid for under the baby-seat. The shop is full, the baby is crying. If I am really aiming at holiness, surely God will understand that if I take the sauce home it is a

# Way

consequence of pressure beyond my control rather than a knowing act of unrighteousness. No, I do want my life to be pleasing to God. He has called me to try to be holy. I leave the tomato sauce in the shop and buy some later.

## Jesus' teaching

We are 'salt and light' to the world. The lady opposite is expecting a baby, I've only met her twice.

It's twelve noon and her curtains, which are usually open at eight, are still closed. The milk is still out. I am worried that something is wrong. I do not want to be intrusive, but would feel dreadful if she had fallen or something. I think about Jesus' teaching on 'loving thy neighbour'. Does neighbour refer to Christian or non-Christian (or both), people you know and those you don't know well? I'm very concerned, but do not want to be thought of as 'the nosy one at number six'. Per-





haps she's just having a lie-in.

## God's perspective

I'm still debating the issue when a friend from church pops in and, knowing the lady opposite, asks if she is alright as the curtains are closed and the milk is still out at one o'clock. I begin to realise how hard it must be for God, seeing me look at the situation from a 'world view' instead of from God's perspective. I go across to call and leave a note. Her husband came later to thank me, they had to take her to hospital earlier that night.

## Opportunity

I do a course one morning a week at a local college, and have been praying for one lady there in particular. I have been praying for her to experience in depth God's love, acceptance and forgiveness, and to see herself as His special creation. We were drinking coffee at our break when the conversation turned to yoga and a type of self defence where she

said that by focusing your mind and asserting the latent power within yourself, you could knock someone down with a tap.



I had been praying for an opportunity to present the Lord to her, and here it was, but I began to think, "They were not actually asking me what I thought, so I shouldn't butt in". Then I felt scared, and although I knew Jesus could offer more, I couldn't see how to express it quickly and positively. I realised

with shame that I was backing off, waiting for the moment when I could sigh and think, "It's too late now, it would be inappropriate".

## Which is more important?

Do I love these ladies and care about their eternal lives? Do I really want to live a life pleasing to God? Are these things more or less important than my feeling embarrassed or rebuffed? I prayed then spoke and said that as a Christian, I felt that becoming involved



with these spiritual things was dangerous, and that Jesus could offer more. The subject changed. A few weeks later, I was asked what I felt as a Christian and realised God had given me the opportunity to be a 'light in the world', a pointer to Him for that group.

### **A blessing, not a right**

I pray for them often and would love to see them turn to Christ or even show an interest, but I consider that would be a real blessing not a right. My role is to be obedient to all I know of God through his word, the Bible, and the holy Spirit.

As I think about God through the day, I look for moments to bring different circumstances and people to God in prayer. Perhaps as I walk the pram or as my baby plays for a few minutes on her own or sleeps. When I read my Bible whilst trying to make sure she doesn't choke on anything or chew up another cheque book, I am thankful to God for his great love for me. I am thankful to Jesus for dying for me, giving me salvation and freedom from past sins. I am thankful to

the Holy Spirit for his help throughout the day and night, (are all babies partially nocturnal?)

### **Only God can help**

It doesn't matter if I'm in dangerous, high-risk areas like Kuwait, or in poverty-stricken India as a missionary, or in the materialistic suburbs of the UK. Here I'm faced with acute problems with which only God can help. The wife forgiving her husband after an affair; the reconciliation of two sons with their father who thinks his children should understand that

his all-consuming business or career will yield benefits in ten year's time; those financially crippled with high mortgages who don't know how precious they are to God and strive to keep up with loan repayments on videos &c..

Jesus has put us in this world to make a difference, to pray and act. He has given us instructions in the Bible and a role model in Jesus. We must 'stand up for Jesus' in our homes, with our



friends and families, with our work-mates and acquaintances. As Christmas approaches, we ask God for boldness and love to share the wonderful news. We pray that we'll be able to see God at work in lives all around us. We look for opportunities and learn to live our lives for Christ.

*Susan Hyde*



## Do you need addresses for your Christmas mailing list?

If so, the new (Autumn '90) issue of the Church address List is excellent value at 40pl . . . . available from the back of church.

It does not contain addresses of former staff, so here are (for your quick reference):-

- Roger & Ginny Campbell + Ruth, Anna,  
1 Moray Road,  
London. N4 3LD
- Paul & Marion Oakley + Ruth, Katie,  
91 Churchill Road,  
Parkstone,  
Poole,  
Dorset.  
BH12 2LR

