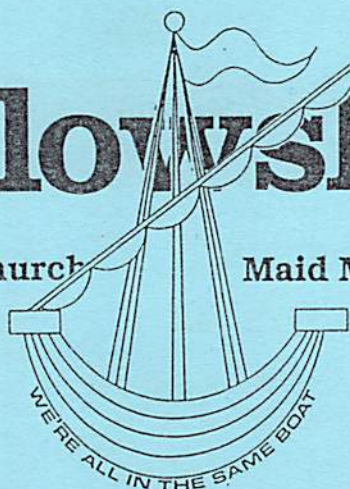


# Fellowship

St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way



**In This Issue:**

## **The Healing Touch**

**How do you cope when tragedy touches your life?**

**What do you do when a healing touch is needed by someone close to you?**

Read two people's accounts of how they coped with their losses. Understanding is a large part of caring.

Pauline Walker challenges us to move together with a healing touch to those around us, both in our Church and in our city.

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## Forewords

### No Room

This may be the last time that London's Trafalgar Square will have its traditional Christmas crib. Over recent years it has been stored by Westminster Council and the Department of the Environment, but both the Council and the government now claim they have no room for it.

### Faith at Work

'Money Matters', a new publication from the Oxford diocese, is a six part study series to help Christians apply their faith to working life. "Often Christians find it hard to bring their faith to bear on difficult dilemmas", comments author the Rev. Keith Lambin, diocesan adult education adviser.



Ven. Clive Hanford, who used to be Archdeacon of Nottingham, was consecrated as the Bishop of Warwick in mid December. Photo by permission, CEN.

### Help!

St. Margaret's, Aspley have asked us if we have four people willing to help with the children's work at their Parish Weekend at Swanwick, June 28th - 30th. If you are interested, contact Pauline Walker.

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# New Year's Revolutions

**W**ho needs New Year's Resolutions? I don't like making them. I feel more guilty about breaking them than the ones I make the rest of the year round. Maybe this year I should.

There are times when one is hounded by questions that need an answer, and that won't go away without a satisfactory one! Since my arrival at St. Nic's nearly eight months ago, the questions that hit me in the face were:

What is a Church *for*?

What is *St. Nic's*, in particular, *for*?

In my first few days in Notting-  
I walked through the Market  
re. My heart heaved within me as  
I saw the emptiness on the faces of a  
group of young people there. That is  
where my questions started.

I walked back to the church  
streets, skirting two gentlemen in the  
graveyard. One vomited violently as he  
lay flat out on the ground next to his  
bottle of alcohol. His friend took the  
opportunity to raid his undefended  
wallet and pockets. The questions buz-  
zed louder in my mind. I felt powerless  
to intervene, and useless because I  
didn't. This was happening, right on  
the Church doorstep.



## The Place of the Church

Around the church members I hear talk: from mothers concerned about what their children are being taught in the classrooms about God; from people faced daily with tough ethical decisions at work; from social workers dealing with horrendous human situations; from many others who are trying to work out Christian principles in the middle of the fast-flowing current of a God-less outlook on life. What is the place of the Church in the midst of these struggles. More particularly, what is the place of our Church?



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## Answers

Possible answers to my questions began to form slowly. Isn't the Church the present-day human body of Christ? Isn't it meant to be walking as Jesus walked? I wondered what Jesus would have said to the young people in the market square. What would He have said to the mother worried about the influence of the New Age on her children at school? I doubted whether Jesus would have just walked round the two gentlemen in the graveyard.

I drew comfort from the fact that Jesus didn't mean me to tackle all these problems. He meant us to do it. I still think it's a shame that the English language has lost the distinction between 'you', singular and 'you' plural. Jesus says that 'you' plural are to be His body on Earth. That means that I have to come together with others in fellowship. We must pool our gifts and weaknesses to reach out to those around us with the love and message of Christ.

## Empowered

Phew! Well, that let's me off the hook then. There must be someone else more capable / gifted than me who'll work it all out! Oh, O.K., back to my New Year's resolution. It looks like I'm going to have to have one! I know that I need a greater intimacy with Jesus. I need to be empowered to play a greater part in our Church. We should be doing what Jesus would be doing, if He was here in His human body.

