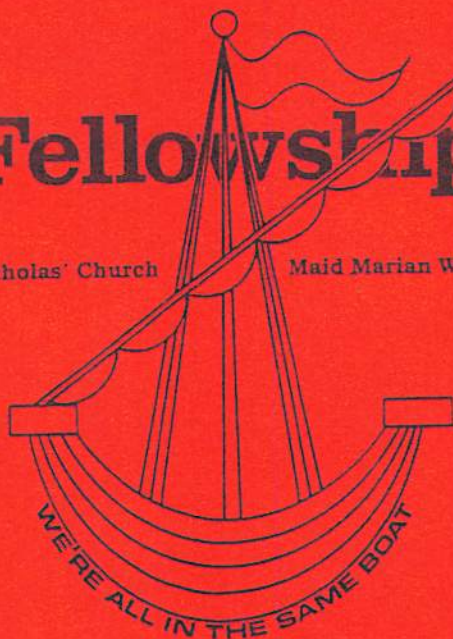


Pete and Margaret Bates
Subscriptions Remaining : 1

Fellowship

St. Nicholas' Church

Maid Marian Way



In This Issue:

- ❖ **Children and Communion - The Forum**
- ❖ **Shaun and Jan are set to enlarge the Family of God**
- ❖ **Keep Sunday Special Campaign**
- ❖ **Kirsty in Kenya**

Service Times

✻	Sunday	5th	December	1993	10:15am	Holy Communion
✻					6:30 pm	Evening Worship
✻	Sunday	12th	December	1993	10:15am	Morning Worship
✻					6:30 pm	Carol Service
✻	Sunday	19th	December	1993	10:15am	Christmas Celebration
✻					6:30 pm	Carol Service
✻	Friday	24th	December	1993	4:00 pm	Children's Service
✻					11:30pm	Midnight Communion
✻	Saturday	25th	December	1993	10:15am	Family Communion
✻	Sunday	26th	December	1993	10:15am	Family Service
✻	Sunday	2nd	January	1994	9:15 am	Holy Communion
✻					11:15am	Morning Worship
✻					6:30 pm	Evening Worship
✻	Sunday	9th	January	1994	9:15 am	Morning Worship
✻					11:15am	Family Service
✻					6:30 pm	Holy Communion

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A Common Union?

The Holy Communion Forum from November

The Question of Understanding

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul seems to imply that a measure of understanding is required to receive Communion. Against this, the context is that some were eating too much food and others too little: to *discern the body* could mean to *realise that we become one community where all are equal*.

The issue would appear to be about recognition of Communion and reverence for it: in our context whether children are able to recognise what Communion represents, and will treat it with the dignity required.

Many people made these related points:

- Children as young as four years do have an awareness of a relationship with Jesus, and can articulate this.

- No one can really know what is going on inside a child's mind and spirit.

- It is almost impossible to say when someone 'becomes a Christian': studies of faith development show that the nature of believing changes at different stages of childhood. Evangelicals are now realising that many people have not had one definitive conversion experience.

- That if 'understanding' and articulation of faith are required to receive Communion, other groups (such as those with learning difficulties and the

mentally ill) may also be disqualified.

- As with baptism, the issue is as much with God's grace poured out as with making a response. The two don't have to happen at the same time. God can do things through Communion which we only understand later.



● Is Communion only of value to the extent that we can understand and articulate it?

● Some felt that discernment was an important qualification for receiving Communion. This tied in with belief in baptism for adult believers and the view of some that grace is not automatic: there needs to be response.

All this said, there were few present who would advocate giving Communion to very tiny children: a general feeling was that school age was a practical answer, though this was not held by all.

The Question of Experience

Many commented that the ritual of becoming an adult member of the church preceded the experience of this: the numbers of people desiring a 'second baptism' affirms this, and the feeling was powerfully expressed that allowing children to receive something they don't understand would spoil their experience when 'conversion', or adult acceptance of faith, happened to them.

Against this was the

whole theory and practice of Infant Baptism: promises are made on your behalf which you then affirm in God's time: the experience of being baptised again is not necessary.

It is very hard to say that we should stop children doing something until we are satisfied that they are in the right state to get the most out of an experience. How would we know?

The Question of Community (Covenant and Family)

The main justification for allowing children to eat at the Lord's Table is that as children of Christian parents they are members of the community (or family) of God. The same would apply to children of non-christian parents who have been drawn into

the church and for whom the church takes responsibility.

Just as Jews were circumcised at 8 days, and joined in the family Passover meal (an elaborate ritual in which God's new community was celebrated and his saving acts remembered), so our children are 'in' the community until such time as they



drop out.

As one of the historic churches of the world, Anglicans (by and large) see baptism as the sign of belonging to the community, and many see Communion as being open to the baptised.

We recognised that many people at St. Nic's are not Anglicans in the sense that they have not been confirmed (or received into membership if confirmed in another church). Also many in the congregation have a dedication rather than a baptism, preferring to allow their children to make the decision for baptism themselves.

This therefore causes a problem for the argument that all those who are baptised should receive Communion. At St. Nic's we invite 'all those who know and love the Lord' to receive Communion. What about those who are under 12 and 'know and love the Lord'?

The feeling was articulated that the main criterion for receiving Communion should be relationship with Christ, whether affirmed in baptism or dedication or not. 'Awareness of relationship' was found to be a helpful phrase: some felt that even



very young children know that something different is going on in church, and do know that there is a difference between the creation of community at the Communion rail, and the creation of community over coffee and squash (& tea!) after the service.