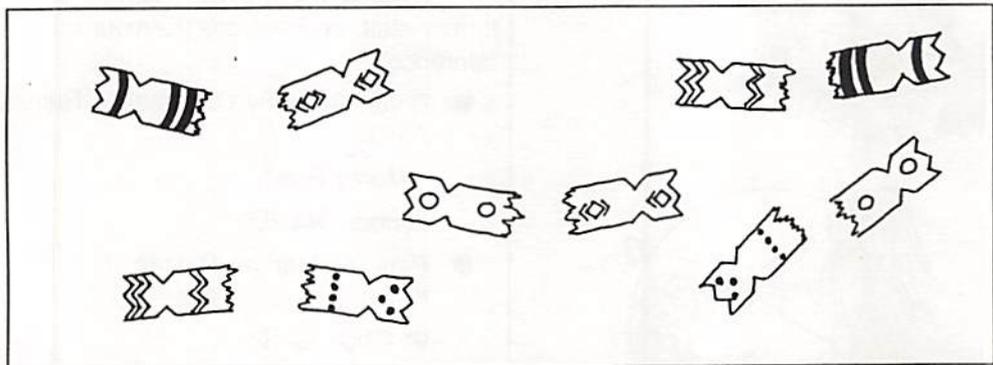


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# Bible Brain Benders

Bible Brain Benders this time has a festive feel. For you very little ones, we've a 'Match the Crackers' puzzle, while those of you who can read can spot the mistakes in the Christmas Carol titles. For you older children, there's a wordsearch with a difference, no clues!. The hard puzzle for this issue is to match the carols with the first line of the second verse! Happy Puzzling!

☆ Match the halves of the Christmas Crackers



☆ Here are the titles of some Christmas Carols, but each has a mistake. Can you put them right?

Once in Royal James' City.

The Holly and the Cowslip.

We, three kings of Wollaton Hall.

While shepherds washed their socks by night.

O, little town of Carlton Square.

Good Queen Helen Smith looked out.

The Virgin Mary had a baby elephant.

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☆ This wordsearch contains all the words from the first two lines of a carol. When you have found all of them, the letters you have left will spell a name.

E H T S T C  
 A G H M H Y  
 F N R L E R  
 L I G A I O  
 I W R E F L  
 G T E R L G  
 H S O A T S  
 T M R U O Y

☆ Here are the first lines of the second verses. What's the first line of the first verse?

1. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
3. They look-ed up and saw a star,
4. Lo, within a manger lies
5. He came down to earth from heaven,
6. O morning stars, together,
7. God of God,
8. Still through the cloven skies they come,
9. Flocks were sleeping,
10. In Bethlehem, in Jewry,



'Just leave them over there, will you Dad?'

## Answers

Titles  
 Angels from the realms of  
 glory, wing your flight o'er  
 all the Earth. Christ.  
 The Holy and the Ivy.  
 We, three kings of Orient are.  
 While Shepherds watched  
 their flocks by night.  
 O, little town of Bethlehem.  
 Good King Wenceslas looked  
 out.  
 The virgin Mary had a baby  
 boy.

Wordsearch  
 4. See amid the winter's  
 snow.  
 5. Once in Royal David's  
 city.  
 6. O, little town of Bethle-  
 hem.  
 7. O come, all ye faithful  
 8. It came upon the midnight  
 clear.  
 9. Infant holy, infant lowly.  
 10. God rest ye merry gentle-  
 men.

Second lines  
 1. Hark, the herald angels  
 sing.  
 2. Angels from the realms of  
 glory.  
 3. The first nowell

Wordsearch

## Music Maestro, Please!

Our Community Care Project at Mapperley Hospital has recently acquired a piano. Does anyone have any spare sheet music that we could have? Please contact Peter Bates.

## Wanted:

- A good home for an electric feature fireplace with 3KW heater, mock stone work plinths and hearth, and a copper hood. Cost negotiable - nil to a deserving cause. Phone 287690

## Wanted: luggage from reformed Yuppie.

Have you seen the light? Recycled your Filofax, turned off your mobile phone, discarded your stripy shirt? Whatever you do, don't throw away the Gucci attache case, as it could provide the ideal home for the microphones used by the P.A. team. If you have an old briefcase looking for a new home, then Jonathan Etheridge (224455) would like to hear from you.



## What do the following have in common?

A 'Slugger' baseball cap, a pair of sunglasses, an aeroplane pencil sharpener and a telephone instrumentation manual! They are some of the more unusual items of lost property awaiting the attention of their rightful owners. If they, together with the more mundane umbrellas, gloves and Bibles, are not claimed by Christmas, they will be 'disposed of'. This is your final call!

## Copydate

Items for the next issue of Fellowship should be sent to The Editors, 54 Tranby Gardens, Wollaton (284828) or put in the box at the back of church. The next issues will be published as follows:

- Copy 6th January for 20th January.
- Copy 17th February for 3rd March.

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## Positively Single

This is a residential weekend for a cross section of single Christians, with a variety of speakers, working together to discover and celebrate our distinctiveness. Come and learn how to be positive about your own singleness; how to promote positive images of singleness to the rest of your church; enjoy fellowship together; share your joys and frustrations; work out how to form mutually supportive networks . . . and enjoy it. Walk in the beautiful Dovedale valley, visit the Isaac Walton hotel and relax in the grounds of Ilam Hall.

- Friday 15th March to Sunday 17th March.
- Cost £39 per person.
- Contact Ro White, c/o St. Nicholas Centre.

