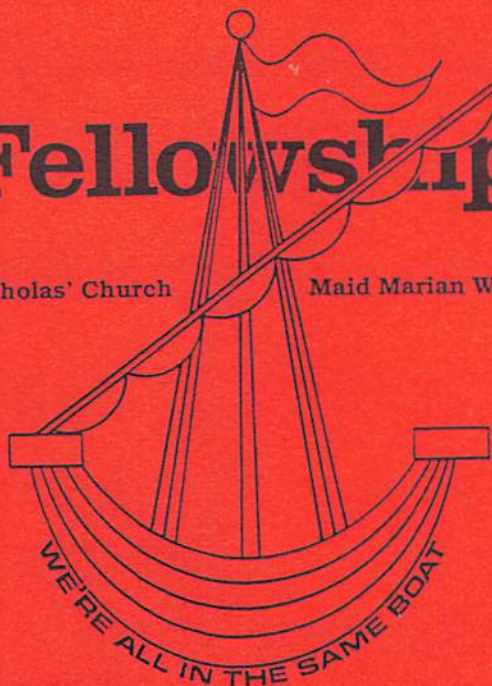


Pete and Margaret Bates  
Subscriptions Remaining : 3

# Fellowship

St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way



## **In This Issue:**

- ❖ **Women Priests - Two articles**
- ❖ **What's the Point of Christmas?**
- ❖ **Tithing or Cheating?**
- ❖ **Joabe and Amy - Missionaries to Britain**

Price 50p

November - December 1992

Issue: 27

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# Meat, but no Turkey!

It may feel a long way from Christmas, but this is the festive issue of Fellowship. There are plenty of meaty articles in here for you to sink your teeth into over the Christmas break, and there's not a turkey among them.

There are two major articles on the **ordination of women**, pages 1 & 3. There are two **missionary profiles**, pages 7 & 9. There is an interesting article on the subject of **tithing**, page 11. Please reply to the Editors if you feel strongly on this matter.

We also have three reviews, on pages 20, 21 & 23, of items suitable for Christmas consumption. In addition there are the usual regular features and specials, including family news in **Godsip**.

**Godsip** - why not drop a note to the Editors to send anniversary greetings ... coming of age ... exam congratulations ... birth announcements ... general party invitations ... get well soon messages ... .. Spread the good news!

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# Vicars in Frocks?

Perhaps those of us too young to say where we were when Kennedy was shot may now have an event of similar temporal and geographical importance. Remembering where I was when the Ordination of Women vote was taken has replaced even knowing where I was when Geoffrey Boycott scored his hundredth hundred.

## Dignity

I wish I had been in John Holden's place: in the chamber itself. The atmosphere was powerful enough on the TV: John's report conveys it well, and I think that for once the C of E did its washing with dignity, integrity, and a fair degree of wit. It was worth watching.

## Deep Sadness

I'm a member of Priests for Women's Ordination, and naturally I'm pleased

that the vote went the way it did. It was therefore a little disconcerting to find a deep sadness welling up as

Wednesday evening progressed. It was significant that the Bishop of Guildford's closing argument was that the pain of a 'no' vote would be far more great than that of a vote in favour. If we had to get to women priests, here was not a good place to start.

## In Communion

In other words pain for the church was inevitable. My sadness related to those people who are my friends, who now feel that the church has betrayed them. In Hartlepool I delighted in sharing in Communion Services (O.K., 'masses') with the church furthest away from my church in its churchmanship. Our differing traditions were 'in communion'.



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The depth of feeling about women priests only came home to me when that church's Priest said to me that his church and mine could no longer be 'in communion' if we had a woman priest. This was said with deep regret. There are now people who will feel unable to relate to their Bishop if he has ordained women, or even allowed their ordination in his diocese.

## **The Problem of Pain**

The big question is how we are going to be the C of E. In God's grace we have up to two years to work out this question before ordinations take place (if it all goes through. Woe betide Parliament if it overturns it!). We face the prospect of a 'continuing' church within the C of E, as well as mass conversions to Roman Catholicism.

I believe the opportunity is there for the C of E to show its true worth, in the way it deals with the problem of pain. As we work with inconsistencies, are we able to reveal the Christ who is alongside the weary and the heavy

laden? Are we able to look at our divisions and reveal the Christ who reconciles? Do we believe in a Christ who heals? Or are we simply to restate our positions until we are blue in the face?

## **Healing a Damaged World**

John Holden refers to the words of the Registrar in Synod. "Divide", he says, when a vote is taken. A decision has been reached, under God, with a clear majority. It has, and will hurt many.

## **Look Forward**

I look forward to sharing a priestly ministry with women I trained with and have worked with. But I look forward too to working in partnership with those who feel damaged by this. I believe God is in the business of healing a damaged world in order to reveal the Kingdom of God. I hope and pray that we can work at this together. It will not be easy.

*Jeremy*



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# A Day of Decision

*"It shall be lawful for the General Synod to make provision by Canon for enabling a woman to be ordained to the office of priest ..."*

These are the crucial words of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure which hit the headlines around the world on Wednesday, November 11th 1992. This was a hyped-up occasion because it was known that the House of Laity might just fail to achieve the necessary two-thirds vote in favour, having only voted 61.4% in favour last July.