The Fruits of Experience

People who had previously been in churches where children were allowed to receive raised these reflections:

- There appeared to be little peer pressure to receive Communion when the decision was left to individual families. There was no real sense of some people being left out.
- Those who just 'tried out' Communion soon stopped if they felt it did not mean anything to them.
- For practical reasons the lower age limit was four or five in one church.
- In one church children wanting to receive Communion were interviewed by the Minister, and allowed to receive with his permission.



Other Reflections

We were aware that this debate is as much emotional and spiritual as intellectual. When feelings are stirred up, argument is of little help: we must all recognise that the feelings of those with differing views are equally deep, and respect both.

Much comes down to what we each think of Communion as being. With members of St. Nic's coming from different backgrounds and denominations we have in our midst a whole variety of concepts and attitudes about what Communion is. It will be helpful to receive teaching on this, and have a clearer picture of what we do think. This might help unwrap it from the tangle of emotions involved.

There are things which have to wait until adulthood: why should children not wait for Communion? The answer might lie in the difference between things which must wait and things which have grown up over time, and are custom rather than command. Sex is designed to be expressed in marriage alone, but Communion is not necessarily on the same level, and an age limit may be arbitrary.

Does opening Communion to all people debase it? There was a desire for more teaching on receiving Communion: there may be adults who recognise that they should not yet receive. We need to be welcoming but not slapdash.

Churches which have opened Communion to children have prepared carefully, both children and parents. This would take much effort.

In the end there will be one rule for adults and one for children. Awareness of a relationship with God will be the common theme, but adults have to take a responsibility for their faith which is different to that of children, who function first as members of a community.

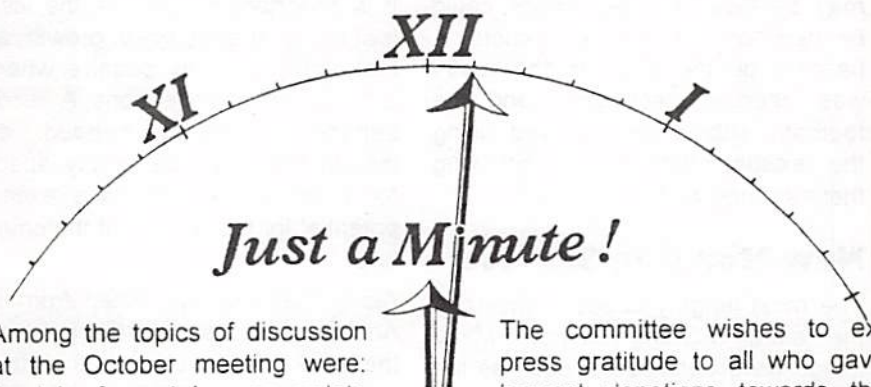
Practical Issues

The Forum was just that: not a decision making body. We were encouraged to talk around the issue with friends and church members, and feed back to the staff. If we were to proceed further with this an official decision would have to be taken (through the PCC etc.), and a submission made to the Bishop. We should not go it alone.

We need to address what happens when children are currently present in Communion. Many would like a quieter feel when receiving Communion: should children be in their groups at this point? What does this say about the nature of our church Family/Community?

The point was powerfully made that we should ask the children. Please do, and we will!

Jeremy Fletcher



Among the topics of discussion at the October meeting were: the job of **caretaker**, an update from the **treasurer**, **car parking** facilities at the church, and the implications of splitting the **morning service** into two.

Caretaker

Concerning the caretaker's job: job specifications have not yet been set in stone, and possible candidates are still in question; the committee didn't want to commit anyone to anything.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that expenditure is down slightly on the budget, (*with an emphasis on slightly*), but that there is still a shortfall of £8,000. Of the £7,400 promised last January, only £2,000 has actually come in. It was jokingly suggested that St. Nic's should sue those who had made a pledge and not kept it. Happily, next year's quota is unlikely to increase, thanks to the deanery treasurer and others working throughout the diocese.

The committee wishes to express gratitude to all who gave harvest donations towards the church budget.

Car parking

On the subject of car parking, much helpful discussion contributed to the following conclusions. The church yard (*to the left of the main church door*) can be used to park 9 or 10 cars, avoiding the existing trees, and it needn't be tarmaced. But since we obviously need 200 rather than 9 spaces (*the use of the church yard as a solution to the parking problem was compared to a cup of water being used to douse a house fire*), an architect's plan is required. There was a unanimous vote to appoint a church architect and ask for an estimate of the cost of a scheme.

Other Improvements

Other planned improvements around the church were formally proposed, including improved lighting outside. Around the back of the building a passive infra-red light with an over-ride switch



may be installed. Gas lamps could be used on the chancel corners. A handrail on the steps to the vestry was deemed necessary, and the footpath should be repaved--using the existing stones, but grooving them so they won't be slippery.

New Morning Service

The most lengthy debate concerned the extra morning service. Many things were considered, such as the need to run a tighter schedule than the current timing, the need for two music groups (to take pressure off the people involved in that ministry), how the stewarding teams can cover both services, and how many people are needed for the welcome team.

It is important not to lose the vision that this change is about growth, and that change is very positive when it is for constructive reasons. A second service is already needed, and though there will be empty spaces for a while, we will have exciting potential for the growth of the church body.

