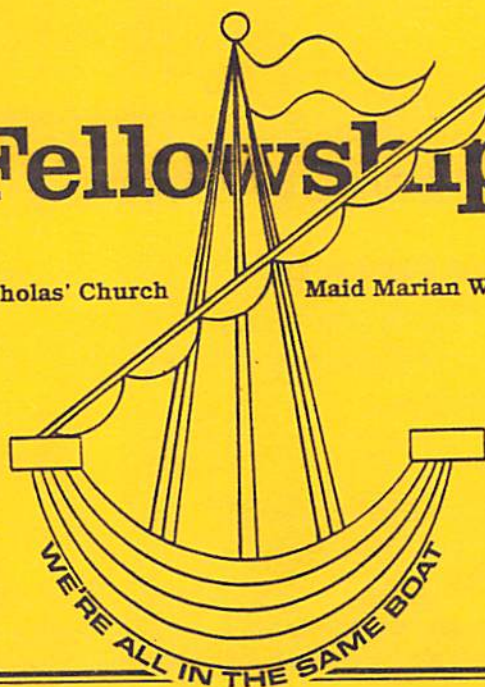


Pete and Margaret Bates
Subscriptions Remaining : 2

Fellowship

St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way



In This Issue:

- ❖ **Tithing or Cheating - a reply**
- ❖ **Tithing or Cheating - the official line**
- ❖ **A Letter to You from David Betts**
- ❖ **Disabled Children**
- ❖ **Are We Ready for the Future?**

Price 50p

January 1993

Issue: 28

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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New Beginnings

Well, here we are ... a New Year ... a New Rector ... a New era. I'm sure many of us are wondering what the new year will bring. Some of us will be apprehensive, some will be excited, and some will be resigned.

New Ideas

This is a time of change in the Church of England at large, and change is often painful. It always has been - it often takes time to get used to new ideas. I am sometimes reminded of the little old lady in rural England, when she first saw her pastor's new car. She looked at it in horror, and exclaimed loudly: "If God had wanted us to travel on four wheels, he would have given them to us at Creation." And so saying, she jumped onto her bicycle and pedalled furiously off.

Often change brings pain and conflict, and it is not always good to avoid it. Recently Roy Williamson, Bishop of

Southwark, and President of CPAS, wrote: "Wherever men and women have cared passionately and come alive for truth's sake, there has been conflict. Conflict and tension lie at the very heart of life, and there will always be plenty of it at the heart of a living and lively Church."

Tradition and Change

Conflict of this kind is not to be avoided, but to be redeemed. That will be the task ahead for the Church. It won't be easy; but God has already begun the

process. Thank God that He didn't walk out of the Church when she continued to do things He didn't agree with; He stayed to redeem the mistakes and the tensions. There is a right place for tradition in the Church, but the Church must be continually thinking, rethinking, and applying a living faith to a changing culture, in a changing world. God does not change, but His people do, if they're truly alive.



So we wonder what 1993 will bring for St. Nic's. Recently, at a Regional group meeting, a word of prophecy was given; "I am the God of New Beginnings." I believe this is a word for our Church. May God give each one of us the grace to continually offer His Church back to Him, and to look forward with expectancy and hope.

New Beginnings

Lets also bear in mind that not all change is uncomfortable. My imagination was caught by the illustration J. John used in one of his recent sermons - the caterpillar who looked at



the butterfly in full flight above him, and said in disgust: "You'll never get me up in one of those contraptions!" That became my thought for the week, as I mulled over what it meant for the church. Let's just concentrate on living day by day for God, and He'll do the rest.

Welcome, David and Irene. Welcome to a Church that is waiting to go on; we're not sure where it is going, but most of us

are ready for it to go somewhere, and we're ready to wait on God with you, to see just where the God of New Beginnings wants to lead us in 1993.

Pauline

30 Years Ago

Thirty years ago, before any of your Editors were out of nappies, and before one of them was even born, there was a new church magazine at St. Nicholas'. Much has changed since then, but much has remained the same. Under this logo are some clippings from the first edition of January 1963.

The Rector wrote his first 'From the Pulpit' piece from the Rectory on Maid Marian Way. It was a mini-sermon on the text for the year, 'My times are in Thy hand'. (Ps. 31:15), and was signed,

*'Yours very sincerely,
S. John Hill'*

A Letter fom David and Irene

Dear St. Nic's,

Greetings from your two newest members! We are looking forward with great anticipation to joining you in February, and thank those we have already met for their welcome, love and encouragement as we prepare to come.

"What are they really like?" is the question you're asking about us - and we're asking about you. It feels a bit like a blind date or an arranged marriage

...

Attractive church with many talents, in good health and wanting to enjoy a full life, seeks desirable, gifted and available partner, with a view to meaningful leader relationship, and eventual love match.