If we do that, we will all feel the rest of the body with us as we go into our daily life from Monday to Saturday. Each of us will take a touch of the life of Christ into our different areas of everyday life. A touch that draws its strength from being part of a whole body. Each part actively working together to be the physical presence of Christ in Nottingham.

*Pauline*



We had a few problems printing the magazine this issue, as you can see. We're sorry that you've had to wait an extra week for your copy of Fellowship. As compensation, a small prize will be awarded to the first person to identify which pages these are supposed to be.



*The Editors*

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# Working with a Will

*In the latest of our series on Christian living, John Holden explores the Bible's attitude to work. John is a University lecturer and is our General Synod member.*

Exodus chapter 20 verses 9-10 says this. "Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh is a Sabbath to the Lord your God".

## For Labour

So 'The Other Six Days' are for labour and doing all our work. This does not sound like much fun to me. I suppose this is because of the use of the word 'labour'. However, most of the working population have a five day week. This is less than the Biblical six days. Although "labour and doing all our work" must include our evenings and Saturdays as well.

It is tempting for Christians to distinguish between the work done for

a living and the work done for Christ. Somehow, the latter is important and the former is only to enable us to do our Christian work. In Ephesians chapter 6 verse 7, St. Paul reminds slaves to "serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord", when doing their daily work.

## Tainted

There was a time when it was OK for a Christian to go into a caring profession or become a teacher but it was not OK to go into industry or commerce. These professions were somehow tainted as they were concerned with money and profit.

There are changes taking place in my job that are increasing the pressure and the stress.

In the Thatcher society



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the performance of employees is monitored. Targets are set and are constantly reviewed. These inappropriate ideas are now being applied to education and people are feeling the pressure.

### **Long Hours**

University teaching staff do not have specified working hours and so many staff now work for a very long time. There must be something wrong with a system which makes people work on Sundays.

I am expected to publish more research papers, teach more students and do more administration. I have only the same length week in which to do it. The system no longer gives any time for exploring new ideas. This must be the biggest loss for our universities.

### **Difference**

Where does a Christian witness come into this? What difference does it make in my work that I am a Chris-

tian? These are questions I have pondered on. I look at my colleagues and I see those who are very good lecturers,

very good at research. I see those who are very concerned for the welfare of students, very honest and conscientious and not in the least interested in serving Christ.

### **Relationship**

The answer must come in my relationship with Jesus himself. I need to be sure that my relationship is right. So what difference does it

make being a Christian? The answer is in an underlying set of values, particularly moral values. Attitudes to drink, money and the sexual permissiveness are areas where a Christian view can be important. It is very hard to try to assess the quality or value of one's own Christian witness. I don't think it helpful to try to do so. Rather we must continue to "serve wholeheartedly as if serving the Lord".

*John Holden*



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Wanted: someone to collect old Bible-study notes and post them to Uganda. The job involves wrapping up the notes every six months or so. Postage is paid for by St. Nic's. Contact Hilary Holden.

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# Looking at Loss

## Forgotten Children

*Lesley Mackwell gives a moving portrayal of the hurt suffered in the loss of an unborn child.*

There was no funeral. The tears were shed privately. 'It's a common experience, you'll get over it in a day or two.' 'You're young yet, plenty of time to try again.' 'It's a pity it's the first one, it's always easier if you have others to go home to.'

### Brave Face

Cold comfort really, but you have to get on with life. You must put on a brave face and coo and smile as one by one your friends come round to show off their bright shiny prams containing equally bright new infants.

My little one should have been the second but there was no sign of him. No sign for him either. Not even an obscure cross in a remote overgrown corner. Life goes on . . . slowly at first.

The other children did eventually tumble onto the scene and they grew up knowing they have a big brother who lives with Jesus. Only two of us remember each year now. He would have been a teenager but of what sort? Perhaps rebellious, we'd still have loved him. Perhaps handicapped, we'd still have loved him, at least we think we would.



### With Jesus

The old 'why?' questions are never easy to answer, but we can now believe it when we say Jesus knows best. Andrew

Through Christian Eyes



James is happy and free with the Lord.