## No Party Whips

There was talk in the tea-room of how many laity had changed their minds but few were willing to predict the outcome. It was generally felt that the key votes were those of a few evangelical laity who were not convinced that women should be given authority in the church. Fortunately there are no party whips to exert undue pressure and only gentle persuasion and discussion was used as conscientiously held views are respected.

The debate was due to begin at 10:00, but the hall was already filling by 9:00. Ninety members were going to have to sit in the public gallery since, as in Parliament, if everyone turns up there are not enough seats. Over 200 people had declared their

wish to speak and it was clear many would be disappointed. Standing orders do not allow a chairman to stop anyone speaking in a final approval debate if they want to, but he can limit the length of speeches to make it not worth the effort. You cannot say very much in one minute! I counted about 40 members who spoke during the debate.

## No Theological Objection

It was with some trepidation that we waited for the great debate to begin. We have debated, discussed and argued this subject for years. The present move can be traced back to an important vote in 1975, when Synod passed a motion declaring that 'there was no theological objection to the ordination of women to the priesthood'. I was not relishing a rehash of all the old arguments, but in the event it was an excellent debate where people spoke honestly and with charity of their support or otherwise of the measure. The old arguments were there but often expressed in a fresh way and speakers on both sides were warmly



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applauded.

## **Two Distinct Views**

The problem in the Church of England is that there are two distinct views of the priesthood. There is the sacramental view, which emphasises the role of the priest in the celebration of the Eucharist, and there is the ministerial view, which emphasises the role of the priest in proclaiming the word of God. There are opponents who hold each of these views. An important speech was made by Roy Williams, ex-Archdeacon of Nottingham and now Bishop of Southwark. He said that he was compelled by the cause of justice as he could not challenge injustice in society and turn a blind eye to injustice in his own church.

As 4 o'clock approached, a groundswell of feeling soon persuaded those still wanting to speak that we had heard enough argument. The division bell was rung, the tellers sent to their doors, the members from the gallery crowded in and we were ready. After a short silence the vote took place in a dignified way. We all filed out of the Clergy Ayes, Clergy Noes, Laity Ayes and Laity Noes doors as appropriate. The Bishops vote separately.

## **Won by Two Votes**

After what seemed like an age we filed back in to hear the result. The practice is to receive the result quietly;

we don't cheer and leap about, or boo and hiss. It was a very restrained atmosphere. The House of Laity had delivered the required two-thirds vote in favour. (169 votes for, 82 against, 67.3%) If just two of the 'ayes' had voted the other way, the motion would have been lost and we could have gone home early that day.

I don't know whether anyone at that moment was wanting to cheer because we all knew that 'one person's joy may be another person's pain'. The atmosphere was really rather subdued.

## **Those who Might Resign**

That was not all, however; we still had more voting to do. We had to vote on the Amending Canons, to include the change in church law, and on the Financial Provisions Measure. This last measure enables the Church Commissioners to alleviate financial hardship of anyone who might resign his position because of the legislation. Fortunately no-one insisted on debating these items so we just filed in and out of the doors every time the registrar shouted 'Divide'. I do think that it would be better to shout 'Decide' rather than 'Divide'.

In conclusion, I was proud to be part of a body that can debate a very contentious issue in such a sensitive way.



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# Bluecoat Blitz!

The Nottingham Bluecoat School was founded in 1706, and since its inception has always had as its prime focus a Christian education for each child. Priority is given to families attending one of three ancient city centre parishes, viz: St. Mary's, St. Peter's and St. Nic's.

What may not be realised is that approximately one third of each first year intake comes from Berridge School, Hyson Green, and the majority of these are not Christians - indeed many are active in other faiths.

During lunch hours, both Junior and Senior Christian Unions operate. These have become keenly supported by an ever-increasing number of pupils. The CUs are pupil-led, with staff members only participating in the bi-annual residential houseparties for both groups together.

Such is the commitment and enthusiasm of these pupils that we have decided to organise a mission. (For sensitive and somewhat political reasons, we have been advised to call it, 'A week of special events run by the Christian Union'!) It is a great encouragement that our new headmaster is a committed Christian. (In fact, Mr. Kay, his wife and children attend St. Nic's.)

The week of events, 7th to 11th December, include daily assemblies led by the CU, lunchtime meetings with outside speakers and open question times, and an evening meeting at St. Nic's.

As this is the first time we have had ever tried such a venture, we would really appreciate your support in prayer.

*Kirsty Offord.*



Opponents and proponents with strongly held views sat literally side-by-side, listened to and applauded each other and, at the end, are still brothers and sisters in Christ.

There will be difficulties ahead for the C of E, but I am convinced of the rightness of the decision. There is such a wide measure of support all

round the country that the credibility of the Synod would have been lost had the vote gone otherwise. I am sure many church members are thankful that the decision has finally been made, and although it will be some time before the first ordinations take place, we can now get on with the real mission of the church, to serve God in the world.

*John Holden*

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## From Our Own Correspondent



Hello! Our names are Joabe (Jo-ab'-e) and Amy Andrade (An-dra'-de). You may have seen us around at St. Nic's since November 1991, or you might have just heard our names. You may have wondered, "Who is this couple and what are they doing in Britain?"



missionaries like us doing in a country like this?" Good question! Well, the rest of this article is a portion of our new leaflet. Hopefully this will help you to answer the question. If you would like to know more, please feel free to stop and ask us.