Along that line, we noted from the Address List posted at the boards in the back of the church, that there has been approximately a 25% turnover of members, and of those continuing, nearly half have changed address.

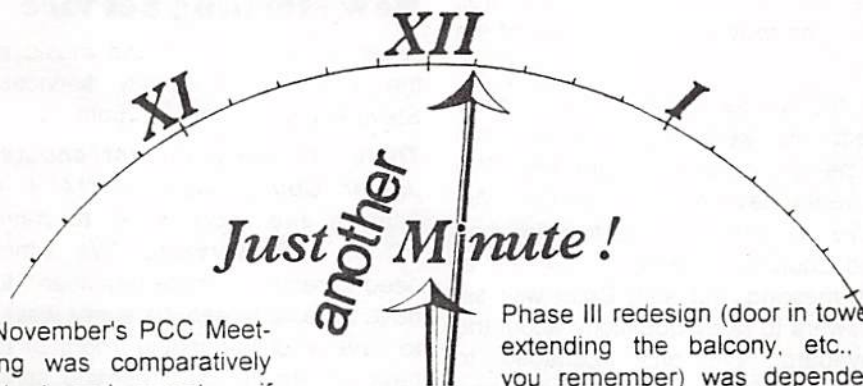
Sarah Churchill

Stay tuned for details of the November meeting.

Proposed 1994 Budgets

	1994 Budget	1993 Budget
Staffing Committee	66,222	52,938
Missionary Committee	44,390	39,230
Social Concern Committee	3,600	3,180
Quota	65,906	66,460
Treasurer (Mortgage, rates, heat, light)	8,580	8,496
Practical Ministries Committee	4,300	3,923
Fabric Reserve	1,000	1,000
Administrator	12,550	11,810
(Insurance, printing, office expenses)		
Pastoral Leadership Group	8,340	6,670
(Membership groups, training, worship, outreach)		
	£214,888	£193,707

(In order to achieve these budgets, a 15.5% increase in giving is required!)



November's PCC Meeting was comparatively short and sweet - if these things can be!

We have talked to the architects re: car park planning, but their answers are non too satisfactory, so nothing's happening at the moment.

Lots of church machines aren't working: the photocopier, one computer (being fixed as I write), a water heater and others, *but* church now owns a fax machine, bought from the savings on the new phone system. There are now 611 adults on the address list, slightly down from last year, due to pruning rather than leavings.

We asked if discarded pewslips are recycled? No, they're binned, but this is going to change.

Redesign Fund

All of St. Nic's outstanding loans should be paid off by the end of '93. There will be about £2,000 left over which could be used for future improvements. Proposed, seconded and unanimously accepted.

Phase III redesign (door in tower, extending the balcony, etc., if you remember) was dependent upon the council putting Maid Marian Way in a tunnel and us then moving our main entrance. The City Council has gone off this idea, preferring to pedestrianize Castlegate, thus Phase III is shelved. We still need to think how to use the tower area better. Children's place, notice boards chair storage... all pending.

1994 Budgets (See left)

The 1994 budget requires a 15.5% increase in giving, on top of a what we hope will end up being a 17% increase this year. We are helped by the fact that there won't be the huge increase in quota next year as there was this year. We voted to accept the budget, 14:0, but sat in quiet before voting, and one person had the following picture:

There were some people sitting under a tree, with their heads in their hands, and the tree was withered and shrivelled. On the other side, there were people jumping up and down



like children, reaching for the fruit that was growing on that side of the tree.

£1,250 will be spent on a new good electronic keyboard. We will sell some of our pianos to fund this. (We currently have a piano overflow. We have 4: vestry, lower-lounge, hall and church). Jeremy couldn't be at the meeting, but sent Colin with six answers to likely questions about the keyboard. We only managed to guess two of the questions, and having been given the answers, spent most of the rest of the meeting trying to work out what the rest were. We also discussed how good-looking Colin's sons are. ("Like Father, like son", he said.)

Clergy Report

Alpha is going well, and there are tangible spiritual results week-by-week. The Barn Dance was a good thing. More social events would be good for building community. [See inside back cover for result, and do come, it's the event of the (last) century - Ed].

Training for area visitors of the new pastoral system will begin from the end of January and again in March. The visitors will probably start to phase in in the Spring. Recruitment will probably be from existing link group leaders and other pastoral people. Link groups will become 'house groups' and some new ones will be created to fill the gaps in the map.

New Morning Service

Janie Beales will lead the music at the 9:15am and Family services, Steve and Ginny the 11:15am.

There are presently not enough Junior Church leaders (14 + 4 helpers) and recruits (4) to have JC at both services. We either need to recruit a whole new team, to have an all-age service every week, to have a 'child-minding' room or to have an 'adults only' morning service. Answers on a postcard, please.

With peopling two services, Prayer Ministry is stretched but OK, Stewards, ditto. PA is OK, readers, intercessors and OHP are working on it.

Our future youth worker has handed in his notice at his school and is now working as a supply teacher in his old school, covering for his own job. He is probably though, as Chris Nurden commented, 'only covering half of himself'!

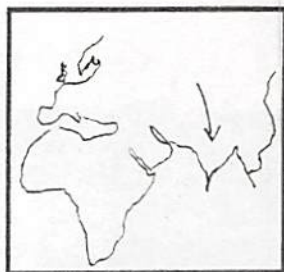
David Betts reported that the Notts. Clergy and Widows Benevolent Fund had said thank-you for something, but he wasn't sure what. Upon further inspection of their letter, they were found to be asking for more money.