So many other babies are lost to us, we can do no more for them, but what about their parents? Miscarriage and spontaneous abortion are words treated with the same taboo as death. The parents are often very shocked. They might be young people with no previous experience of death or grief, but they are left to cope alone. There are now self-help groups, counselling is available but as a Church what can we offer?

## Hidden Grief

Today, some ministers are prepared to read through a prayer book service privately in the home, committing the unborn infant to the Lord. Perhaps it is time for us as a Church to extend our arms to bring inner peace and healing to the many women who never climb out of the 'Why Me' syndrome. Who perhaps pour their guilt and frustration on their marital relationships because they have been unable to come to terms with their hidden grief.

On a practical level we can help by acknowledging that a baby has died. Not shunning the parent, but accepting them and loving them. Allowing them

space to grieve and sharing our children with them when they are ready to accept them.



## Compassion

Of course the next logical discussion step would be to consider abortion. Ministry to the parents here is also necessary and our attitude must remain compassionate and loving. However, that is a subject on which other Christians have written many books. The challenge is simply to extend love, healing and acceptance to those who, through tradition, are caused to keep quiet. They become a forgotten, but hurting part of our society and indeed of the church family.

P.S. Some would say a blob or foetus has been lost, however most women once confirmed pregnant say they are carrying a baby!

*Lesley Mackwell*



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# Hurting for Isaac

*How do you cope with losing an unborn child? Bottle it up, and the grief never goes away. This writer found release by naming the child.*

I had a baby who died. People told me that miscarriages were very common, especially at that stage. People said that I should just forget it and try again. I couldn't forget it. My baby was dead! Almost every other woman around me seemed to have a baby. Where was mine?

I thought that I was being irrational, behaving like this. Everyone else seemed to think it was such an insignificant event. All I could think about was 'my baby is dead'. All right, so he wasn't fully formed, but he was as much an individual as any adult. How was I supposed to forget him?

## Who can I tell?

For eight months I thought I was dotty. I was not able to tell anyone what was happening inside me, in case I got the same reaction as from the doctors. 'Oh, it was very early, it's nothing to worry about'.

Then I went to visit Anne. Anne has no children, none living, that is, but she has books about pregnancy on her book case. I have some too, but they're hidden at the back. Anne's are visible. Anne has written a little poem to each of her four miscarried chil-

dren. They hang on the wall in the kitchen. Anne has given names to her children and remembers what would have been their birthdays.

## Freedom

This was such freedom. I had not dared to calculate my child's expected date of delivery for fear of seeming cranky. After all, it was just a blob, I was told. Anne was so releasing. She had admitted that there had been a baby, there had been a death, and no-one thought her mad.

A few days after visiting Anne, I bought some wool and a pattern and knitted a suit for my baby. This brought me peace at last. I called him Isaac, because he was unexpected and because he brought me joy, while he was with me. He would have been three months old now.

I still can't cope very well with unknowing relations who ask me why I'm not yet pregnant. At least I don't bite their heads off anymore. I am also free to knit baby shawls when I want to, although I don't do this in public for fear of being teased.

*Name supplied*

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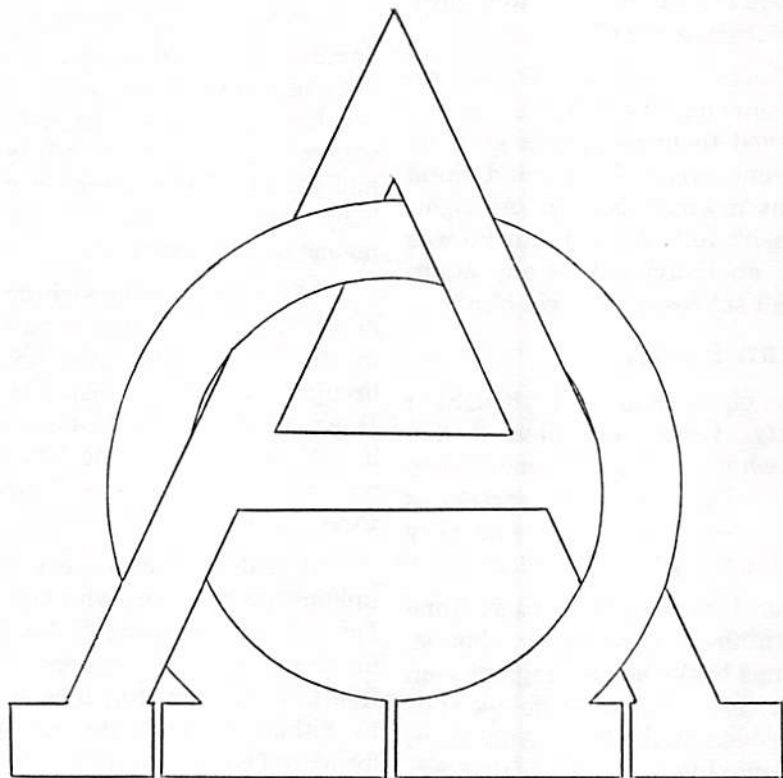
# Bible Brain Benders

