

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

No. 011 MARCH 1984 Price 50p



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TUESDAY)	12 noon	(FRIDAY
WEDNESDAY)		(SATURDAY
THURSDAY	12 noon,	7.30pm.
FIRST FRIDAYS	8.40am,	12 noon, 7.30pm.
HOLY DAYS	7.00am,	9.00am,
	12 noon,	7.30pm.

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THURSDAY	7.00 - 7.25pm.
SATURDAY	11.00 - 11.55am.
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Parish Magazine

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Cover Design by Richard Smith, Adapted from a Polish sculpture made in memory of Polish wartime resistance fighters massacred by the Nazis.

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THIS IS YOUR MAGAZINE - - if you have anything you would like to say in the next magazine, don't wait to be asked, send it to the Editor NOW. Letters, short articles, photos, poems, funny stories, recollections, ideas or criticisms - - all are very welcome.....

Please include your full name and address and telephone number.

Remember if you know somebody who has something to say - it's up to you to encourage them to send it in.





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- thing here to suit you!

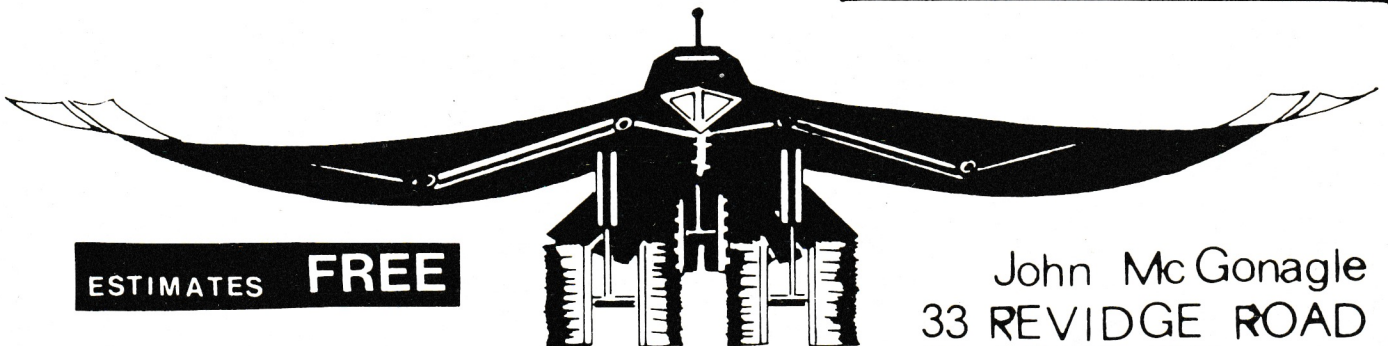
I recently read of a certain
magazine editor 'retiring' after
33 years at the job! Heck! I
thought, I'd better watch out!

Seriously though, I have
thoroughly enjoyed the exper-
- ience of editing this magazine
and I have come to appreciate
even more what a lovely
bunch of folk live in this area
--- but I don't intend to be
editor for life; three or
four years is quite enough, for
your sakes as well as mine!

So, please don't regard me
as a 'fixture'. Any budding
editors will be welcomed with
open arms (and will find at
their command a tremendous
band of loyal and talented
people). Any takers?

Meanwhile - happy reading
David Higgins.

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"THEN JESUS WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL"

In English, to tempt means to try to seduce into sin. But in Greek the word is PEIRAZEIN - and it means to TEST far more than it means to tempt in our sense of the word.

It is used in the Old Testament story of Abraham sacrificing his only son Isaac. Obviously God didn't TEMPT Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Clearly it was a supreme TEST of the loyalty of Abraham. God didn't and can't try to seduce into sin.

Metal is tested far beyond any strain or stress it will ever be called upon to endure: likewise, man - and woman - have to be tested before God can use them for his own purposes.

What we call temptation is not meant to make us sin: it is meant to enable us to conquer sin. It is not meant to weaken us: it is meant to make us emerge stronger and finer and purer from the ordeal.

The incident that you read in today's gospel is not so much the TEMPTING as the TESTING of Jesus. So ... during Lent you are being tested - and the Jews had a saying: "God does not elevate a man to dignity until he has first tried and searched him: and if he stands in temptation, then

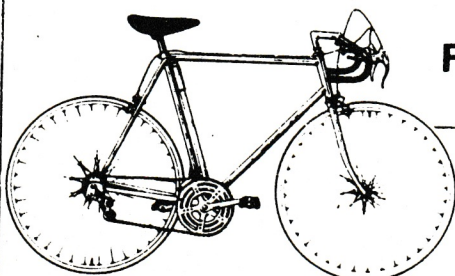
he raises him to dignity".



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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

TIME FOR A CHANGE

THE 1983-84 COUNCIL HELD THEIR LAST MEETING ON SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. E.G. SHOULD WE HAVE AN ELECTION, VOLUNTEERS, OR CO-OPTED MEMBERS ETC.

THE PARISH A.G.M. (OPEN TO EVERYONE) IS AT 8.00 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY 21st MARCH IN THE SCHOOL HALL.

THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE SOME CHANGES MADE IN THE FORM OR FUNCTION OF THE COUNCIL, SO PLEASE DO COME ALONG AND AIR YOUR VIEWS.