We did a straw poll on Communion frequency. Five of us preferred to keep Communion once a month as it is, five of us preferred to go back to twice a month as it used to be. The rest abstained.

AJM



From Our Own Correspondent



Shaun and Jan Walsh: the Latest News

Where on Earth Are They?!

That's a good question. we've hardly been able to keep up with ourselves! From Bombay, we travelled to Pune to meet Steve Cochrane, director of the Frontier Missions Centre (FMC), regarding moving there in December. After 2 weeks, on to Hyderabad for another 2 weeks, where Shaun had some unfinished business, also to pack up our belongings in readiness for moving. Then, at late notice, Shaun travelled down to Madras for a financial meeting with the National Director and Sam (base leader). While he endured the 38 hour train journey up to Delhi (and the unpleasant experience of having his briefcase stolen), Jan and Sarah took the luxury of flying from Hyderabad.

After a week at the YMCA in hot, humid Dehli, where we were able to meet up with the Norwegian team from the January SOFM, we finally made our way up to Mussoorie for two more months of Hindi study before we dig in in Pune.

Nostalgia in Mussoorie

You may recall we were here two-and-a-half years ago, to study Hindi at the language school, and Sarah was born here. Well, nothing much has changed in this sleepy hill-station, except the weather, which is chilly compared to May! As last time, finding suitable accommodation looked to be a big problem, but the Lord again provided a lovely house, close to the school and safe for Sarah. We will stay here until the end of November. We were here when we heard news of the terrible earthquake in Maharastra, which killed 30,000. Fortunately, no-one we know was involved, but pray for effective relief efforts and witness to the love of God in the devastated areas.

Great Expectations!

We'll give you 3 guesses... Yes, you got it, Jan's expecting again! We discovered shortly after our return that another baby Walsh will join our fam-





ily next April. We are very happy that Sarah will have a playmate soon-she loves playing with other children and will make a very bossy 'mum'. no doubt! Jan experienced some nausea up until the 12th week when, like with Sarah it diminished. Please pray for a continued trouble-free pregnancy, especially for protection against stomach bugs, which she seems more prone to than Shaun.

Looking Ahead . . . To Pune

On our visit to Pune in August, we felt the Lord confirm that it was the right place to move to. Shaun will be working in the FMC with 13 other staff, with specific responsibilities in the area of training for potential church-planters in India (currently the S.O.F.M. programme), also ongoing training and support of the 17 existing teams. Because YWAM's ministry in India has grown so quickly in recent years, there is an urgent need for development of systems for the church-planting works. YWAM's big-

gest personnel need right now is for administrators, secretaries and skilled "support" professionals! The FMC is a small office which serves frontier missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan! Although this sounds daunting, its function is obviously limited, and the bulk of the responsibility is within India.

In December we will move into temporary accommodation in Pune, hopefully only a few weeks, until we have found a suitable apartment for ourselves. Please pray with us for somewhere to become available quickly, so we can get settled. We will also have to leave the country to renew our visas and we may do this in December when we leave Mussoorie. We are thinking of going to Bangladesh for 10 days, flying from Dehli than back to Bombay. Please pray for grace for all this travel!

Our Permanent address from December:

**Shaun and Jan Walsh,
F.M.C., PO Box 127,
Pune, 411 001,
Maharashtra,
INDIA**

We have sent a cassette tape recently to Phil and Sue Andrew, who will be pleased to copy it for you if you send a blank tape and return envelope.

Much love to you all,

Jan, Shaun, Sarah, plus...

Having a Souper Time



As winter sets in, the soup run teams from St. Nicholas' church and both universities continue to set out in the

cold weather, aiming to bring physical and spiritual warmth to the homeless, because it is at this time of year that their need is greatest. For those sleeping rough, it is a matter of survival and this struck home recently when one of the homeless men reminded me about the frost-bite he suffered last winter.

I feel it is worth looking back over the last couple of years in order to be encouraged and motivated.

Prayer is the Key

Prayer is the key to the effectiveness of the soup run, and as a result of prayer, God has greatly blessed our efforts. We continually pray for safety and protection for the team members. As Saturday co-ordinator, I always experience an inner peace and comfort that God is with us. We

also pray for good conversations with those we meet, especially for opportunities to share our faith without being forceful. I have been amazed at the numerous times that homeless people have opened up to us and been willing to speak freely about knowing God.

Can You Take Up This Challenge?

It is difficult at times to relate to these people, but I've found through prayer, that God can give us a spirit of compassion. I am often particularly saddened by what I see in this fallen world and by the tragic life stories I hear - I tell you, nothing shocks me now. This reinforces my longing to inject some love into the world. Verse 17 of 1 John chapter 3 states clearly that "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth."

Can you take up this challenge?