### **Dated for Three Days**

Well, we met each other in August 1991, dated for three days in January 1992 and decided a week later to get married at St. Nic's in May! We are both missionaries to the United Kingdom, Amy from the United States of America and Joabe from Brazil. We work together as a team and have made St. Nic's our home church.

You may be wondering, "What are

### **Amy and Joabe**

Joabe was born in Recife, Brazil in 1962 and was trained at the *Seminario Presbiteriano do Norte do Brasil*, receiving a BA in Theology. He has also received a BA in Linguistics. Amy (nee Mowry) from Nashville, Tennessee, was born in 1966. She has a BA in Political Science and was formerly a computer software analyst. Amy and Joabe live in what used to be the



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home of Jackie Young, now Jackie Turner, in West Bridgford.

Amy and Joabe work together as a team based upon the foundation of their marriage. They have together been given a ministry by the Lord to build up the body of Christ.

*"... when each part, with power adapted to it's needs, is working properly it grows to full maturity, building itself up in love."*

Ephesians 4:16

Their goal is to release every member of the church into the recognition and confidence that they are a missionary - *wherever they are*. Joabe has been involved with YWAM and both he and Amy have been a part of the Nottingham-based missions group DCI. With this experience they look forward to being able to encourage, direct or link-up individuals, couples or groups wanting to consider the call to missions work, either short or long term.

Amy and Joabe want to see the links formed by the triangle of Brazil, England and the USA become channels of communication, people, finance and, above all, love and fellowship

through Jesus Christ. The call of missions is expressed in Psalm 105

*"Make known among the nations what God has done ..."*

and Matthew 28:19

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

This is not a call just to go and nothing else. It is a call, first of all, to know God and then to make Him known. It is the expression of God's love, which never stops reaching out, never stops at a city or national boundary.

Amy and Joabe are now based permanently in Nottingham, where they fellowship with the people of their 'home' church, St. Nicholas'. They are also working with Ebenezer Fellowship in Wales, and Carshalton Fellowship in London. Joabe was sent out from Brazil as a missionary by *Betel Brasileiro* and so they continue to maintain close links with them.

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## Answers

Holly Leaves - Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on Earth.

Coin Follow-on - Stocking B got the coin.

Quiz - 1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-A, 7-C, 8-B, 9-A, 10-C, 11-C, 12-B.

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## From Our Own Correspondent



*Dave Sudlow is a missionary-in-training with Horizons. He took part in a short-term mission in Burkina Faso, which we read about in this magazine, and is currently at the Horizons base in Llanelli. He intends to return to Burkina Faso, which is the country with the wonderfully named capital of Ouagadougou (Pr. Waga-doo-goo)*

*Dear All,*

Having been in here in Llanelli for a month, I thought it was time to produce another prayer letter. Things are going well. It hasn't been difficult to slot in to life down here and begin to feel a part of the body of Horizons. The base is a very welcoming place.

Until Christmas I'm working in the garage department, servicing and repairing the 12 team vehicles. These are used for expeditions, camps, church promotions and many other things. As I'm the only full-time member of staff in the garage at the moment, there is plenty for me to do. I'm only a DIY mechanic and need to work quite slowly to get things right. This can be frustrating at times, but

it's a time of learning as well as doing and such skills will be invaluable in an emergency in Africa.

### **West Africa**

It's a great encouragement for me to be able to talk and pray with other people heading for West Africa. There are six of us aiming in that direction. Alan and Judy Homer, who lead the team in Burkina, arrived back last week. It is very encouraging to hear about the progress of the Burkina trial-run of a training course on mission designed for African believers

### **Prayer**

There is a uniquely 'Horizons' way of praying together. From



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# How do you make a Missionary Fly?

## Send a bluebottle to Africa!

One problem that many missionaries face is the cost of travelling between Britain and the country where they are working. Some of the missionary societies have started making use of Air Mile and petrol vouchers, which are collected by their supporters, to contribute to such costs.

At St. Nic's there is a box on the shelves at the back of church (AT-BOC!), where you can put any of these: Air Miles, any petrol vouchers, any savings stamps (but not postage stamps)

To make it really viable to use them for St. Nic's missionaries, we could do with more vouchers and stamps than we are getting at the moment, although an encouraging number are being received.

So, please claim your coupons, vouchers and savings stamps, keep them until the Sunday and put them in the labelled box ATBOC.

Many thanks, and thank you also to all those who have saved their stamps and vouchers so far.

*Mike Cobbett*



Monday to Wednesday we meet for praise, worship and teaching for an hour before work. Each Thursday is a 'prayer day', and we pray together in the morning and evening, working in our departments in the afternoon. December is 'prayer month', when all of the weekday mornings are set aside for prayer. This is an important time of seeking direction from God, both personal and corporate.

## Points for Prayer

Pray that I would be wise in managing my time, both in the garage and in the evenings.

Pray that I would be able to practise French, especially speaking.

Pray that God would bring in people for the January Training Programme.

Thanks for praying for me!