So you sent us a picture and your vital statistics and we sent ours. We even

had a brief date or two together. We sized each other up, and now - for better or for worse, we're about to tie the knot.

The key thing is that we both had a great marriage broker who has a wonderful way of getting things right. Our confidence is that, despite our own inadequacies, God has very clearly had His hand on this appointment, and has good things in store for our future

life together.

The Future

We come with the conviction that the Christian life is meant to be enjoyed. God gives us liberty so we become people at ease with ourselves, and receiving His freedom and power are enabled to be salt and light in the world in which we live. Joy in the Lord's pres-



ence will result in Joy in the Lord's service.

What about the future? We live in critical days for our nation and God has a radical and demanding work programme for His Church to fulfil. What about St. Nic's part in this?

Vibrancy of Life

Based on the strong work which already exists we see a strategic church - with vibrancy of life and worship; culturally relevant; exploding evangelistically; growing new congregations; improving plant and structures; increasing as a centre for training, releasing giftings, charismatic celebration and ministry; giving away people and resources to meet the needs of other Christians; sharing with other churches in witness and outreach; addressing the social issues of the day with God's perspective and power, and impacting the City with practical and loving Christian care. And at the heart of it, a loving, humble and open-hearted fellowship, deeply rooted in God, where all the members are valued for

themselves and not for what they do, and where every member finds his place in acceptance and security.

God's Reality for the Future

Is this the blueprint to which we would all give assent, or say, "its already happening", or a vague Utopian dream? Wherever we are now, I believe it is God's reality for the future. We need to pray, work and prophetically speak it into being. There will be much flesh to go on these bones, and practical strategies to fulfil this broad vision, and we commit ourselves to giving our time, our energy, and our hearts in bringing forth in partnership

with you, all that God desires.

With our love in Christ,

David Betts

David has his service of Institution, Induction and Installation [and interment? - Ed] with Bishop Patrick on Friday, February 5th. See the Newslip for details.



Cheating or Tithing - II

The following letter was written in response to an article in the last issue of Fellowship

Dear Editors.

In response to this month's article on 'Cheating or Tithing', I'd like to reassure the author that he's struck a heartfelt chord with many. Well done, for saying 'Everything you wanted to say about Tithing but were afraid to come out with'.

I too believe in the principle of tithing and concern for the wider community. However, I think we should look at the biblical background and situation to clarify our present-day thinking.

Financing Society

The Old Testament concept of tithing came in when there was no safety net for the disadvantaged, and no other funding for the priesthood, presumably. It seems logical and wise to have called on the faithful to give at least 10% to finance society and the temple. Admittedly, some taxes were

required, but probably did not represent anything like the proportions we pay today.



The point is this: one quarter to one third of my partner's income goes in taxes which pay for bombs and some other things we'd rather not fund. However a significant part of it also goes to fund the Health Service and Social Security payments, and we don't mind this at all. So to an extent, we are fulfilling our responsibility to society through this non-voluntary contribution, and so are all

Christian tax payers.

Guilt

Yes of course people should give to the support of the church mission and charitable causes, but only as far as they feel able, and without endless guilt-inducing exhortations to do better.



Rightly or wrongly, the society we live in is complex and the cost of living in it is high. We are a long way from the Old Testament model, and it's economics do not stand us in very good stead.

Straitjacket

I feel for last month's correspondent and his plight. There are many of us in mid-life, with growing families, who find the 10% straitjacket, precisely that. We are told that man was not made for the law, but the



law for man; but I don't often hear this said in the context of giving to the church. Let each one give as he is able.

We used to give more. We give less now because our existing CAF long-term commitments alone, are sometimes a burden, because our income fluctuates from month to month. I don't feel we are cheating society, through the heavy taxation we pay. I would like to feel understood by the church.

(name supplied)

More 30 Years Ago

A brief editorial said that while the magazine was intended primarily for free distribution, *'the Parochial church Council have agreed that contribution to the cost of publication be invited ... A rough calculation on the estimates we have obtained indicate that 10/- will provide two copies for one year. We say two, because this will provide one extra copy for free distribution.'*

For those too young to understand old money, a simple translation into modern English is thus:

10/- (Pr. ten shi'-llings): One shilling = 12d (Pr. twelve pence {old pence, that is}, d is an abbr. for denarius {Latin}) One shilling was one twentieth part of a pound (abbr. £, which is a script L, abbr. for Libra {Latin}) and is equivalent in value to 5p {new pence, that is}, thus 10/- (the '-' indicates no pence {d, that is}), is 120d and is equivalent to our modern 50p, the price of one copy of

Cheating or Tithing - III

Jeremy's response

The last edition of Fellowship had an anonymous letter on tithing. This edition contains a letter of support, and I'm glad to be able to respond to them. Both letters bring giving out into the open, and down to earth. I hope they will allow others to make a careful estimate of their offering to God, without being under obligation to other people, or giving out of guilt or false expectation.