Andrew Hawkins

Christmas Wordsearch

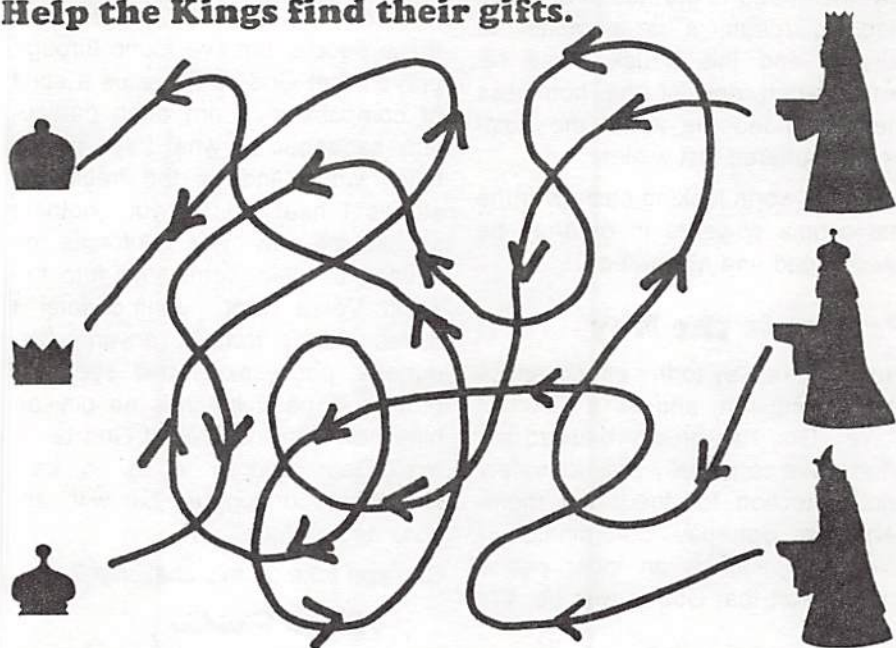
Bible Brain

H O L Y S P I R I T G
U E C A R G S I D D T
B H I J O S E P H M E
I M M A N U E L I A H
R A N G E L W E S R P
T E T G L O R D Y R O
H R O E F I W G R I R
S D I V O R C E A E P
S O N D I V A D M D O

Angel	Immanuel
Birth	Joseph
David	Lord
Disgrace	Married
Divorce	Mary
Dream	Pledged
God	Prophet
He	Son
Holy Spirit	Wife

Find the words from Matt. 1. Any letters left spell the meaning of Immanuel.

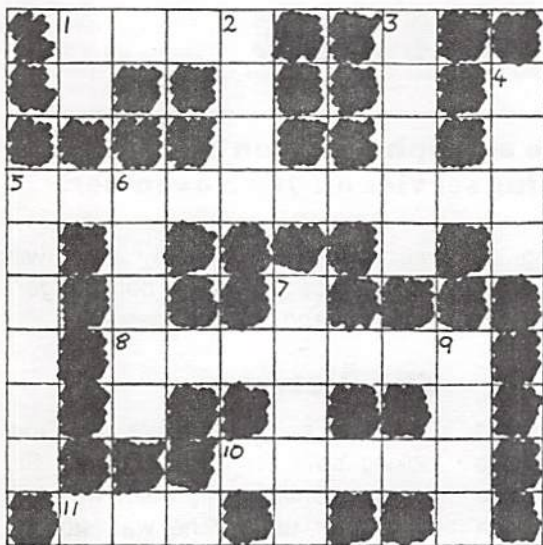
Help the Kings find their gifts.



Benders

Christmas Crossword

All the answer are found in Matthew 1:1-17. The genealogy of Jesus.



Across

1 The son of Eliakim and father of Zadok.

5 Bathsheba's marital position in Matthew's gospel.

8 Husband of Sarah & father of 6 down.

10 She gave birth to twin sons, Perez & Zenah.

11 The 3rd king of Judah, who tried to wipe out pagan worship. Father of Jehoshaphat.

Down.

1 Matthew 1:11. The answer is in this verse somewhere.

2 An Old Testament book. She married Boaz.

3 An O.T. king and accomplished harpist.

4 The father of Jesse and 3 down's grandpa.

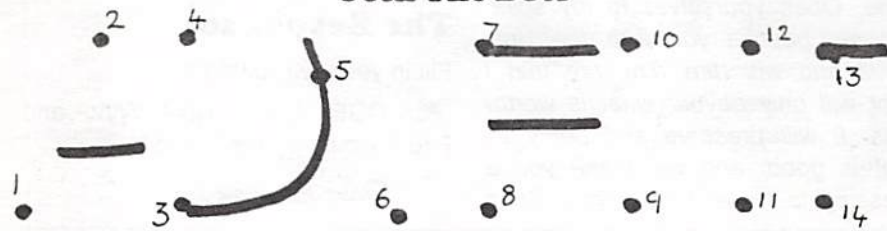
5 When this king became powerful he became proud and developed a skin disease. Jotham his son had to take over the land.

6 A ram took his place. His name means laughter.

7 She hid Joshua's spies & was saved with her family when Jericho fell.

9 The mother of Christ.

Join The Dots



Words and Pictures and Words and Pictures and Words and Pictures and Words and Pictures and Words and
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Words and Pictures

A personal response to a prophecy given by Charlotte Barrett at the evening service on 7th November.

Pauline Walker was preaching on Isaiah 41.

your hearts to me today and I will come to you in love and not in anger, in mercy, and not in judgement.

Observation

God desires friends. He has a hunger in his heart for friends. God said "Abraham my friend". He wants us to be seized by an ambition to become His friends. There are no preconditions, only a willingness to be seized by God.

The Picture

Charlotte saw a picture of God looking down on the people of St. Nicholas Church. His heart was full of love for us and he was sighing with deep emotion over us. He would send his Spirit on us, and He would blow through us like wind over water, or wind through a cornfield. She saw tongues of fire falling, and heard a sound of rushing water. She could hear the sound of singing and the sighing of God's heart over us. Then there was a silence which was alive with the presence of God, and which felt like shimmering dew in the early morning.