P.S. The 'Singled Out' organising team needs new members due to the departure of Maria Potik, and the imminent marriage of Ro and Rob. If interested, please contact Ro.

## New English Orchestra

**19th December 1990**

The New English Orchestra returns to the Royal Concert Hall on Wednesday 19th December 1990 at 7:30pm on their pre-Christmas tour.

All of the performers are Christians and, as well as providing music to the highest professional standard, they also convey the joy and unity of their faith. The Independent's critic commented after one of their concerts, "Their performance certainly provided a refreshing change from the bored expressions customarily seen on this platform." This is one of the few activities to which Christians can invite friends and neighbours in complete confidence, for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The versatility of the NEO is shown as the style varies from one concert to the next. The programme in Nottingham includes pieces by

Bach, Britten, Strauss, Vaughan Williams and a new commission from Michael Berkeley - plus seasonal carols for everyone. As always with the NEO, there will also be singing and lively, stylish dancing.

Tickets, priced £2.75 to £7.50 (with well over half of the seats at £5.00 or less) are available from the Royal Concert Hall (tel 482626: credit cards 482525).

The NEO, Singers and Dancers have been invited to take part in the opening celebrations of the 1991 Salzburg International Music Festival, marking the Bicentenary of Mozart's death.

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# Looking at Adoption

Six hectic days, bags packed, cupboards cleaned, people met and home visited, laughter, tear, angers, hugs and prayer then silence . . .

In the silence following the departure of our foster children, I was struck afresh with this question. How do their natural parents cope?

## Imagine

Imagine, one evening a knock on the door. You are faced by a social worker wanting your children. There are grounds to believe your children have been abused. Maybe you have been forewarned, maybe the location is different, a courtroom, a police station or a hospital. A stranger takes your children. You remember the screams, the hysteria and the frenzied struggles, or perhaps you remember a numbness of shock and disbelief broken by the screeching of sirens. Silence, haunted by questions and the surreptitious flick of a curtain hastily pulled back by that neighbour across the road.

How do you tell people?

How do you tell your friends and neighbours, your relatives, your school friends and work-mates? Wherever you go you are met by scorn, abuse, anger and hatred. Your companion's guilt is compounded by anger and bitterness. Perhaps you recall your own childhood when you were knocked around, abused, neglected, not fed or locked in a cupboard for hours at a time.



## Expecting Nothing

You didn't mean to hurt the children, it just happens sometimes. What wouldn't you have given for an understanding friend, someone who would just take the children for an hour or two. Someone who would help to clean up, make a meal or who would just put their arm around you and care, expecting nothing in return.

Through Christian Eyes





Court comes too soon. Yes, you do love your children. Yes, yes, Yes, you did do all those things, but you didn't mean to hurt them. No, you didn't protect them. You wanted to but . . .



Yes, it would be better for them to be in care, but you still love them, you want them . . . The judge sums up. No, not for ever, No! Never to see the children again or to have contact with them? No!

### **Punishment for Life**

Confronted with all she has done and failed to do, the judge passes the sentence on her. This is a civil court, no prison sentence, but the birth parent has lost these children, and should she have any more, they too will be taken in to care. Her punishment is lifelong.

When I hear or read of some of the atrocities wrought on children by their parents, I feel physically sick. Part of me wants to hurt the parents. I want them to suffer long and painfully. Then I look to the cross. Slowly the realisation

comes, Jesus forgives. He has already suffered this pain. All parents cause children pain, most of it unintentionally, but none of us are perfect. As Christians, however, we can ask for forgiveness and love to bring about a healing.

### **Healing**

To love foster children and to bring them this healing, as far as is honestly possible, a positive and realistic picture of their birth parents. This is not possible unless we have brought our anger and hatred for all the pain inflicted on the children to the Lord. We have to release forgiveness and love to the parents, not judgment, hatred and vengeance.

Since Christ loves and forgives us, we all have the potential to do the same. But what of these parents who stand forever condemned? They are ostracised, and abused by their families, former friends and by their work-mates or, in some cases, fellow-prisoners. To whom do they turn with their guilt and shame? To the Social Services? Although they offer some counselling, their resources are severely limited, and they are often seen as the agency



which inflicted the final blow.

## Freedom

As Christians, we know the power of forgiving, the freedom, love and joy which new life in Jesus offers. Is there not some way in which we could help the birth parents to receive and be healed?

Most crimes carry a prison sentence or a fine. After the terms are met, the criminal is free to live his life afresh. In cases of abuse, however, there is often no criminal sentence. The child is removed to safety, and the parent is left for a lifetime of guilt. There is no recommendation for counselling or rehabilitation, since there are no such resources. The parent is left to suffer alone or, in bitterness and hatred for society, to seek out some other innocent child to begin the cycle of abuse again.

Maybe the Church could offer to support the Social Services in running rehabilitation centres, or in offering counselling services. Maybe more Christians should be prepared to open their homes to foster. Maybe we should love more and condemn less. Maybe . . . Maybe . . .