*Dave Sudlow*

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## **Cheating or Tithing?**

*St. Nic's has recently published interim accounts. These indicate that there will be a shortfall in income this year of £2,500 if giving continues at the present rate. The congregation was asked to pray about it. For many people, money is tight. Some of our flock have no jobs. Those with jobs feel pressurised to give more than before. Money talk is one of the few taboos remaining in church. In the post-Joyce era, we can talk about sex, but money talk still makes us uncomfortable. Against this back-drop we have a personal view on tithing:*

### **Is it a tithe or is it a cheat? or**

### **Why I give no money to St. Nic's.**

I believe in the principle of tithing. Tithing is biblical. I find tithing to be wholesome. Tithing encourages outward rather than inward thought, interest and concern.

I partially believe in one tenth tithing. It is a useful starting point, but I believe that is all it is. For some a tenth is too little, for others it may be much too much. Surely, what is appropriate depends on your situation.

I became a Christian when I was a

student. My annual income was £2600. Before long, I put a fiver in the collection each week. It felt right. Then I graduated, got married, got a job with a salary, and bought a small house with a mortgage. I continued to give a tenth of my money to church as did my wife. We set up a covenant with the Charities Aid Foundation. The CAF recovered tax on our tithes allowing us to give more money to church, or to other chari-



ties. We became heavily involved with Tear Fund, and with several local Christian charities. We gave money to support my wider family in their needs. Nearly a quarter of our money was given away. It still felt right.

Now we have a growing family of our own. We have moved into a larger house. I still have my job, but my wife is no longer earning. Our living costs are much higher than they used to be. We still have the same desire to give that we once had, but we simply can no longer afford it. Some of our charity commitments are long term and cannot be broken. They consume 6% of my income. Only these remain. The rest, St. Nic's included, have been axed. It makes me sad, but it still feels right. Our expenditure is still substantially greater than my income. Fiscally speaking, we should cease our remaining charitable involvements. I have not the heart to do this. My family budget is not balanced. I can only pray that it will sort out soon.

## Ten Steps to the Good Life

10 evenings of Worship, Teaching and Ministry

At St. Nicholas' Church, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham

Saturdays January 2 - March 6 1993, 7.30 pm

Speakers: J. John,  
Michael & Rosemary Green



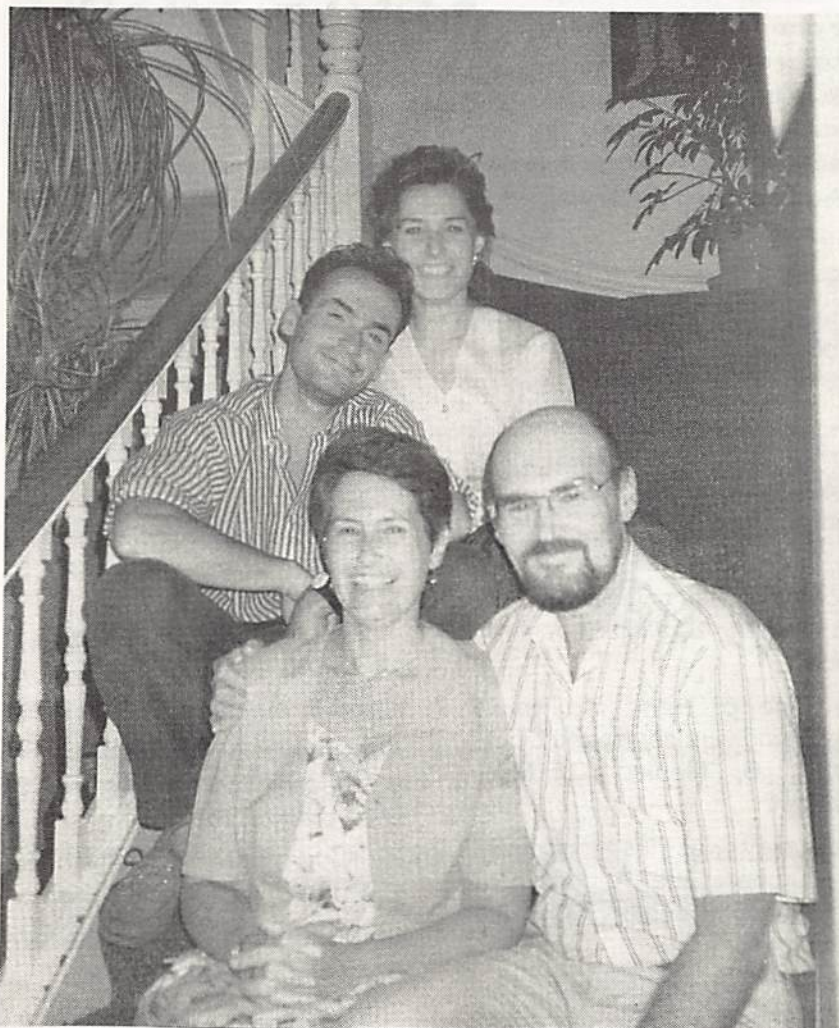
For further  
information contact  
Martyn Day  
(The Philo Trust)  
(0602) 282162

So to conclude, am I tithing or am I cheating? Only you, the fellowship can decide. My conscience is clear. All is well between me and my maker, but is all well between me and my brethren? Please let me know what you think by writing c/o The Editors. Thank you and God bless you. Live long and prosper.

[Name supplied]

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# Welcome!



A huge 'Welcome' to David and Irene Betts, pictured here with their two children. Look out for an interview with David in the next edition of Fellowship.