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- ☆ Solve this anagram to find a famous saying of Jesus'.

Tia fed this lama on the salt ham and grape

- ☆ Jesus called himself 'Alpha and Omega'. This means A to Z.  
Here are the letters alpha and omega for you to colour.



☆ Each answer starts with the appropriate letter of the Alphabet.

A The first man (Gen 2:20)

B A son of Jacob (Gen 35:24)

C This brother did a wicked thing (Gen 4:8)

D He killed Goliath, the Giant (1 Sam 17:48)

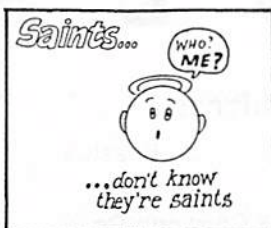
E He sold his birthright to his brother (Gen 25:34)

F Jesus looked for fruit on this tree (Matt 21:19)

G The sword of the Lord and of .....? (Jud 7:20)

H His father was Noah (Gen 6:10)

I His mother laughed at his birth (Gen 21:5)



J He was made king at 7 years old (2 Kings 11:21)

K King Saul was his son (1 Sam 10:11)

L His wife became a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26)

M Pharaoh's daughter adopted me (Ex 2:10)

N When the rain came he was safe (Gen 7:7)

O His mother was Ruth (Ruth 4:17)

P He raised Tabitha to life again (Acts 9:40)

Q A container for arrows (Gen 27:3)

R She sheltered spies (Jos 2:1)

S Abraham's wife (Gen 17:15)

T This disciple would not believe (John 20:24,25)

U Abram left this city for Canaan (Gen 11:31)

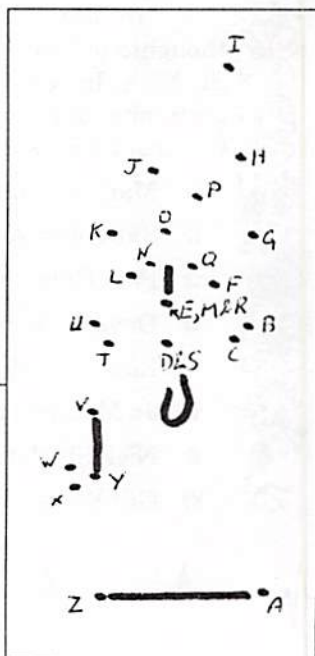
V This queen was disobedient (Esth 1:12)

W Sea monster (Gen 1:21)

Y A harness for oxen (Gen 27:40)

Z He was dumb till John was born (Luke 1:13-20)

☆ Jesus had many other names for himself besides Alpha and Omega. Join the dots in the order of the letters and see a picture. This illustrates a name that he called himself in John, chapter eight, verse twelve.