*The Mackwell Family*

## Christmas at Emmanuel House.

Christmas Day is the worst day of the year for homeless and lonely people. At Emmanuel House, staff, volunteers and visitors are hoping to provide a happy and festive atmosphere, and would like your help. We would be grateful for:

Mince Pies

Biscuits

Fancy Cakes

Apple Pies

Christmas Puddings

Sweets and Chocolates

Meat and fish spreads

Marmite

Tinned Ham

Sausage Rolls

We also like to give present to everyone in the Centre on Christmas Day, and would like:

Socks

shampoo

gloves

toothpaste

toiletries

toothbrushes

handkerchiefs

ties

combs.



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# Danger! - Children at Work!



*The children and young people of St. Nic's are a force to be reconed with! They are getting to grips with the meaning of everyday Christian living in a way which puts some of their elders to shame. Here are some reports of some of their activities, so watch out! Children at work!*

## Blue Peter 'Bring and Buy' Sale

The P.C.C. has given us permission to run a Bring and Buy Sale after the Family Service on Sunday 27th January 1991 in St. Nic's Church Hall. This is part of the annual Blue Peter Appeal and this year thousands of children all around the country have organised and run Bring and Buy Sales to raise money for orphanages in Romania.

Come and see what the children have made and brought along. We hope you will buy something! Please support this important event by making or bringing gifts and by coming to buy. If you can help by bringing things, please contact the Organiser, Tim Bates, on 604480, or at a morning service.

## Going Crackers!

The Pathfinders will be doing their bit to make a few people's lives better this Christmas. They are organising an 'Eat Less, Pay More' meal. It will be held on Sunday December 16th, in aid of the Christmas Cracker Organisation. [This is the group which is looking after Tanya Attwell as she works in India. See 'Fourwords' - Ed].

The meal is to be held at the Potter's House and will be open to the people of St. Nic's and their guests. After the morning service on Sunday 16th, people will go to the Potter's House where they will be served a third-world style meal, and will be asked to pay what they would normally pay when eating out, or more!

Please support this event, thank you.

*The Pathfinders*

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## Razzle Dazzle 1990

Razzle Dazzle is a Christian alternative event for young people on Hallowe'en Night.

At 6 o'clock on that Wednesday evening, the rain clouds cleared and Razzle Dazzle took over. The initial gathering with a bonfire, disco and fireworks brought in mainly the younger members of Burton Joyce to Chesterfield Drive Free Church.

Everyone was free to stand around the bonfire and watch the screaming rockets, or have a boogie inside to the disco music.

At about 7 o'clock the older ones processed to the Methodist Church

whilst the younger ones enjoyed a video about Noah's Ark and had their Rainbow Fancy Dress judged.

The 150 or so people who had now gathered at the methodist Church were greeted by the well-known, very brill, Christian Rock Band 'Solid Air' (Yeah!). They played very loudly for 40 minutes, and then we had some sausage rolls, quiche, cakes and drinks, and then returned to the concert. This second half really livened up and everyone was dancing and enjoying themselves.

This alternative to Hallowe'en meant that Burton Joyce was, for the third year, promoting light rather than darkness.

*Benjamin Newman.*

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## Smile a While

- ☆ Stuck for a gift this Christmas? Roger Abbott suggests this compilation album, available from the bookstall!



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# Punks in the Pews

All of us who attend the evening service will recall one memorable night a few months ago when a group of local punks and their friends visited St. Nic's. Most of us had no idea how to react at all, but a few brave (?) individuals took it upon themselves to befriend and talk to them. What we discovered was not a rebellious distaste for all things religious, but in most cases a sincere desire to find out about 'this God business'.

## Pyromania

That's where I came into the picture. Although I wasn't actually at that service, during the following week I received a 'phone call from Barbara Holbrook, asking if, as an ex-punk, I'd be interested in talking to them. Asking me to participate in any kind of evangelism has a similar effect to pouring petrol on a blazing fire, so you can imagine my response.

## Conversions



"I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THE NEW MINISTER"

The next week Rory Sewell, Pauline Walker and myself took a small group down to the lower lounge after the service, and that night Gavin 'Zoz' White took Jesus for his Lord. What followed the one conversion was a bit amazing. Two weeks later, two of his pals gave their lives to Christ, and Zoz himself notched up two converts the following week.

## Nurturing

We started with the process of nurturing these young Christians and soon found that they took it in by the bucketfull. It wasn't long before Zoz was pulling me up for forgetting to say grace! In retrospect, I am guilty of missing the potential that the Lord has placed in these wonderful young lives, as I've never known people grow so quickly on the bread of life.



At the recent guest service, Zoz's friend Glynn also became our brother, and the next week Zoz was baptised. Both of them are seriously going on with God, and Zoz has recently come into the fullness of the spirit and is practising his new tongue!