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**Did you know that Santa Claus is actually St. Nicholas, the patron saint of our church? He was very good to people and it is said that he once dropped some money down the chimney of a very poor family. It landed in the stocking which were hanging up to dry.**

## Bible Brain

Find the stocking in which the money lands, or unravel the Christmas message on the next page.

Older people can try their hand at the quiz below. All the answers are in J. John's booklet, see page 20.

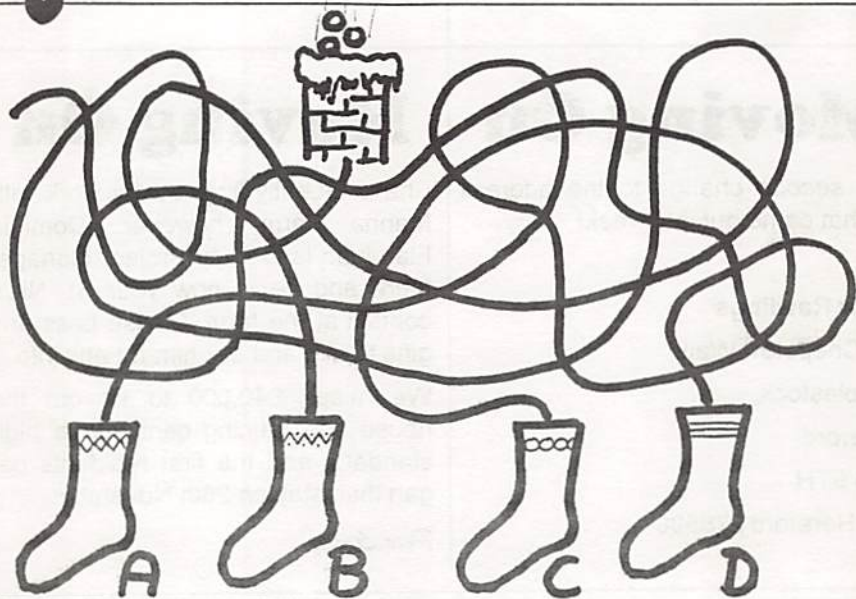
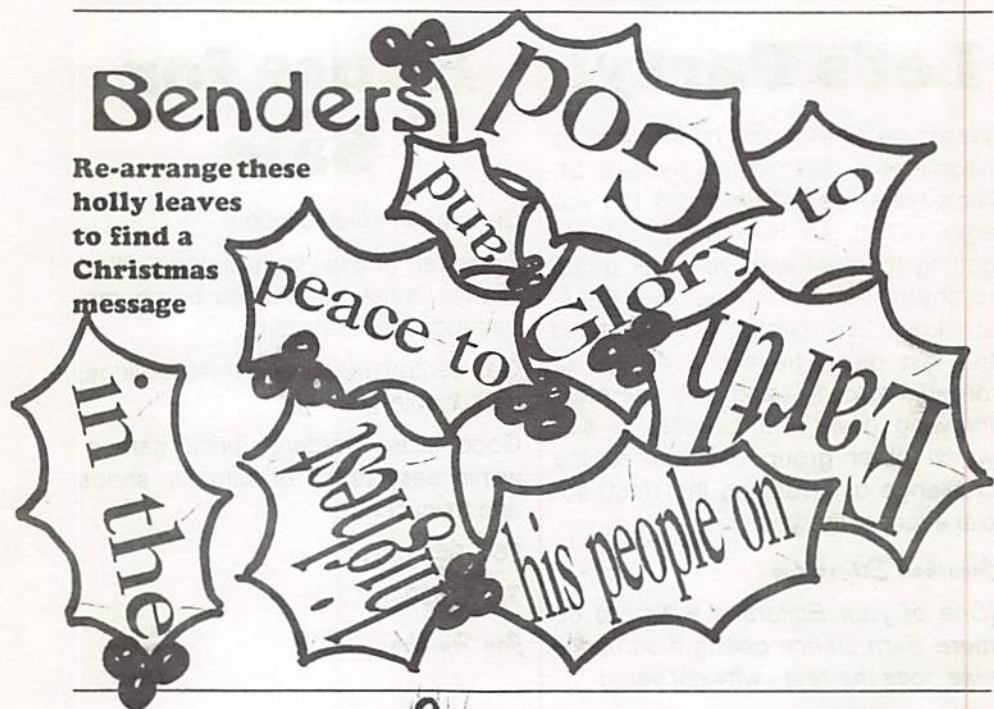
- 1 The Christmas tree was introduced to England by: **A**, King John; **B**, Prince Albert; **C**, Henry VIII.
- 2 A *carole* was originally a: **A**, secular song; **B**, winter poem; **C**, dance.
- 3 The tune of *Hark! the herald angels sing* was composed by: **A**, Mozart; **B**, Mahler; **C**, Mendelssohn.
- 4 The turkey was first introduced into Europe in the: **A**, 14th century; **B**, 16th century; **C**, 18th century.
- 5 Turkeys first came from: **A**, Turkey; **B**, America; **C**, Persia.
- 6 The idea of pantomime dames was first used in celebrations in the: **A**, Roman Empire; **B**, Ottoman Empire; **C**, Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- 7 Christmas was first celebrated on December 25th in: **A**, 1436; **B**, 736; **C**, 336.
- 8 The Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth was Caesar: **A**, Julius; **B**, Augustus; **C**, Septemus.
- 9 A manger is a: **A**, feeding trough; **B**, wooden pannier for a camel; **C**, small blanket chest.
- 10 St. Nicholas lived in: **A**, Northern Europe; **B**, North Africa; **C**, Asia.
- 11 St. Nicholas' day is on December: **A**, 25th; **B**, 17th; **C**, 6th.
- 12 The Christmas tree idea started with St. Boniface, a missionary from: **A**, Ireland to England; **B**, England to Germany; **C**, Germany to Ireland.