Laying down the Law

I do not believe in laying down the law in the area of giving, because it seems to me that the basic principle in the Bible is that giving should be open, joyful, from the heart, and worthy of God. Jesus attacked the Pharisees in Matthew 23:23 not for tithing (he expected that people would tithe) but for laying down the law to such an extent that the tiniest herbs were tithed whilst people went hungry.

What is a Tithe?

As far as I can see from the Old Testament, the tithe was primarily a response to God's gift of land, and God's gift of harvest. Its purpose was to remind the people that neither land nor produce was theirs, but was a gift from God. Deuteronomy 26 sets this out clearly (it would appear that 'First-fruits' and 'tithes' are synonymous), and Deut 14:22-27 also speaks about the purpose of the tithe 'being to revere the name of the Lord God always'. The first aim of giving is praise.



Unclear

The Old Testament is unclear as to how the tithe should be dealt with. Passages such as Numbers 18:21-29 would suggest that all the tithe should go to the professional clergy who are not able to grow produce for themselves. Deuteronomy 14:22-29 commands the people to eat



the tithe themselves in the temple, and along with Deuteronomy 26:12-15 says that every third year the tithe is to be distributed to the needy. Obviously tithes were used for different purposes at different times. All the tithes went to the Levites in Nehemiah 13:12.

Though there is no clear instruction, I think the principles remain. Tithing is firstly about **praise** to God, and then about the **maintenance of worship, enjoyment** for God's people, and **relief for the needy**. The only real teaching on giving for the New Testament church (2 Corinthians 8 and 9) is concerned with relief for the famine-hit Christians in Jerusalem.

We need not Worry

There are churches which demand the tithe to be paid to *that* church. I cannot be that directive. Paul's instructions are that each person should give what they have decided, not reluctantly, nor under compulsion, and I think that goes for the object of giving as well as the amount.

If we are indeed happy to give, and happy that God is happy, and happy that our giving is helping the mainte-

nance of worship, the relief of the needy, and the enjoyment of God's people, then we need not worry about cheating, nor that 10% is a strait-jacket. The fact remains though that 10% is the only proportion of giving mentioned in the Bible, and that it is not simply there to meet our obligations to society (which, if you read Deuteronomy 15, were obligations then too, beyond the three-yearly tithe).

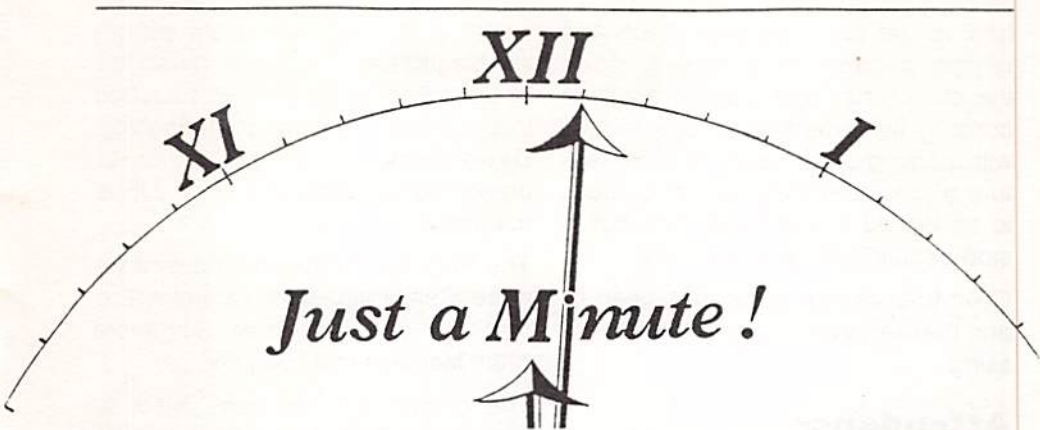


Shifting of Gaze

As I've thought, prayed, and preached about this, I've been increasingly amazed that God allows us to use and enjoy offerings which are his alone. I've been encouraged to shift my gaze from what I can afford to

what God wants, and to give thanks that God gives us back even what we give him. Everyone's financial situation is different. The only constant here is that in every age God gives to us, and delights when through our possessions we offer ourselves back to him. We do well to be responsible, but I don't think we'll need a profit and loss account when we see him face to face.

Jeremy



Just a Minute!

This is really 'just two minutes' - I've only just got round to writing up the meeting before Christmas!

Colin informed us that there have been more parking incidents. We are advised **NOT** to park round the bend at the bottom of M.M. Way, and not to even *think* of parking in the bus stop, as it is very naughty, and we might get caught. However, we *may* park in the People's College car park on Sundays, even if it says, 'No Parking'.