## The Road to Heaven

It's amazing to see how God uses our lives when we lay them down before Him, and the work is continuing. We are looking to increase our witness in the punk community, and to see more of these dear young folk find their feet on

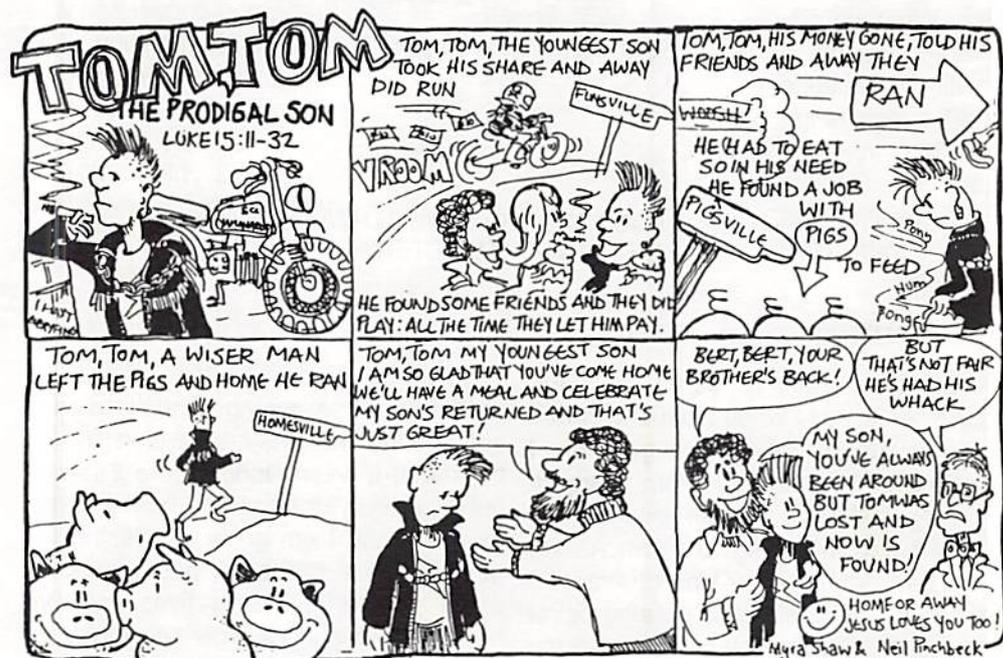
the road to heaven.

## Invaded Territory

Although only a few of us are involved in the work, we can all play a vital part by praying for what is happening. We value your prayers more than anything, especially as we have come under a bitter attack. I guess Satan doesn't like his territory invaded!

Praise God for what He has done, and for what He is doing! Please do continue to pray for us and for the work that's going on, and thank you deeply for your prayers thus far.

SPYDER BLANETT.





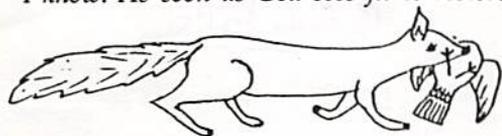
*From Our  
Own  
Correspondent*



## Looking at the World Through Kanuri Eyes...

### *The Tale of the Lion, the Fox and the Jackal.*

Once upon a time, the lion became ill. Since he was their King, all the animals of the bush came to greet him. All, that is, except Mother Fox. Now one day Father Jackal came to visit the lion again and found the hare already sitting there. After chatting for a while, Father Jackal said to the lion, "Father King, haven't you noticed that all the animals of the bush have come to pay their respects to you except for Mother Fox who obviously doesn't want to trouble herself. She hasn't even been to see you once." To which the lion replied, "Yes, I know. As soon as God sees fit to restore



my health, I'll cure her of her disrespect."

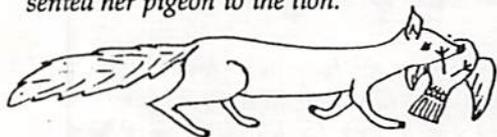
Now the hare, who was sitting near them, had heard all this. So he jumped up and ran to look for Mother Fox. When he had hunted her down, he said to her, "Mother Fox, have you heard the news?" "No, I've not heard a thing," she answered. "Well," said the hare, "Father Jackal has been telling tales about you to the lion. You'd better do something quickly. If you don't, then the moment the lion recovers, you and your life will be parting company. Mark my words." So saying, he went on his way.



Mother Fox headed straight for the bush and, after wandering around for a while, managed to catch a pigeon. She plucked it, gutted it and cleaned it up nicely. Next she looked for some wild honey and rubbed it into the



pigeon until it's whole body was well coated. Then she wrapped it up and made for the lion's den. "May God grant you long life!" she said as she staggered in. "Thank you, you are most welcome," replied the lion. "Your excellency," she continued, "ever since you fell ill, I have not had a moment's rest. I've been rushing around in all directions looking for some suitable medicine for you. Here is what I found, your excellency, in the home of a certain old tomcat. If you eat this, together with the marrow of a jackal bone, you will be completely cured." With that, she presented her pigeon to the lion.



Now, who should arrive next, but Father Jackal. With a single bound, the lion pounced on him, snapped off one of his legs, poured the bone marrow out over the pigeon and ate the two together. Father Jackal went out dragging his broken leg, and sat down outside to cry.