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# Benders

Re-arrange these  
holly leaves  
to find a  
Christmas  
message



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## Let's Party!

Were you one of the hundred or so people who took part in the last St. Nic's New Year's Eve party? Did you enjoy it? If so how do you fancy getting together with your link group to organise the next one! The Beeston Lock Link Group, who arranged the last party, have had a year of 'organic growth' and are therefore throwing down the gauntlet to see which other group can rise to the challenge of arranging the (first) social event of the year.

*Jonathan Etherridge*

*[One of your Editors is willing to do more Barn Dance calling if someone else does the rest - why not you?]*

---

## House for Sale

Carlton - in quiet location

Detached house, large lounge, fitted kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom separate toilet.

Gas central heating, beamed ceilings, part double-glazing.

Good sized gardens, brick garage, within easy reach of schools, shops and town centre.

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*Jan Humber*

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## Moving On

The *second* change to the address list that came out last week!

**Peter Rawlings**

25, Chepstow Walk,

Bobblestock,

Hereford.

HR4 9TH

Tel: Hereford 278590

---

## Moving On

I have recently finished my work with Manna Farm, however, Dominic Flanagan is Deputy Project Manager there and he is now your St. Nic's contact at the farm. Please pass any gifts to him and ask him for any info.

We raised £40,000 to kit out the house and training centre to a high standard, and the first residents began their stay on 26th November.

*Pete Lusey*

# First Degree

## Hall Fellowships

Well, here it is ... the Nottingham University 200 word Christian Union article ... a brief insight into how a hall fellowship works! Hall fellowships are small(ish) groups of Christians, usually about 15, who meet together in the University halls of residence (or self-catering flats).

Hall Fellowships usually meet once a week on Wednesday evenings for Bible study and worship. They generally also hold prayer meetings about once or twice a week in hall to pay for spiritual growth within the fellowship, evangelistic outreach to friends, the hall in general and other issues.

Prayer triplets are often organised in order to provide further support for Christians in the hall.

The fellowship groups also carry out

evangelism within the halls, generally putting on an 'event' every one or two terms. This may be in the form of an evangelistic Bible study, or a 'Grill a Christian' type of event, in which non-Christians from the hall are invited to question a panel of Christians from inside or outside the hall. Such events are followed up with 'Just Looking' groups.

The hall fellowship groups are led by a pair of (very !) committed Christians, known as Hall Fellowship leaders or 'reps', a number of whom are members of St. Nic's, and all of whom would be grateful for your prayerful support, particularly as the work-load increases and the time of the big February outreach approaches.

*Chris Burton*

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### No Name, No Fame!

*Despite the warning in the last edition, we are still receiving items with no name attached! Arghh!! - Ed*

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# From Flats to Cans

*This article, contrary to the possible impression given by the title, has got nothing whatsoever to do with the issue of homelessness, or indeed about the benefits of recycling. Picture the following...*

You're with friends and describing a situation at work. The words are slipping eloquently off the end of your tongue. You're suddenly arrested mid-flight by someone looking totally blank as you use a word or phrase which is peculiar to your work environment. Working for the last five years, within the *thespian* environment of Footprints has afforded me no end of opportunities for potential 'word-dropping'. How many of you would understand if I suddenly started talking about *corpising, striking, or gobos?* ... Or indeed, *flats*, which is where I came in.

## **No More Corpses!**

From 1st December I shall be exchanging flats and corpses for cans, desks and carts as I start at Radio Trent as their new Religious Programmes Producer. I have Richard Steel (my predecessor) to thank for letting me in on the mysteries of broadcasting. He first let me loose with a Uher (another of those words) some two years ago and told me to go and cover a Conference for Black Catholics. Since then I have covered

pieces for Radio Nottingham as well as for Trent until I got to the point where I was Richard's regular 'stand-in' when he was away.

The possibilities are endless: there is a whole audience for whom the church is something of an anathema, despite a recent survey in which 75% of people claim to believe in God. I've got my own ideas but it's important that they work within what is fundamentally a music station. I also want to be seen as an 'ordinary' human being alongside my work colleagues. I would value your prayers, and if you hear of something which is 'news-worthy', let me know!

You can tune in on Sunday mornings on 96.2FM between 6 - 8am (if you're up that early) or on GEM AM, 99.9, at around 8.10am.

Oh, by the way, flats are those black screens which form a backdrop for performance. Cans? Well, I'll pick up from there when I do another 'Letter from our own Correspondent' in a few months time.

*Liz Leonard*

---

# By the DVs Will of God

I have been a student in Nottingham at the University for the last five years, studying modern languages, in which I have just qualified as a teacher.