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# PULSE

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## Changes of Address

- Helen James 76 Windsor Street, Beeston, NG9 2BW 226053
- Janie & David Beales 46 Chaworth Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7AB 814536
- Anne & David Woodcock 11 Kingfisher Wharf, Castle Marina, NG7 1GA
- Li Meng & Jeremy Summers 7 Spinney Drive, Long Eaton, NG10 7HU 733027
- Sue Ramsay 15a, Emerys Road, Gedling NG4 2QR 618311
- Denise Baines c/o 57 Grange Road, Woodthorpe, NG5 4FU 602413

## For Sale:



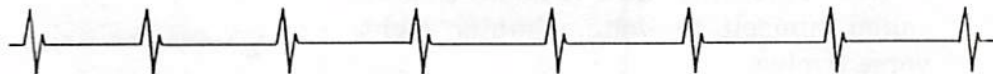
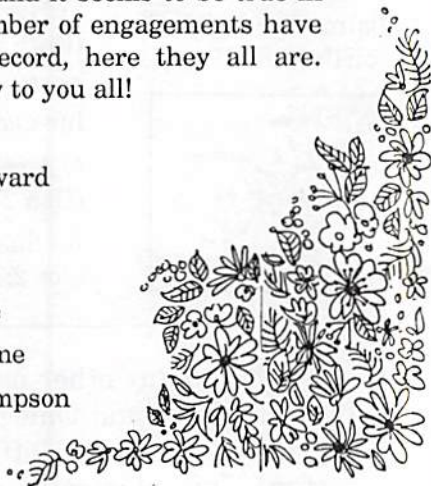
Late Y reg Ford Fiesta 1.1L Only (only?) 67,000 miles. Well cared for. £1,300 o.n.o. to a good home.

Contact Andy or Sarah Churchill on 415620 after 6pm.



“In the Spring, a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.” So says Tennyson, and it seems to be true in St. Nic’s. In recent weeks a large number of engagements have been announced and, just for the record, here they all are. Congratulations and many years of joy to you all!

- ☆ Mary Adams and Jez Barnard
- ☆ Sally-Ann Adams and Peter Belward
- ☆ Pete Chaplin and Gill Bradley
- ☆ Dave Edwards and Nikki Slough
- ☆ Rosslyn Holden and Shaun Hyde
- ☆ Jo McCloughlin and Mark Enstone
- ☆ Nick Shioleftou and Joanne Thompson
- ☆ Gill Waters and David Bates





**The Heartbeat of our Community**

# Viennese Whirl

*Iain Slater writes of his experiences with the Prayer Ministry Team during their recent visit to Vienna.*

**I**n October last year, a team of eight people from the prayer ministry group went to Vienna. They went to lead a weekend conference on 'Inner Healing'. Carol and I wondered why we should be on this team since we could not claim much experience in this field. It seemed enough, however, to know that this was God's will and that He had a lot for us to learn.

## Prayer group

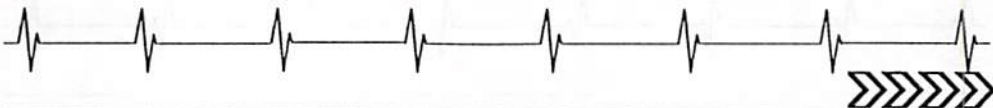
Christchurch is the Anglican Chaplaincy (church) of Vienna. It is located in the part of the city that houses the main embassies. It was the small Christchurch prayer group, including some of the diplomatic staff, who had invited our team across. Following an earlier visit from St.

Nic's, this weekend was opened to people from other denominations. As a result, the small room we used struggled to hold the fifty or more people.

Yes, God had called the team to go! Not just to teach, but because He wanted to heal hurts in some people's lives. Through the ministry, the idea of 'prayer support' took on a different meaning for me. Words of Knowledge, given by St. Nicholas people before we left, were used by God to open opportunities for prayer.

## New Age

Some of the team spent time with the leader of a Catholic prayer group. The group had unknowingly taken on some unscriptural teaching based on New Age thinking. This is a problem in Austria. This was in fulfillment of a picture given a month earlier. The picture was of a shaft of



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# PULSE

light shining down on the darkness of Vienna and lighting it up.

Some Christians we met during the coffee breaks said that meeting people from other fellowships was an encouragement in itself.

## Used by the Holy Spirit

I received a lot from the opportunity to pray for a youth leader my own age. He was struggling with the leadership responsibilities. I expected to be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage him and to speak into that situation. But when he responded by pouring out his love for God, it helped me just as much as him.

It's hard to sum up all that God did that weekend. It took a long time for the team to share all that had happened when we got back.

I found the experience exhausting and a bit overawing. But I was willing to be used by God, and I got much more back in return. A link between St. Nic's and Christchurch has been made. We are praying that God would lead in any future work between these fellowships. Even if there is none, it's good to be reminded that we are linked with believers in every corner of the world.