Money

Chris Nurden observed that in the past the C of E had 60% of its income from the dead (legacies). It now has to come to terms with paying for things itself. We have been donated (through the collection), a token for a half pint of Guinness. The budget sheet for 1992 showed that £22,767 of our income was reclaimed tax from covenants - well worth having! If you

can't commit yourself to a covenant, ask our treasurer about Gift Aid, through which tax is also recoverable.

Manure

A quote from the official minutes -

'Jeremy likened clergy to manure. This was greeted with nods of assent'. [Spread thinly, they do a lot of good, but in a heap...] This referred to a spectacular attendance at a clergy Synod about the 'Developing Ministries' document, circulated by the Bishop.

Potter's House has recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, and has started opening on Friday and Saturday evenings from 11pm to 1am.

Church Centre

A working party has discussed use of space in the church centre. Their brain-storming resulted in ideas ranging from



how to get extra storage space and renting portacabins to pulling down the church hall and starting again or building an extension to the rectory with parking underneath. A novel feature of church storage is that it needs to be locked, not to deter theft, but to stop people *putting things* there!

Colin told us that Helen has been ill, and thanked Wendy Prebble for deputising.

Attendance

Church attendance has been good, with 518 at the first Carol Service (pretty good for a 330-chair church). Morning average attendance has risen by 16% to 245 adults over 1992, with evening attendance rising by 11% to 300. There has been a decline in the number of new adults *arriving* in the last three years, although there has been considerable growth by families. About 60 people are booked in to the Swanwick weekend in February, but there are still a *few* spaces.

JJF and others met with folks from St. Barnabas, and this resulted in the invitation to a St. B. service (31st January). Also, the Diocese has been asked to appoint a curate, (who may later become the 'Priest-in-Charge').

Services

There has been the usual round of Carol Services at St. Nic's for local businesses and institutions. A new-

comer in this field was a group from the Magistrates Court, with music led by John Buckley. Erzshebet preached three times. Talking of preaching, David Betts put *himself* down to preach so frequently this term: JJF is not guilty!

The PLG has expressed a desire for more 'Celebration-style' services. The visit of John Tan from Singapore (28th March) should be good.

The church bell has been fixed so that David Betts can ring it for the induction next week. David's home church are sending two coach loads of people, to make sure that he's really gone!

Links

Festival '93 was officially launched last Wednesday. Jeremy remarked on the wide diversity of tradition amongst all the churches involved, ranging from evangelical/charismatic on one side to more devotional on the other. The study material is being used by a number of our link groups, as well as by churches throughout the county.

There are many opportunities for the Away Teams. A group is going regularly to Tollerton, and we are helping out at St. Christopher's, Sneinton. Ian Blake, the vicar, has asked for various things, ranging from preachers to gas heaters. [Similar, in that both deliver hot air - Ed]

David Moore

Open Our Eyes Lord!

I read the following article in the parish magazine of my mother's church. Having two handicapped children myself I found it comforting and though that others may like to share it.

Susi Artis

On a Family outing to Dover Swimming Pool, I met and spoke to a remarkable woman. She was accompanying her son, who has Downs Syndrome and other medical problems. Jeremy, her son, is a very strong six year old, presenting her with many difficulties as a parent.

Blessing from God

My daughter Emma, and I played with Jeremy in the pool, singing nursery rhymes and encouraging him. Jeremy fell in love with Emma in the short time we spent with them. Seeing his face light up with love and laughter was a blessing from God, to take into our hearts and treasure.

Despite the difficulties faced by Pauline (Jeremy's mum), she is the chairman of a charitable organisation called Parents as Partners. This is a voluntary group which provides help and assistance for parents experiencing problems with their children. The group is run by parents with handicapped children, who know how difficult it is to cope with the demands of

these children. They provide a listening ear from someone who understands the complex task of parenthood, someone to talk to in confidence. They also support parents as they seek to meet the special educational needs that their child may need.

Fight

In discussing the needs of children with handicaps and learning difficulties, I was appalled at the way that these parents had to fight for the needs of their children, for education and social services support. These parents were needed around the clock, dealing with children who may be incontinent, hyperactive, and with difficult medical problems and special diets to adhere to. Some of these parents were giving whatever time they could spare to help others benefit from their experience.

During the past two weeks, I have had to examine my attitude to people who are not as able as I am. I am ashamed that



my attitude in the light of Christ was more of this Kingdom than of His. Given my own attitude, I am not surprised at the lack of understanding that children show to one another.

Acheivment?

The world in which we live appears to view achievement, success, and ability as making a person worthy and important. We are all proud to boast of our children's successes. Maybe we give them the mental picture that to be considered as acceptable, we have to excel at school, sport, music or whatever. What is more important is the character, the love within a person willing to share with another.