The Prophecy

Open yourselves. I will seize hold of you and draw you irresistibly. You will find yourselves running like the wind, straining every muscle to draw near to me, to know me, and love for my kingdom will burn within you like a bushfire swallowing up everything in its path and spreading far and wide. Open yourselves to my spirit. Let me baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The fire that I light will only devour what is worthless. It will preserve and purify all that is good, and will make you a blessing to those around you. Open

The Response

Fill in your own bit here.
(For DGE, Come Holy Wind and Fire. I would be His friend)

Dauc Elliman

Rest Vs Unrest

Sunday Trading

The long running saga of the revision of the 1950 Shops Act should be decided in the next month. In 1985 the government was proposing to completely deregulate trading so that all shops could trade on Sundays if they wished and for as long as they wished. This was in spite of all the evidence suggesting that it was not such a marvellous idea.

Time for a Rest

Society needs to keep one day different for leisure, sport and recreation - it is also good for worship as well! It was quite a turn around when in 1986 the bill was defeated. I think it was the only government bill to be defeated during the Thatcher years and there was a three line whip too. As a result of that defeat the present bill is claimed to give MP's a choice and a free vote as well.

Sensible Trading Laws

The Keep Sunday Special Campaign argue that the options are really only between a 'free for all' and sensible trading laws which allow limited trading on Sunday offering some protection for shop workers and small traders.

Are you concerned? If so, it is very important that you write a letter to your MP *now* to tell him that you wish to keep Sunday special.

Do write and tell your MP how you feel and urge him to favour the option based on the REST proposals which stand for Recreation, Emergency, Social and Travel activities. This bill has the

possibility of radically altering the nature of Sunday as we know it. There are wider implications of pressures on family life; on residents of city centres and those near shopping centres, on the police and other local services.



We're So-o-o Sorry!

The Editors issue an unreserved apology for the disgraceful quality of the photographs in the last edition of Fellowship - particularly to Steve Goodbody, whose picture, when published, bore distinct resemblance to a felon.

In token of our remorse and in an attempt to



undo any misrepresentation that may have ensued, we hereby re-issue to photograph of that most upright and deeply revered student worker, Mr. S. Goodbody. We leave our readers to draw their own conclusions from any passing likeness that may strike them.

Bible Brain Benders - Answers

Down 1 - At. 2 - Ruth. 3 - David. 4 - Obed. 5 - Uzziah. 6 - Isaac. 7 - Rahab.
Across 1 - Azor. 2 - Uriah's wife. 8 - Abraham. 10 - Tamar. 11 - Asa.

Crossword

The letters left spell out 'God is with us'

Wordsearch



If MP's get a large number of letters on a single issue they *do* take notice, so write **now**. All you need is to address your letter to:

'Your MP'
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

John Holden

Local MPs

Nottingham East - John Heppell
Nottingham North - Graham Allen
Nottingham South - Alan Simpson
Rushcliffe - Kenneth Clarke
Sherwood - Paddy Tipping
Gedling - Andrew Michell
Broxtowe - Jim Lester

An Advent-ageous Meeting

General Synod Report

This Group of Sessions had a very full agenda with legislation, liturgy, a private members motion, a diocesan synod motion, three important main debates and a report from the Advisory Board for Ministry.



Act of Synod

or

When is your Bishop not your Bishop?

The answer is when he is a P.E.V. (Provincial Episcopal Visitor) The legislation to make it lawful for women to be ordained to the priesthood has been approved by Parliament and has received the Royal assent. The final legal stage is to promulge the Canon when the Synod next meets on February 22nd 1994. *[I didn't know one was allowed to do things like that to Canons these days - Ed]*

However, in order to allow proper space for those who doubt the wisdom and rightness of the decision the Synod has now approved the wording of an Act of Synod. An Act of Synod is a formal statement of the will and intention of the Synod. The Act states that there shall be no discrimination against candidates for ordination or for appointments on the ground of their views about the ordination of women to the priesthood.



The Act also describes how appropriate arrangements would function for the Episcopal oversight and care of parishes which find it difficult to accept the Episcopal functions of their own diocesan. Included with this Act is the plan to appoint Provincial Episcopal Visitors (P.E.V.s) who will by invitation of the diocesan bishop perform appropriate Episcopal duties as well as represent the views of



such parishes to the House of Bishops.

An overwhelming majority of the Synod voted in favour and it is genuinely believed that what we now have in place is a structure which will enable most of the opponents to stay and feel they have a place within the C. of E. We were told in question time that so far 25 stipendiary priests have left the C. of E. over this issue.



The Lambeth Report

or

How to Waste Millions of Pounds

The C. of E. needs to be grateful to the Sunday Times for exposing the mismanagement of the assets of the Church by the Church Commissioners. The Archbishop of Canterbury set up a group to examine the situation. The results are shocking.

The Assets Committee of the Church Commissioners engaged in speculative development projects and borrowed heavily to do so. It is hard to believe that they could borrow £380m without reference to the Board of Governors. Because of their large property holdings, the

recession hit the Commissioners especially hard resulting in large losses.