*Iain Slater*

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## Mission in Oxford.

J. John is speaking at the main evening meetings of the Oxford University Mission this week (27 Jan to 3 Feb). Please pray for him, and for Dave Edwards helping.

David Moore is an assistant missionary at Mansfield College. In a visit to Oxford last Saturday, he found a community of some 30 or so Christians, but with no real focus in the college. The College Christian Fellowship is a withered stump of a mere

half-dozen, led by someone who does not believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ! David comments, 'I have never before seen such a spiritual battle ground peppered by Satan's weapons'.

Please pray for David, and for Joanna McCloy, the other assistant missionary in the college, who is from Northern Ireland. Pray for Pauline, working in New College. Ask God to give them His wisdom, power and guidance. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be poured in to restore God's Kingdom.

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# PULSE

## Foot in Mouth Disease

*Carol Matthews, a teacher in our congregation, gives a 'teacher's eye view' of a recent Footprints visit to her school.*

Footprints visited Limehurst High School in November. It was an answer to prayer from beginning to end. The Head Teacher was enthusiastic, and senior staff responsible for timetable changes were very positive. No member of staff had any doubt about the value of such a visit. All sorts of practical problems either didn't occur or were easily resolved.

Footprints' aim was to help children to think about communication with other children and with adults. The pupils (12-13 years) readily understood the message through 'Wodgersay Reports'. The form teachers related that the children thoroughly enjoyed the activities in the workshops. Second Year tutorials are also dealing with the issues of friendships and relationships.

Only four of the six forms were able to take part. There were many envious children in the other two forms. Some Third Years asked why

they couldn't have been included! The form teachers were full of praise for Footprints. They were really bowled over by how well it was thought through, prepared and presented.

### Honouring to God

The Head Teacher was very impressed by the sensitivity with which Footprints handled the children. The staff who had not been involved were enthusiastic when they saw the children's (and form teachers') obvious enjoyment. They appreciated meeting the team in the staff room.

I was delighted that a Christian group could do a really thorough job and behave so professionally. I felt it was honouring to God. Many thanks to all who prayed and to Footprints for coming to Limehurst. A huge 'Thank you' to the Lord for preparing the way and enabling it all to take place.

*Carol Matthews*



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# PULSE

## Christmas Service

*Just before Christmas, some St. Nicites were involved in a special event at Asda. Bill Phipps reports.*

In the Autumn programme for the Central Regional Group, one meeting was set aside for community or social action. I offered to help, and was put in contact with Kathleen Archer of a local council for disabled people.

Her organisation had planned for one evening in December to be set aside especially for disabled people to do their Christmas shopping with relative ease at Asda. Over 1000 'clients' were expected this year, so the need for able bodied helpers was considerable. This was our cue.

All regions were represented as were most link groups, S.N.Y.F. and Pathfinders. Many even sported their own costumes. We had a Red Riding Hood and Robin Hood, several clowns and St. Trinians' escapees, at least two Santas (Mr. and Mrs.), a Timmy Mallet and a glamorous 1920's style flapper. Please note: the bright pink

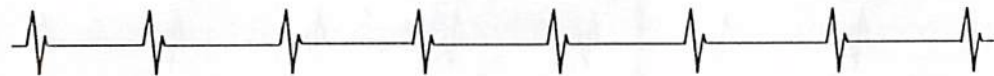
nail varnish I was wearing was part of my chosen costume and nothing else! The full length two tone silky green gown complete with frills and sequined bodice remained in the car. I chickened out.

A Salvation Army band presented carol music in the foyer while a superb fairground organ played in the car park. Coffee and mince pies were freely dispensed throughout the store and spare wheel-chairs were lined up.

Unfortunately, the main players of the evening were not as numerous as had been expected. Over 300 people from the Mansfield area were trapped at home by the weather. Many managed the journey, however.

It really is a privilege to be associated with such a large body of caring people. Their Christian witness is a constant source of inspiration. I pray that God will bless them all.

*Bill Phipps*





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# PULSE

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## Dancing in the Streets

"Men doing dance?!", "Oh yes! I'll get me candy-striped leotard and me hobnail boots and I'll be there!"