After a while Mother Fox said good-bye to the king and left for home. As she was coming out of the lion's doorway, she found the jackal sitting there outside. "Father Jackal," she said, "You seem to have fallen right into the very hole you dug for me. Next time you dig the hole of slander, make sure you dig it deep." Then she left him and went on home.

So this has become a proverb told by Kanuri people, "If you dig the hole of slander, dig it deep." Otherwise you will fall into it yourself, just as

Father Jackal fell into the hole he had dug for Mother Fox.

When Jesus called Herod 'that fox', was He paying the ruler a compliment on his oft-proven ability to get out of tight squeezes? Was He expressing admiration at the way he always got the better of his enemies? A Kanuri person might think so.



My good friend and colleague, Christine, returns to Northern Ireland next year to marry. I'm delighted for them both, as I'm sure it is God who has lead them to this decision. And that must mean He will also guide in all the adjustments at my end, especially in finding a new colleague. All prayers appreciated!

Please pray too for complete healing for Christine. For the past two months she's been quite seriously ill with typhoid and possibly other things.

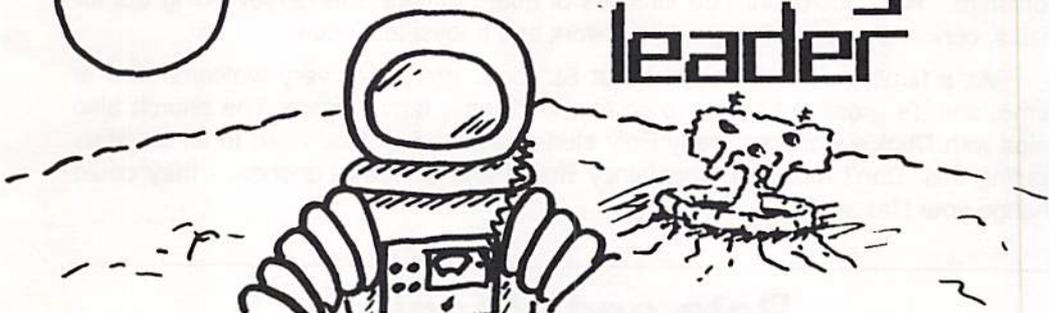
With many thanks for your prayers and with much love,

Charlotte



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# ○take me to your leader



## Duncan and Gilly, Caroline, Nik and Francis Myers

A Bread and Cheese Lunch in the Chaplaincy of a midlands university may seem a strange place for a first meeting, but it was in the Chaplaincy at Warwick that Duncan Myers first met Gilly Curry. Nearly fifteen years later, Duncan is providing Bread and Cheese Lunches as Chaplain to Nottingham Polytechnic, encouraging people to meet and talk - although romance isn't guaranteed!

Both Duncan and Gilly have felt called to ministry within the church, but this has worked out in very different ways. Duncan was ordained in 1984 and has worked as a curate in Slough and then Farnborough before coming to Nottingham earlier this year. With a growing family, much of Gilly's work has been at home, but her musical gifts have been put to good use from time to time. She currently helps to lead the children's worship on Sundays and she played and sang at 'Saints in Praise' at Southwell Minster in November.



The adults in the family are outnumbered and usually outshouted by the children. Caroline is nearly seven and has settled into the Girls High School. Nicholas is five, and goes to Claremont Primary School where Francis (aged three) has recently started at Nursery. They are full of life and have a wide variety of interests including the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles - and Pizzal

Gilly originally comes from West



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London, but loves living in Nottingham - this is our second time here. Dunk's a Yorkshireman living in exile. "Nottingham's the best city I know that isn't in Yorkshire." His hobbies include all kinds of board games. Both enjoy going out for meals, concerts and the theatre, when work and babysitters allow.

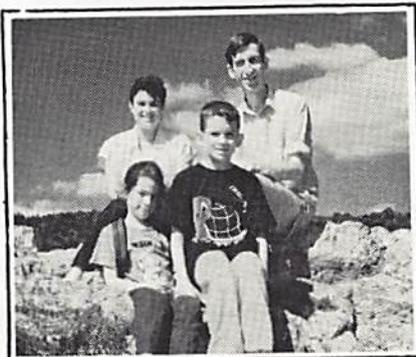
As a family, we are glad to be at St. Nic's. We've felt very welcome and at home, and it's great to be able to go to church as a family again. The church also helps with Dunk's work, as many Poly students attend. A final word to all students reading this. Don't miss the Chaplaincy Bread and Cheese Lunches, - they could change your life!

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## Pete and Maggie, Tim and Catherine Bates

The Bates family consists of Maggie, Pete, Tim (11), and Catherine (9). They have been attending St. Nic's since about 1978 and have been involved in many different areas of church life since that time.

Maggie is a teacher of 5 - 7 year olds in Bestwood Park, a job she finds very time consuming but thoroughly worthwhile. Pete is employed by the health authority to develop a network of daytime support for people with mental health problems. He'll talk about this with absolutely anybody, so you have been warned! Tim is in the first year at Bluecoat school and Catherine is in the third year at Seely, the local junior school in Sherwood.