This is the love of Christ, love that does not depend on how we achieve or what we accomplish, but love freely given because He knows and loves us personally.

How easy it is to see the needs of God's children. I pray that the Lord will help me to see all people as my brothers and sisters in Christ, whether they are people of the highway, drug addicts, or just cheeky adolescents. I pray for understanding of all their needs in the light and love of Christ. I thank God for meeting Pauline and Jeremy, for revealing to me the needs of these children, children whom I could see, and yet not see.

Liz Meadows

More 30 Years Ago

It was reported that, together with other potential missionaries,

'Barrie (sic) Harrison is also thinking of going abroad, to South America, in his Master's service. Barrie is at present teaching in a school at Portsmouth, but has been accepted at the London Bible College for a course beginning in October.'

Under the heading of 'Missionary News' there was half a page attempting to answer these questions - we're still asking them today!

What is C. P. A. S.? What do they do? Where do they work?

There was also a report on *'Miss Eunice Bignall, the young lady who left Nottingham over eighteen months ago to work for the Mission to Lepers in Nigeria'*. Although our phrases might have changed, we still sent missionaries, and there is still work to be done with Leprosy, see page 20.

is a gate between the pieces of land. Jesus stands at the gate with his arms open. People in the barren land are trying to find their own way. Others see the mountain, and feel it is too steep. Others refuse to go through the gate, and try to climb the walls. Look for the gate, and see Jesus. There may be a mountain, but we have a guide.



People who have been carrying hurts through 1992, perhaps an unforgiving Spirit. The Lord is saying that you have to forgive those people who have hurt you, because until such time as you do, then you will not be released from the burden and the hurt and the pain that you are currently carrying.



When you go panning for Gold, you have a large pan. Much soil and dirt. If you wash that, right at the bottom you get the gold. The pan is in Christ's hands. If we put our lives in Christ's hands, and let him wash us, time and time again, then the gold is there at the bottom.



An interpretaion of a tongue given.

In the corridors of your soul, in the darkness, and in the quietness, you've sought me; you wanted to know that I

was there. In the dark corridors of your mind you've stretched out, wanting your hand to be held. I want you to know that I'm with you. I want you to know that I'm holding your hand. I want you to know that I love you, and I'm with you through everything. Do not despair. Do not hold. I am the Lord.



A picture of a series of faces. All were terrified, one was screaming, Another was sobbing. Behind the faces was a huge lion, who took up the whole of the picture. The lion was beautiful. It swallowed up all the terrified faces. The words were "Death has been swallowed up in victory". All our fear has been taken away by God.



A picture of all the congregation sitting, staring at the floor. After a while people stand up, until most of the congregation is standing, but a few remain seated.

Interpretaion later: Those who are seated are those who feel guilty.



A car with its engine going, but not movng anywhere, because the clutch is not engaged. About the difference between willingness and action: we need to engage the clutch.

Bluecoat Blitz - Report Back

In last month's Fellowship you read about the planned 'special events' at Bluecoat school. This is a brief resumé of the week's activities.

We led assemblies everyday. We started with an introduction to what the week involved. This consisted of an interview between Mr. Kay (the head teacher) and two people from the CU, who explained what was going to happen during the week and why we were doing it.

Sign Language

On the Tuesday, the assembly involved the whole CU doing sign language to the song 'By your side', which we had learned from Liz Babbs on our CU holiday. Two people gave their testimonies, one about why she loved God, and the other, done by Rachel Beales, about how it was hard to be a Christian, but that loving God made it easier.

On Wednesday, Tom Murphy, who works part-time at Potter's House, came and spoke about his personal relationship with God. On Thursday, the new CU leaders (including Janice Sare) surprised us with an imaginative assembly portraying that no matter

who or what you are, its not the material things that matter, its what's deep down in your heart that counts. We ran a number of lunch-time activities, including a time of worship, an Agape meal, a talk by a scientist who discussed creation and a Question-and Answer session.

Evening Meeting

The highlight of the week was the evening meeting at St. Nic's, which was very enjoyable. We were extremely encouraged by the people who came and by their response.

All in all, we felt the week went very well and we hope that it becomes a regular part of the school calendar.

We would like to thank St. Jude's, Mapperley for their generous donation, Christ Church, Chilwell for their support on Friday evening and St. Nic's for the use of the church and for your support in prayer.

Kirsty Offord and Janice Sare

[You may be interested to know that the grammar checker thought that the signatures should read 'Curiosity Of-fal' and 'Jaundice Safari!' - Ed]

The theme of this edition of Bible Brain Benders is Epiphany. This is the season when we think of the wise men who came to find Jesus. You can find Jesus in all of these puzzles.