That has been the most colourful response so far. A more usual one is a faintly hunted look, and an urgent need to talk to someone on the other side of the room. It is surprising then, that men have been coming to the movement workshops. There has also been an enthusiastic response to the possibility of a visiting team of men using dance in open air evangelism. Could it be that God is at work? I believe that He is. I believe that He wants us to use this way of communicating His love to Nottingham. So I've booked the team to come for the day on 23rd February.

Tour organiser, Andy Raine, has previously worked with mixed teams. This is the first time he has taken out

an all male team. However, for the day at St. Nic's, it is intended that both men and women should participate.

The details have not yet been finalised, but the Church Hall has been booked for 23rd February. Andy will lead a workshop for men and women in the morning, and street evangelism with a mixed backup team in the afternoon. We are planning to provide a hot meal mid-day and possibly a creche. More details will appear in the pew slip as they become available.

If you are not interested in participating, how about an anonymous peek at what we do in the afternoon? Who knows? God may dispel the spectre in the candy-striped leotard and hobnail boots, and give you a vision too.

*Elaine Brickwood*



# Quotable Quotes

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- ☆ "I won't repeat anything from the pew slip, so I'm afraid that this week you will just have to read it!" David Muir 13th January.
- ☆ "A Bishop is most like God when he is silent." Rt. Rev. Roy Williamson
- ☆ "On the issue of giving, St. Paul went for the jugular: The last part of any Christian to be converted is his wallet." Rt. Rev. Michael Baughen.
- ☆ "There is a God shaped hole in our ozone layer" Rabbi Dr. Jonathon Sachs.

## The worst from the Christmas crackers

- ☆ How do ghosts like their eggs? Petrified!
- ☆ What can you put in your left hand but not in your right hand? Your right elbow!
- ☆ What do you get if you cross a pet bird with a fierce dog? A budgerigrrrrr!
- ☆ Thatcherism has gone. It's now Thatcherwasm.



## Memorable Experience

A friend of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, once reminded her of an especially cruel thing that someone had done to her years before. Miss Barton seemed not to recall it. "Don't you remember it?", her friend asked. "No", came the reply, "I distinctly remember forgetting it."

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# DIARY

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## January

Tue 29th SU Training Event, 'Family Crisis'. 418144 for more details.

## February

Sun 3rd 6:30pm Confirmation & Guest Service. Preacher: Bishop Pat Harris.

Wed 6th Bluecoat Visit to Church.

Sun 10th 10:10am Baptisms and dedications.

Tue 12th Shrove Tuesday.

Wed 13th Start of Lent.

Sun 17th Hospitality Sunday

Fri 22nd 7:30pm Dirty Hands at the Albert Hall. See notice board.

Sat 23rd 10:30am SU training event, 'Small Groups'. 418144 for more details.

Sat 23rd Christian Dance Fellowship in the church Hall.

Sun 24th Copydate for next Fellowship.

## March

Sun 10th Next Fellowship due out.

Sun 10th 10:10am Mothering Sunday with baptisms and dedications.

Fri-Sun 15-17th 'Positively Single' at Ilam Hall.

Sun 24th 10:10am Baptisms and dedications.

Fri 29th Good Friday.

Sun 31st Easter Day.



DINNER AT PAUL'S  
NEXT THUES

# CONTACT

## PCC and Wardens

Susan Ashford		227581
David Beales		814536
Malc Brown	Warden	822375
David Carter		259242
Colin Entwistle		609811
Peter Harrison		221291
Richard Hawthorne	Dep. Warden	625335
Barbara Holbrook	Deanery Synod & Dep. Warden	(37) 4096
Hilary Holden		812043
John Holden	General Synod	812043
David Huggett	Chairman	411383
David Moore		284828
Chris Nurden		(0509) 853280
Deirdre Offord	Deanery Synod	391891
Malc Offord	Warden	476924
Martyn Offord	Hon.Sec.	391891
Di Payne		845238
Helen Pinnington		704985
Gary Taylor	Deanery Synod	
Gordon Walker		811596

☆ 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 24th February for 10th March. Copy 7th April for 21st April.