As a Diocesan Volunteer I will be working in the Lenton area of Nottingham at West Area Parents which is a resource centre for people with a mental handicap or learning difficulties. For the first couple of months I will be working alongside a Diocesan Volunteer who has already spent ten months at West Area Parents, seeing where I can fit into the various groups

that go on each week: these include art, sports, printing, literacy and also a 'drop in' group. I will also spend some time with children, whose parents are involved in West Area Parents 'Parent support' group, and I will be responsible for organising a play scheme for the summer of 1993. I will have the opportunity to be involved in producing 'The Westenders' a monthly magazine produced by the centre. I hope to gain valuable experience of serving God in the community during my time as a Diocesan Volunteer.

*Sarah Gooding*

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## Parking

Despite the amusing comment about parking on page 22, you still run the risk of being 'got' for parking offences if you leave your car on Maid Marian Way after the end of the services, i.e. when some of the other cars have gone. Why not park safely and free of charge in the People's College car park? You are allowed to do this, even if the 'no parking' sign has been left from the previous day. Follow the lead of one St. Nic's member and just drive over it!

Please leave the Maid Marian Way slots free for the elderly, guests, latecomers, those with young children or *heavy* musical instruments. Don't hog the good spaces just because you're early, please be considerate.

*AFM*

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# Review

## What's The Point of Christmas?

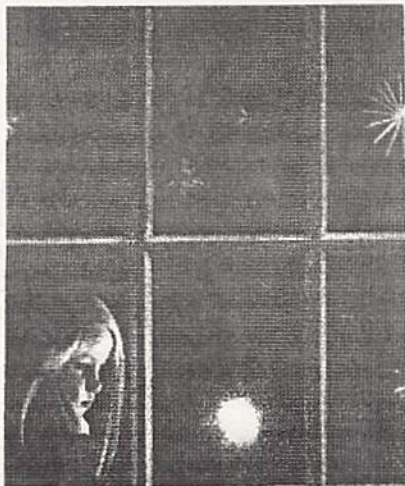
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by Lion**

An excellent stocking filler being the size of a postcard pack. An even better book to give to our non-Christian friends and family.

This little book gives an insight into our Christmas traditions and why we celebrate Christmas the way we do. For instance did you know that the first Christmas card was made in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, the founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum?



As well as telling of the historic origins of Christmas tradition, it goes on to tell of the first Christmas when Jesus Christ was born, (not in December, but it explains why we choose to celebrate it then!). The book tells us of what Jesus Christ did for us when He came to earth, and what

He can do for us now.

The book is beautifully presented with Christmas Carols and evocative Christmas pictures interspersed throughout the text.

*Sarah Churchill*

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# Review

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# Review

## Breaking the Rules

### **Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew**

**88 pages**

**Price £1.75**

Eddie Askew has given 37 years service to leprosy sufferers, spending 15 years in India with his wife Barbara and latterly directing the Leprosy Mission International until his retirement in 1987. Since then he has continued to exercise his much appreciated gifts of writing and painting.

Eddie's first book of meditations, published in 1982, began in a series of monthly newsletters circulated to the Leprosy Mission's workers worldwide. To these he added prayers and pencil drawings.

In this, his sixth volume, which is



enhanced by a selection of colour prints of the author's beautiful water-colours, we are led along new paths of Christian understanding. Each meditation is based on a Bible verse or verses. Eddie then draws on material as disparate as: the Berlin wall; the film 'Platoon'; a stiff neck and the planet Jupiter, which he uses to illustrate Christian principals. His great sensitivity, acute insight and wisdom help us to achieve spiritual growth and understanding.

I believe you will find his writing an encouragement and comfort as well as stimulating and challenging. I thoroughly recommend this devotional book to you.

*Maureen Shipton*

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# Review

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## Got some good news? Gossip it!

Exam congrats?

Announce a new baby!

Send Greetings!

# gODSip

Amusing Quotations!

Anniversary?

Celebrate a new job!

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**Wendy Lawson** and **Danny McFarlane** (remember their epic testimony in a J. John guest service last year?) have got **engaged**.

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Said at the **Potter's House** celebration service, by the **Bishop of Sherwood**. "The last time I was in this church was to consecrate the refurbishment. I'm amazed to see it is still standing."

And: "**Rod Beadles** calls coming to see me 'being under the authority of the Anglican Church'. I'm assured he had hair before this started."

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**Save money** ... if you park on the pavement by the tree outside church you'll only get a £20 fixed penalty ticket, rather than having your car removed and paying £100 to get it back. The **Police crane** can't get under the branches (but it was fun watching it try).

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At the same occasion, by **Rod Beadles**. "I rang up the St. Nic's office to ask if the sermon could be recorded. They said to bring a tape, and asked me who was preaching. '**J. John**,' I said. "Bring a long tape,' they said."

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Fancy a Festive Feast?, (Well, nibbles anyhow.) Come to **Lowdham Station** between 2:00 and 6:00 on Sunday 13th December for mince pies and mulled wine. Guided tours on the hour! For more details, contact David and Fay on 664938.

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# gODSip

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Spotted on TV, during the Ordination of Women debate. **John Holden** (a St. Nic-ite), deep in

conversation with someone. It turns out John was genning up on our new **Rector**, having sat next to someone from the Rochester Diocese.

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The mission in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, which **David Beales** is doing, is one of 26 missions happening in each of the parishes of the Diocese of Down and Droghmore, simultaneously, by order of the Bishop. And we thought *our* Bishop led from the front.