Bible Brain

Help the wise men to find Jesus. Split this square into five parts, each containing the letters J, E, S, U, S



E	U	S	S	E
J	E	S	J	S
S	J	S	U	U
J	U	S	S	J
E	S	U	S	E



by Louise Elliman, aged 12

How many times is the name JESUS written below?

ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ ESUSJ

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Benders

Much of the Old Testament looks forward to Jesus' birth. Name the Old Testament characters whose initials

spell JESUS. There are two sets of clues, one easier, one harder.

J - The prophet who had problems with a whale.

E - The first woman.

S - The man who fell for Delilah.

U - General name for non-Israelites, after Abraham.

S - The king before David (also New Testament Paul's earlier name).

J - The son of King David's predecessor.

E - The prophet who ran to Jezreel before the rain.

S - Son of Hannah.

U - Bathsheba's first husband.

S - Judge who had a brush with some foxes.

And finally, the Difficult Quiz!

- 1 Which gospel records the visit of the wise men?
 - 2 Which prophet predicted that Jesus would come from Judah?
 - 3 The king who tried to kill Jesus, was it Herod the Tetrarch, his son, or his father?
 - 4 Up to what age were the babies killed?
 - 5 Which prophet predicted that Jesus would come from Egypt?
 - 6 When did Jesus return from Egypt?
-

Got some good news? Gossip it!

The Blue Peter 'Bring and Buy' organised by some of our children last Sunday, raised £126.43. The money goes to a Two-thirds World health care project. Well done to all involved.

godsip

If you need anyone to break into your car, ask the Associate Minister. The Assistant Pastor

had inadvertently locked her keys in the car. The Administrator had failed in his attempts. A coat hanger did the trick (after some prayer!), and though Pauline was delighted, she does now want a car which could foil even a coat-hanger-wielding-clergyman.

Someone told Jeremy that they enjoyed his sermon on giving so much that they had to make notes. Finding a pen was simple enough, but paper proved more difficult. Having discounted using the yellow communion sheet, they eventually used the back of a losing betting slip.....

Talking of cars, how much is Richard Ives being paid? He was spotted driving a new Rover 820 down Maid Marian Way, to the Rover born.

It has come to the attention of the Management that most of the items on this page comes from the staff. What about the news from all you people out there! Has your link group been getting up to anything? Heard any interesting quotes? Jot it down on a piece of paper and drop it in the Fellowship pigeon-hole.

Counting ones used at home, St. Nic's staff now have access to 14 computers. Isn't this going a little far? [Does this include the three at the home of Jeremy's PA? - Ed]



Anyone for Tennis?

If you would be interested in playing tennis during the daytime or in the evening, please ring:

Jennifer Hulls on 320395 or 440402 or

Jane Paradise on 289524.

In a recent Family Service, various answers were given to the question "What does God look like?" Even Jeremy was silenced by the answer "Bugs Bunny".

St. Nic's Invades Whitby

A slightly longer meeting than usual!

Since our link-group re-formed after the summer holidays we thought it would be a good idea to have a link-group weekend away. After exploring a few ideas, we decided to invade Whitby in the first weekend of December.

I finished work at dinner-time on Friday, so that we could go and pick up the mini-bus and do the shopping. Five minutes after getting home, the heavens opened and it snowed like mad! I like snow, but with a long drive ahead of us, today was not the best of times. Fortunately, it stopped after a while and the only problem we had driving up there was a set of road-works on the A1 which resulted in some fun navigating our way round them!

Waiting for the girls!

On the Saturday morning, after waiting for the girls to get up (so what's new?), we went to Robin Hood's Bay and had a walk along the cliff top, and very cold it was too! In the afternoon we explored Whitby. When the tide receded we went on the beach to have a game of football, them being thoroughly knackered (sorry - tired!), it

was back to the cottage for tea and spiritual refreshment.

Sunday saw a visit to the Abbey and the church adjacent. (Quite an impressive church it was too, at least in how many it could hold.) Then it was back for the meal and another spiritual slot! All too soon, it was time to go, and half-an-hour before we started back the heavens opened again - this time it was rain!

Getting to know you

I think it is fair to say we all had a good time-I know I appreciated the break with not having had a proper holiday for ages, (now if you feel the Lord leading you to ...) We certainly got to know each other better.

Our thanks go to Mark and Melanie Oakden for doing most of the organising and cooking some great grub! Thanks, too, to the owners of the cottage, and no, we're not telling you who they are, we've got to keep some good things to ourselves! Thanks also to the Great Weatherman-it was dry but cold most of the time we were actually there!

Martin Regnard

40th Anniversary of
World Leprosy Day

31st January 1993

40th Anniversary?!? Surely Leprosy died out in Bible times?