In idle moments, Pete writes programmes for the Central Nottingham Regional Group, and tries to think about the subject of training on behalf of the Pastoral Leadership Group. Maggie, when not absorbed in writing lesson plans to cover the National Curriculum, cutting out shapes or marking, runs the St. Nic's tape library. Just hold the line a minute while she nips upstairs and turns another tape over . . .

Meanwhile, Pete is rummaging amongst the second-hand books at Oxfam, looking for writings by the church's forgotten heroes. Has anyone got any Richard Baxter? [Didn't he use to present 'Tomorrow's World'? - Ed]

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# Synod Refreshed

The newly elected Synod met first for a service of Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey in the presence of the Queen. The Queen then came to Church House to inaugurate the Synod. The new Synod felt a bit different, with many familiar faces missing. Forty percent are new members. There are now twenty-five women deacons in the House of Clergy and the synod has fourteen black members. The average age is now fifty-two.

The first business was to elect prolocutors and chairmen. The Canterbury Convocation elected the Archdeacon of Leicester (David Silk) in a close contest, and Canon John Stanley from Liverpool was elected by the York clergy. The House of Laity elected Prof. David McClean as chairman and Dr. Christina Baxter (our very own!) as vice-chairman.

## Receiving and Giving

The first debate was on this report on Christian stewardship and was presented by Roy Williamson

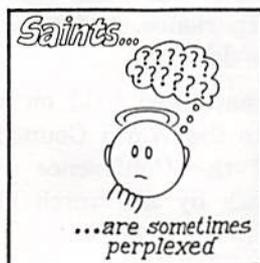
(Bishop of Bradford). The report was about money, not any of the wider aspects of the subject. The importance of teaching stewardship was stressed and in particular, the value of proportional giving. An important part of the report is the ten questions addressed to the church and we will be hearing more of them locally.

## Faith in the Countryside

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who described himself as a 'modest pig breeder', introduced this report of 400 pages. This is a major report whose recommendations will need careful consideration. It is a compendium or a reference book, a document for the

long term. We were told that the crisis is real and deep rooted in housing, services and employment. The scale may be less

than in the city, but it is very real and heart rending. We shall have to see which of the



many recommendations will be acted upon. A study guide is now available at £2.50.

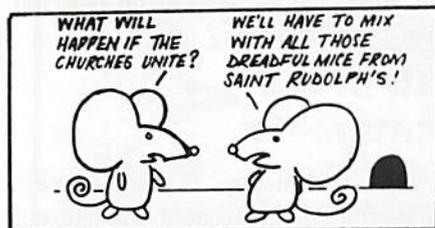
## Miscellaneous Measures

This item was intended to be non-controversial and the final approval was left over from the last Synod. The measure is a tidying-up exercise on burial, funerals &c. However, some

tial blessing and who may impart it. A lively debate ensued, with Colin Buchanan supporting the motion for entirely the opposite reasons to those given by the presenter. It was carried.

## Ageing

The final debate was on a BSR report on aging. It is an excellent report, looking at nearly all aspects of older people in our society and the church. One speaker decided that 'old age is when you cannot replace loss' and another said that 'as long as you continue to grow, there is no such thing as old age'. There is much for us to consider here. An excellent study guide, 'Happy Birthday Anyway!' is available at £1.25.



clauses concerning the appointment of a deacon as a rural dean or as a canon proved to be most controversial for some people, particularly those who claimed it was necessary for a rural dean to be a priest. Several women rural deans sought to put them right from their own experience. A decisive vote of 2:1 won the day.

A useful debate was held on a report of a visit to the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches by a Church of England delegation.

## Nuptial Blessing

The Diocese of Exeter is unhappy with the Bishops' guidelines for marriages conducted by a deacon and were asking for clarification from them as to what constitutes the nup-



There was also a statement on the gulf crisis and a presidential address from the Archbishop of Canterbury. On the Gulf, he urged that sanctions be given time to work, for perhaps a year, and that every possible effort be made to free the hostages. He recognised that war might be necessary in the end. It is rarely just, but may be justified.

*John Holden*

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# Growing Pains

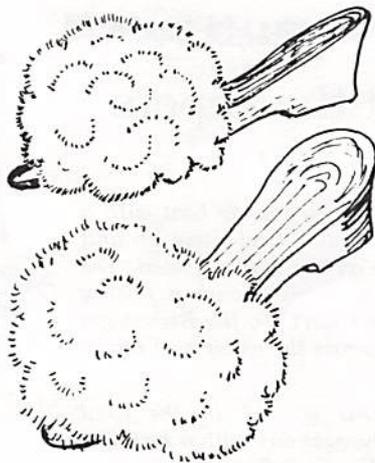
Why is it, I wonder, that I hear of so many young ladies who wish to literally shake off their reins when they reach the still tender age of eighteen. They strive to prove their own independence, and proudly assert to one and all that they can stand alone now in their big fluffy slippers.