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# Review

## Mary's Song

Janie Beales and Sara Barrett have produced a cassette that may interest you, especially since Christmas draws near and you will, no doubt, be wanting ideas for presents. It is a collection of songs and instrumental music - all are original compositions. The tape has been professionally recorded and includes music of varying styles: modern and traditional, meditative and light rock. Five of the pieces focus on the Christmas story and in particular, speak of Mary and of her experiences, hence the title, 'Mary's Song'.

The tape costs £6.50 and will be available for purchase on each Sunday in Advent, after the morning and evening services at St. Nic's. Alternatively, contact Sara on 820366 or Janie on 814536.



During the notices one evening someone said that a white Mercedes had its lights on. Cue amusing remark from **Duncan Myers** and **Jeremy Fletcher**. "Who's going to admit to having a white Mercedes?" The next evening **Jeremy and Julia** are out for a meal at the home of a couple in the congregation. They park behind their car. A white Mercedes ...

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**Carol Services** for organisations this Christmas include ones for: Nottingham Magistrates, Nottingham Insurance Institute, Townswomen's Guild, Barclays Bank, and Browne Jacobsen. Our mole rates the **Handbell Ringing** of the TWG the highlight of last year's services, though the **food** for Barclays Bank came a close second. And you thought the staff didn't enjoy themselves.

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Whose was the white **Rolls Royce** parked outside church for the **J. John** guest service?

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Congratulations to **Alison and Carl Towner** on the birth of **Luke Oliver**. St. Nic's first underwater baby?

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How did we appoint **David Betts**? Well the clinching question was from **Colin E.** to **Irene B.**, about her husband. "Is he organised?"

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# Visiting Just

# Just

On arrival outside this dwelling in a leafy suburb, subtle '*memento mori*' of former parishioners are the first indications of St. Nic-ites.

Moving inside from the rear, we pass the livestock department - don't mention 'ragoût du lapin' here, even though they are Francophiles. On into the spacious kitchen, where many exotic dishes full of Eastern promise are produced, (I believe the humble potato has been banished in favour of another staple). Above the window stand '*hars*' and '*liv*', souvenirs of several memorable

## The visitor was:

Helen Blackmore  
Ann Hart  
Pat Elliman  
Deidre Offord  
Susan Lea-Wilson

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The visitor in the last issue was **Andy Churchill**. He is a retail property manager for Boots and leads worship in Junior Church and other places. He also does prayer ministry and the Family Service Music Group.

winter holidays.

Dotted around the ground floor there is evidence of worthy ancestors and it may surprise some to see a pugilist amongst them. On the stairs

we pass a herd of Elephants (African or Indian?) - more evidence of far-flung travels.

Going upwards in a circular motion it's tempting to browse amongst the literature. Ultimately we reach the domain of the train - although it's rumoured some sleeping takes place between expresses!

## The visitees were:

Pete and Maggie Bates  
Roy and Helen McCloughry  
John and Wendy Sayers  
Hugh and Di McLintock  
Malc and Irene Offord

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The visitees were **Mike, Fi, Beth, Katie, Ben and Abigail Shouler**. Mike and Fi supervise a prayer ministry team and are involved in training & counselling. Mike is an accountant.

# Visiting



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..... TOP SECRET .....

SUBVERSIVE GROUPS - MEMBERS' DETAILS

..... PCC MEMBER .....

Name:.....Pauline Walker

Also Known As: .....Pwoni (Suanese  
for 'Second  
Born')

Age:.....Steadily  
increasing

Whereabouts:.....Between Wollaton  
and Beechdale

Spouse:.....N/A\*

Children: .....Responsible for  
188!

Occupation:.....Assistant Pastor  
somewhere in  
Nottingham

Hobbies:.....Ahh . . . Those were the days!

Undercover Activities: .....PLG and Missionary committee and seemingly  
a thousand other things

Favorite Country: .....Sudan

Other Information:.....Will be revealed in time . . .



A recent photograph  
was not available.

\* The Editors are unsure as to whether this means Not Available, Not Applicable or Not Allowed!



**If you think you know who the visitor  
and visitees were in the Just Visiting  
quiz, ring 664938. You may win a small item of  
confectionary and great notoriety!**

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# Service Times

## Morning - 10:10 for 10:15

- 1st and 3rd Sundays - Holy Communion
- 2nd and 5th Sundays - Morning Worship
- 4th Sunday - Family Service

## Evening - 6:30

- 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays - Evening Worship
- 2nd and 5th Sundays - Holy Communion

A creche (0-2) and Junior Church groups (3-14) are available during the morning services except for the Family Service. Please ask the stewards.

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## For Services Rendered . . .

In the next issue we hope to print a directory of services offered by members of the congregation. So, if you are a plumber, a solicitor, a clarinet teacher or a baby-sitter, send in the following details: Your name, what you do and the telephone number on which you can be contacted in relation to the work.

You do not have to full-time to be on the list. we are happy to include anyone from a company director to someone who makes curtains in their spare time.

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## Copy Date

### Items for the next issue of Fellowship can be:

- left in the pigeon-hole at the back of church.
- sent to The Editors, Station House, Station Road, Lowdham, NG14 7DU (664938),
- or given to Dave or Fay Moore or Tim or Joy Lee at church.

The next issue is planned as follows:

Copy date 3rd January for 14th January