Well not quite. Did you know there are still just over a hundred registered cases in the UK? Certainly the 'Leper'- houses established by Royal warrant in Nottingham in 625AD have now disappeared. Although places still show their connections like Burton Lazars, near Melton Mowbray - linking strongly with past Leprosy sufferers.

But what's the current situation? The World Health Organisation says there are still 8.5 million leprosy sufferers worldwide. Still more worrying is that there are some 600,000 new patients

each year! The Leprosy Mission continues the work of our Lord in bringing the gospel and help to as many as it can in over 30 centres worldwide. The best news is that today £10.00 can provide sufficient drugs to give a cure in the majority of cases.

Would you remember in your prayers, not just on World Leprosy Day, the staff of the Leprosy Mission that they may continue to show the love and compassion of Christ in the year ahead to even more patients. If you would like more information I am always willing to talk about the Leprosy Mission.

David Selley

Polite Notice

As stewards/wardens to the fellowship we happily accept many and various items of information/comment for onward transmission to the staff team, especially Colin. We most respectfully request that as much of this 'traffic' as possible be put into written form, thus minimising misunderstandings and allowing Colin to co-ordinate his very heavy workload even more effectively. He really is a very busy person. Thank you for your co-operation to date.

Bill Phipps. Barbara Holbrook

Dance Group

The group started about two years ago following a series of workshops. Over this time we have seen how movement can be used in worship, prayer, healing, prophecy and warfare and how God works through our limitations.

As well as meeting regularly for our own development through worshipping and praying together using movement, the group has led numerous workshops and performed several dances in church and elsewhere. We hope these have encouraged others in their use of movement.

Since Elaine Brickwood left in May the group has been going through a transitional period, but now we feel excited about the opportunities for the future. We are therefore holding a workshop on 6th February 10:00-12:30. This is aimed at anyone interested in dance and movement - young or old, male or female, and no experience or talent necessary!

For further details contact Sarah Fitzgerald Tel. 507224 or Jackie Turner Tel. 841360

Sarah Fitzgerald

Good-Bye!

Andrew, Lynn, Hannah and expected (due April) Lennard-Jones moved on 9th January to Leighton Buzzard where Andrew has been offered a partnership in a General Practice. Their new addresses are:

Temporary rented address until they find a house

32, Columba Drive, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. LU7 Tel: (0525) 370448

Permanent practice address

The Surgery, 29, Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. LU7 7AR
Tel: (0525) 373111

Answers

Upsidedowners: JESUS is written ten times. O. T. Questions (Easy): Jonah, Eve, Samson, Uncircumcised, Saul. (Hard): Jonathan, Elijah, Samuel, Uriah, Samson, Difficult Quiz: 1, Matthew. 2, Isaiah. 3, His father. 4, 2 years. 5, Hosea. 6, When Herod died.



By the Will of God

Sue Ramsay

The Continuing Saga of a DV in Hyson Green

I am now into my second year at St Stephen's, Hyson Green. My weekly activities have been moderated slightly, so that I'm now concentrating on work with the under 10s, but still including some youth club. My week includes the following:

Most mornings: I'm helping in the playgroup. This is for local children aged 2 ½ - 4 years old.

Wednesday evenings: You'll find me at the Childline office, answering the calls from young people in trouble. Alternatively, sometimes I'll be at our youth club for 14-and-overs. The teenagers can play pool/snooker, cards and table tennis, and we can present God and Christianity informally to them.

Sunday mornings: At the 'J Club'. We cater for 4 - 10 year olds, teaching the neighbourhood kids in Forest Fields about Bible stories and characters. It's very encouraging - the children keep coming in!

Having recently moved into Hyson Green, I feel I am getting a wider perspective on life here. I find the constant noise (cars, children playing, animals) quite disturbing, and the lack of greenery means there's nowhere to go to escape. It can feel claustrophobic sometimes, and I can understand why one could feel trapped in this situation.

Points for prayer:

Thank God for all I've learnt through the opportunities and challenges, and for his perfect provision.

Pray for St. Stephen's as we welcome our new vicar, Revd. Graham Burton and his family, Gillian, John and Ruth.

Pray for God's guidance for me as I look to the future.

Sue Ramsay

➤ ➤ St. BARNY'S ◀ ◀

St. Barnabas' Rainbow Club

From its birth as a 'creche', the Rainbow Club has developed into one of the most obvious methods of outreach employed at St. Barnabas'. Essentially an open Sunday club, the Rainbow Club caters for children of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

The Rainbow Club meets each week in the church hall and is timed to coincide with our morning service, thus allowing parents and guardians to attend the service without worrying about their youngsters.

Painting or pond dipping, pottery or puppetry, making models or making cakes - each week, a range of activities is planned which aims to teach the youngsters (and often the leaders!) something of our Lord's love and nature in a simple but memorable way.