In my own family, my just eighteen year-old step-daughter has made it frighteningly clear that she will now go her own way in life, which unfortunately seems to have caused great distress to our family. We have both spoken to her, putting forward slightly different points of view, and we hope that her natural concern for others will outgrow the desire for self-concern and self-determination to prove herself to the world.

## Lockerbie

Travelling up to Oban on Scotland's western coast to be with my wife's kin for Hogmanay nearly two years ago, was preceded by that horrendous crash at Lockerbie on Dec 21st. That monstrous gaping hole next to the M74 was there for all to see and scraps of aircraft could still be seen littered

around. As the time to travel North of the border draws closer, my memory recalls the comments a minister's wife made after losing her daughter Helga in the crash. "I think it is important to say that Helga was no angel. She had struggles, particularly as a child of the Manse, and we went through teenage difficulties with her. But we had come through that, and had put those things behind us. It is easy to focus on those times of struggle, but we mustn't, and neither must we regret those times. They are part of life and growing up."



## Our Heavenly Father

I do believe that at this time when some of us are experiencing difficult personal family relationships in our church, we should ask our Lord for His strength and wisdom, by prayer, knowing by faith that His almighty hand will lead us into a better understanding of His will for our lives in the future. Looking back will not be in anger, but in knowing His almighty support through all things, past and present.

*Chris Barnes*

**BB****AA****CC****KK****WW****OO****RR****DD****SS**

# Quotable Quotes

- ☆ Ginny Cooper was heard to say, before a morning service, "I'm concerned that the Eternal God that we know may not be the same eternal God that David Huggett knows!"
- ☆ While wondering what to do for the Bible Brain Benders for this issue, Fay Moore said, "Now what happened in the Bible at around Christmas?" Government health warning - Editing Church magazines can damage your brain!



## What the Papers say

*A Bishop was in a rowing boat with a priest when a stiff wind came up and blew the cap off the Bishop's head. The priest tried to reach it with a fishing pole but he couldn't. So the Bishop got up, walked across the water and retrieved his cap.*

*The story was covered in the local newspaper the next day with a headline reading 'Bishop can't Swim.'*



'I'm sure this spire wasn't here last year!'



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# DIARY

## December

- 10-18th Retreat at Launde Abbey with David & Joyce Huggett.
- Wed 12th 2:45pm Nottingham Insurance Institute Carol Service in church
- Wed 12th 7:30pm Carol Singing in Lister Gate. Meeting beforehand in church hall
- Thur 13th 5:30pm Browne Jacobson Carol Service in Church.
- Fri 14th 2:00pm Townswomen's Guild Carol Service in Church.
- Tues 18th 6:30pm Barclay's Bank Carol Service in Church.
- Tues 18th Christmas Celebration broadcast live on Leicester Sound. Free tickets available from Terry Anne Preston tel: 390939
- Wed 19th 7:30pm New English Orchestra at Royal Concert Hall

## January

- Sat 26th 7:30pm Ishmael at the Royal Concert Hall. Tickets now on sale.

## Christmas Services

- Dec 16th 6:30pm Carol Guest Service. Speaker: Rod Beadles
- Dec 23rd 10:15am Preacher: Joyce Huggett  
6:30pm Preacher: David Huggett
- Dec 24th 11:30pm Midnight Christmas Communion
- Dec 25th 10:15am Family Christmas Day Communion
- Dec 30th 10:15am Preacher: Michael Green  
6:30pm Preacher: Eddie Neale



DINNER AT PAUL'S  
NEXT THURS

# CONTACT

## General Services

- Roger Abbott..... Photographic Services ..... 474531
- Michael Cobbett..... Solicitor ..... (0773) 740235
- Patrick Cordon..... Plumber..... 877218
- Peter Horslen..... Building work & Home Repairs..... 215211
- Tim Lee (MyCrow Partnership)Computer Consultancy ..... 287690
- Fay Moore (F.M. Tutoring)..... Maths / Computing tuition ..... 284828
- Laura Parr LTCL BMus..... Teacher of Clarinet and Recorder 228361
- Stephen Sadler ..... Gardener ..... L / E 734339
- Mike Shouler ATII ..... Chartered Accountant..... 283400
- Helen Smith (Allanah Cakes) .Catering and cakes..... 621080

## Baby-sitters

- Kirsty Offord..... 476924
- Rosslyn or Abaigeal Offord..... 391891

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*The Editors would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas, and a New Year which brings you closer to God.*

*This is an anniversary issue of Fellowship, number ten. We hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy producing it. We also hope that we have gone some way to fulfilling the aims that we set out in the first magazine. "To build up the community of St. Nic's by informing, encouraging and providing a platform for discussion."*

*One item of which every magazine has been short is testimony. We really do want to know about answered prayers, even the little ones! To redress the balance, the Editors note the following. Many people prayed for the magazine, because we appeared in the prayer diary. For the first time, we had most of the articles typed before copy date, and (jargon), we managed to make the soft fonts work after several months of trying.*

*Co-incidence?*

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