The problem arose mainly from an over exposure to the property market coupled with a lack of accountability of the Assets Committee. The Church Commissioners have accepted all the criticisms and have started to implement the recommendations. Unfortunately, it seems that their contributions to clergy stipends are about £20m too large and so we are all feeling the effect of this. *[Amongst others, last year's rise in quota - Ed]*

The Synod had a good and serious debate on the report. We were reminded that the main investments of the Commissioners have always performed very well, it is the property speculation which is at fault. Also the work of the staff at 1 Millbank in supporting the parochial ministry is greatly valued. One difficulty has



always been is that the Commissioners are not responsible to the General Synod but to Parliament. The appointment of the new First Church Estates Commissioner, Sir Michael Colman, will certainly see that their house is set in order.

Extended Communion

or

When is a Eucharist not a Eucharist?



The answer is 'When the bread and wine have been consecrated in the church in the next village'. The House of Bishops had brought a paper for discussion on this subject to the Synod. The problem is that, mainly in rural areas, the relatively few priests are unable to meet the desire for communion services in all the churches in their care. In some dioceses it is the practice for the consecrated elements to be transported from one church to another and the Bishops felt we should come to a common understanding about this practice. Being the C. of E. we cannot do so!

A few people liked the idea and some who were already doing it said it worked well, but the majority, from high to low, had grave misgivings. It was felt quite wrong to separate the receiving of the bread and wine from the memorial of our Lord's passion and resurrection. The Bishop's report was insistent that in the service at the receiving church there should be

no institution narrative (e.g. 1Cor. 11vv23-39) and it should be clear that it was not a communion service. The practice was just a pastoral necessity.

It looked to me that the bishops were seeking to defend the right of the decreasing number of clergy to keep this exclusive role of presiding at the Eucharist to themselves. For many Synod members the proposals are the wrong solution to the problem and a surprising number of speakers were actually voicing the possibility of lay presidency and they were not repudiated.

Other solutions are to use non-stipendiary ministers or to ordain local non-stipendiary ministers or simply have fewer communion services. The report was received without enthusiasm. I hope we don't go down this road of a 'Eucharistic meals on wheels service'.



Energy, Unemployment, Homelessness, Ministry

A Diocesan Synod Motion from Lichfield was about the disastrous effect of the closure of so many coal mines and it urged, among other things, the



Some Thoughts on Spiritual Gifts

Chris Barnes comments on a passage from the Bible that he has recently studied. Due to lack of space, the Editor's 'Blue Pencil' has been wielded!

The nine spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 are neither intellectual nor moral abilities, they are given to us by divine blessing and owe nothing to our own human condition. God, by His Grace gives them freely and copiously when we desire them with a true heart. Jesus our Lord bought them with His precious blood to wage warfare against evil. Without them the Church is impotent.

A. T. Pierson wrote, *"Everyone has some gift, therefore all should be encouraged. No one has all gifts, therefore all should be humble. All gifts are for one Body, there-*

fore all should be harmonious. All gifts are from the Lord, therefore all should be studiously faithful. All gifts promote the health and strength of the whole body, therefore none can be safely dispensed with. All gifts depend on His fullness of power, therefore all should keep in close touch with Him."

God's spiritual gifts help to make us strong in ourselves, and in the Body of the Church. When strong on the inside I can say "Come on world, do your worst and see how God will match it with His best."

Chris Barnes



government to have an energy policy. Unemployment and homelessness were the concern of a Private Members Motion. This motion asked for a fair and just system of raising revenue to pay for positive measures to relieve the situation. The ABM report 'Order in Diversity' was debated on the Friday and I can't comment as I was not there! It was a pity we did not find time for Bishop Colin Buchanan's motion seeking the lifting of

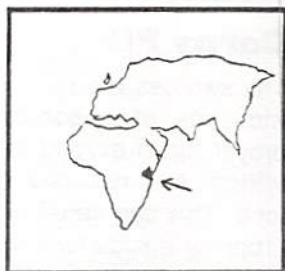
direct State control on the appointment of bishops and church legislation. It would have provided a lively and entertaining debate to relieve the tedium of some of our other work.

John Holden





From Our Own Correspondent



A Sunday in the Life of Kangitit Girl's boarding school, Turkona, Kenya

Kirsty Offord is spending a year teaching English in Kenya as a volunteer with AIM (Africa Inland Mission)

The rolling purple hills, the vast expanse of space, the silence and the stillness of the desert, the occasional bleating of a goat and call of a shepherd sets the scene for the little village of Lokori in Turkona, northern Kenya.

It's 8:00am, Sunday morning and the peace is shattered by the beating of drums and the voices of 140 girls in close harmony. Half an hour later, the morning service begins. The worship then switches tempo to hymns from "Golden Bells".



What's the Time?

Teachers take it in turns to give a 'message' and the service usually lasts an hour (depending on who's speaking)!

Church officially begins at 10:00am, but what's time when you're in Africa? The Church, built in 1964, is a very simple design with a stone pulpit and wooden benches (and you thought St. Nic's pews were uncomfortable!) It has a very effective air conditioning system created by the fact that there are no walls! Women make up the majority of the congregation most of whom cover their heads (apart from the tribal women, who stick to beads and feathers) and most, not all, make an effort to cover their chests!



Corny PCCs

The services are pretty spontaneous with lots of opportunity for open prayer, open singing, greetings from visitors and requests for money or food. This can vary from 10 shillings (10p) for a soda for a visitor to some meat or maize for a Church council meeting.