A number of the Rainbow Club members belong to families worshipping at St. Barnabas'. It has been a great encouragement to see these youngsters bring along 'un-churched' friends and to see other youngsters from the local community come along on their own initiative. It is also encouraging to see some of the parents and guard-

ians of these children joining the congregation for coffee after the morning service - another opportunity for outreach!

The Rainbow Club is led each week by Steve Lowe (a church warden) with the help of one of the church mums. Because the Rainbow Club embraces a wide range of ages and abilities, the older members are encouraged to partner and assist the younger, less able members. This itself has proved a useful learning experience for the youngsters, giving a sense of value and self-worth whilst developing communication skills and responsibility.

The Rainbow Club is considered an extension of, and not independent of, our church family. Thus we all meet together as a family around the Lord's table during Holy Communion. Here the children receive a blessing and much appreciated personal attention from Graham, our Vicar, in recognition that they are not the church of tomorrow, but a vital part of the church of today.

Elaine Hinchcliffe

Just Visiting

A 'semi' of honourable years surrounded by a privet hedge and some conveniently situated shops was my destination. Greeted by my 'visitee' and ushered into a well-loved, well-used kitchen, the electronic cat-flap was the first intriguing evidence of the Other Resident's superior status in the household. Further samples of phil-cattery were around in various forms. Books revealing a wide range of interests from 'Dandy' and 'Topper' to Rabbi Lionel Blue and 'Organic Gardening' sat on one of the several bookcases, the latter book revealing a similar interest to my own.

A pine-furnished dining-room where a superb tapestry picture of the Flying Scotsman took pride of place; through

to the cosy sitting room with TV at a height and angle comfortable enough for long-standing neck-pain sufferers like myself! Board games, a stuffed clown, photos of children, knitting lying on the couch made one feel that children were important to the occupant.

Up the steep stairs to the main bedroom, bathroom, and sewing/computer work-room (were duty-rosters produced here?) Framed photos of Spain, line-drawings of France and Christian Aid wall-hangings all underlined an interest in people and places beyond the present and parochial. It was not clear whether journeys as far East as ours had been undertaken as yet. Up more stairs to the attic bedroom and a sense that any visitor to this home would enjoy an atmosphere of cheer, warmth and welcome.

The visitor was:

Killy John?

Susan Hyde?

Irene Offord?

Meili Hawthorne?

Li-Meng Summers?

The visitee was:

Carol Matthews?

Sue Thurman?

Barbara Holbrook?

Ros Richardson?

Vanessa Owen?

Answers by 'phone to the Editors on 664938.

Last issue saw Susan Lea-Wilson visiting John and Wendy Sayers. No-one got it right so I'm keeping the prize! - Ed

If you would like to take part in 'Just Visiting', let the Editors know.

TOP SECRET - SUBVERSIVE GROUP - PCC

Name:..... Margaret Bates
Also Known As:..... 'Miss' or 'Mama Tim'
Age:..... 37
Whereabouts:..... Sherwood
Spouse:..... Peter Bates (PLG)
Children:..... Tim and Catherine
Occupation:..... Primary teacher, Bestwood Park
Hobbies:..... Never heard of them
Undercover Activities: Copying tapes



Favorite Topics of conversation [NOT]:
..... SATs and National Curriculum

Other Information:..... Likes taking photos of lions, giraffes and hippos
when she gets the chance.

Name:..... Barry J. Williams
Also Known As:..... BJX, Bazza
Age:..... No grey hairs on me!
Whereabouts:..... Wherever you want me ...
Spouse:..... Annie Elizabeth
Children:..... Still practising



Occupation:..... Hyson Green Tourist Information Officer
Hobbies:..... Watching Blind Date, breathing on the bald patch in
front at the cinema
Undercover Activities: Deanery Synod
Favorite Joke:..... Is that the Canon? Tell him he's fired!
Other Information:..... The J is for Jehohanan. Would like my wife to go
bungy jumping.

For Services Rendered

The following members of the congregation are available for the listed services. There are many more names and services that could be added, from plumbers to solicitors, from architects to baby sitters. If you would like to be added to this list, contact the Editors.

- ◆ **Mary Leake 282940**
Gardens Tamed, Tidied and maintained
 - ◆ **Jacque Anderson 252044**
Piano accompaniment for singing, instruments and exams
 - ◆ **Dudley Meese 870061**
Barn Dance calling with live band
 - ◆ **Helen Smith 612080**
Cakes for all occasions from Birthday to Wedding, made and iced at your request
 - ◆ **Fay Moore 664938**
Friendly and expert tuition in maths and computing
 - ◆ **Bob Hulls 440402**
Advice on pensions, personal insurance, investment and mortgages.
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Copydates

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 issues are planned as follows:

- ◆ Copy date 28th February for 14th March
- ◆ Copy date 11th April for 25th April