The whole service is translated from Turkana to Swahili or vice versa. Sadly, I don't find this too inspiring, although it's always interesting to sing "What a friend we have in



Jesus" in Turkana! Unfortunately the Pastor is not officially ordained and so cannot conduct communion. Communion is one thing I *do* miss.

A Little 'Accident'

The children who gather on the floor are a constant source of amusement. They are absolutely filthy - even their eyelashes are caked in dirt. Every week I want to take them home to wash them. Rebecca (my fellow volunteer) isn't quite so keen. It could be something to do with the time that one girl relieved herself while sitting in Becca's knee!

After shaking hands with the whole congregation we walk home in the blazing midday sun.

At 4:30pm we have Bible studies. I

lead the youngest group, but not necessarily the youngest girls - at least half are older than me! We meet under the shade of a tree with stones for seats.

Bible Bashing!

The girls and I enjoy teaching each other courses in our "mother tongues". It's amazing how well a Bible and a stick double up as a drum! We are studying discipleship and I've introduced them to praying together and encouraging each other (e.g. prayer triplets). This is a new concept for them but one which they have taken to really well.

At 7:30pm there is an evening fellowship meeting which the female Christian teachers take in turn to lead (the men can't be alone with the girls after dark). This is normally preceded by at least half an hour of very energetic singing. The drum has had to be banned in the evening as they can get a bit carried away. This is a more relaxed informal time where they have a quiz or for example, last week my Bible study group mimed some of the parables



in a very imaginative and original way. The evening is rounded off with some kind of message.

So basically, Sunday is packed full with ... God - Just how it should be.



God is too 'Normal'

Unfortunately though, God has become so 'normal' that a lot of it washes

over the girls. Nearly 100% are quick to say that they are 'saved' and know Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. They know all the facts, can sing all the songs, say the right words, but they know it in their hearts?

On Sunday evening, Agnes, in form two came to me to ask how can she be sure that she is saved when she is away from the School.

In term time it is easy just to get carried away but the holidays are very difficult times - the Christmas holiday starts November 19th.

It is my prayer that more of the students here at Kangitit will acknowledge that they need to have a personal relationship with God and that they will take advantage of the privileged Christian situation that they have at the School before it is too late.

Kirsty Offord



House for Sale

£31,950

- Lenton Abbey, close to St. Barnabas'.
- Two bedroomed, terraced house, late 1930s, modernised, with gardens front and rear; potential off-street parking in front garden.
- No chain. Immediate vacant possession.
- For further details, or to arrange to view the property, please contact the vendors, John and Pat Morgan. Tel. 251076



Just Visiting

Just Visiting

I had to drive quite a distance to get to these St. Nic's members' house, but since I live out of the city as well it wasn't too bad.

I was welcomed into their house and given a lovely meal (no soup, only two courses). I think they've done this sort of thing before. We managed to avoid the subject of Accountancy, much to the relief of the cook.

On searching for clues I found cuddly toys in the main bedroom and Muppet wallpaper in the spare room, but no actual evidence of children. There was also a very industrious-looking study. In the lounge I found an open Bible and a study book, which I presumed was a preparation for the following day's house group meeting. I also found a guitar and a piano.

Who lives in a house like this?



Visitees:

Andy and Sarah Churchill
Carl and Alison Towner
Chris and Sue Nurden
Bill and Pat Phipps
Richard and Sarah Fitzgerald

Visitors:

Barbara Holbrook
Louise Beaumont
Sharon Kerr
Heidi Ellison
Rachel Leader

If you think you know who is visiting whom, ring the Editors on 664938 and the first correct call received will earn a small but calorific prize!



*The Clergy and Parochial Church Council
of
St. Nicholas', Nottingham
cordially invite you to attend*

*A Celebration of the Festive Season
on*

1st January, 1894

Diverting Parlour Games
for either observation or participation

Dancing to Modern Tunes
played on the Edison Phonograph

Nanny's relief

Young Persons entertained from half-past-six until half-past-seven

Toothsome Refreshments


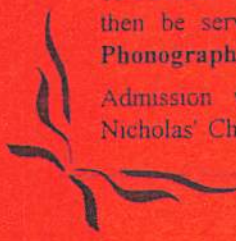
please equip your own selves with suitable beverages for personal consumption

Formal Evening Dress

While this is not required, diminutive but agreeable Prizes will be given to those persons attired in the most genteel Victorian Costume.

The festivities will commence at half-past six, with **Young Person's Entertainment**. Savouries will be served between half-past seven and eight o'clock. From eight o'clock until half-past nine there will be **Parlour Games and Moderate Public Dancing**. Sweetmeats will then be served until ten o'clock, followed by the playing of the **Phonograph**. Carriages at midnight.

Admission will be by ticket, purchasable in advance from St. Nicholas' Church or by application to the Editors.



What's Going On in the Worldwide Church?

Find out on

Sunday 16th January

David and Rosemary Harley will be spending the day with us, and preaching at all three services.

Morning Sermons:..... What's Going On in the Worldwide Church?

1:00pm Lunch

2:15pm Seminar: What is our Role in the Worldwide Church?

3:35pm Tea and biscuits

Evening Sermon..... How is the Gospel Relevant to Other Cultures?

David and Rosemary are part of the staff of BCMS Crosslinks (Bible Churchman's Missionary Society) and are involved in cross-cultural mission training. They travel to different parts of the world to work with those involved in training missionaries, to assist in the development of new missionary training programmes, and to encourage and promote cross-cultural mission and mission training.

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 8th January for 22nd January