IMPRESSIONS

Two years ago while carrying out her works of charity as an agent for the 'four hundred club', Sheila Wright told me a very moving story of how there were very few volunteers for the new Parish Council and how worried Father Peyton was about what to do if no more names were forthcoming. Neatly sidestepping my question as to why she was not volunteering her self, she did manage to persuade me to allow her to propose my name. The only condition I laid down was that if there was, in fact a sudden last minute rush of volunteers (in response to similar heart-rending tales of woe told by other '400 Club' agents), I would be allowed to withdraw my name without having to go through the embarrassment of losing my deposit in the ensuing election. (As you will no doubt have glanced at the name at the end of this article and said to yourself "I wonder who he is?" you will already have proved my point in this).

Two years later my term of office is up and I would like to give you a few impressions of what it was like serving on the Council and the way in which it functions.

At the first meeting all members were asked which of the various sub-committees they would like to serve on. There were five of these; Projects, Liturgy, Youth, Welfare and Social. I volunteered to join "Projects" team mainly out of curiosity to find out what it was.

After the first twelve months I was not really any wiser than when I started. The Chairman of this group left the Parish after about a month and all our good intentions left with her. The idea was that each sub-committee met between each meeting of the full Parish Council and then reported what they had done, what help they needed for future activities etc. at this next full meeting. Without a chairman to call sub-committee meetings we didn't hold any, and I think it is fair to say that this particular committee achieved nothing during these twelve months.

Continued on page 9



is... News... News... 1

For Your Diary

- 14th March Wed. Lenten Mass at
St. Mary's Samlesbury
- 17th March Sat. St. Pats. Night do
in the School Hall
- 21st March Wed. PARISH A.G.M.
8.00pm School Hall
- 28th March Wed. Lenten Mass at
St. John Vianney's
- 28th March Wed. P.T.A. Treasure
Auction
- 7th April Sat. SPRING FAIR
(in the school hall)
- 11th April Wed. Lenten Mass at
St. Peter's, with the
new Bishop
- 13th May Sun. MAY PROCESSION for
all the Parish (Catherine
Leaf is the May Queen)
- 16th June Sat. FIRST COMMUNION.
- 20th June Wed. P.T.A. TREASURE
TRAIL.
- 24th June Sun. CORPUS CHRISTI
PROCESSION (for the whole
Parish)

Welcome

For the months of March & April, Sacred Heart Presbytery will be temporarily the home of a young deacon, Mick Cleary (no - not the singer!). He has already apparently, settled down to parish life and has been seen "around" - everywhere from School to the pulpit! The lads at Sacred Heart School are rolling up to sign on for Ushaw !! Welcome Mick - happy deaconing.

RETIREMENT

Miss Marjorie Hibbins, Dukes Brow has just retired after working for British Telecom for 34 years as a Telephonist. She started at the old Telephone Exchange in Darwen Street and moved to the new Automatic Telephone Exchange in Jubilee Street which opened in 1964 when S.T.D. was introduced.

She recalls many changes, also funny replies from the customers like the old lady who was receiving a Transfer Charge call via the operator, who said 'Mr Smith is calling you from a Blackburn call box, will you pay for the call?' The old lady said 'I haven't ordered any coal.

Also the operator on Directory Enquiries who was asked for The Swan with Two Necks at Chorley, the operator said 'I've nothing listed under that name' and the customer replied 'Yes its two Hens' the operator said 'you said two necks', customer, 'No I mean two N's in Swann'.

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RETIREMENT

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A Pilgrimage to the Great Carmelite Mother House of the West at Aylesford Kent at the time of the Annual Pilgrimage of the Handicapped. Visits to Leeds Castle, Sissinghurst Court AND A DAY VISIT TO BOULOGNE. Depart and return from Sacred Heart Church
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FURTHER DETAILS Dr Popham Mellor 2856

BROWNIES

- Jeanne O'Hare

In our last bulletin we said that we were entering a competition for the whole of Blackburn Division. Well we won the 'Highly Commended' prize for our crackers, and Christie Bulcock won 3rd prize for her 'Christmas Fairy'. I'm sure many of our efforts graced lots of Christmas trees in Sacred Heart Parish.

The month of February is very important for the Guiding Movement throughout the world. For February 22nd was 'Thinking Day'. On this day all Brownies Guides, Scouts, Cubs and all other branches of the movement think about other members throughout the world. There are 812,000 members of the guiding family throughout the world, represented in 98 countries.

At Sacred Heart we celebrated this day with a party. On Sunday 27th February there was a service for Billinge District at Leamington Road Baptist Church. Here we joined our fellow brothers and sisters united regardless of creed or colour 'To Think of Others'.



CAFOD

As our current project nears completion, we look forward to joining in Cafod's Lenten Campaign whose theme this year is "Just Food". A day of preparation for this campaign was held recently in Bury, organised by the Diocesan 'Overseas Mission of the Church'.

Under the same auspices, Fr. Luis Alegre S.J. has been visiting various points in the Diocese speaking on the plight of the poor and hungry in South America. He has addressed a meeting at Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Accrington on February 26th.

Family Fast Day will be observed on Friday, March 16th. Please support CAFOD then, and indeed throughout the season of Lent.



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News...News...News

Congratulations!

Mrs Ann McGonagle has been appointed Billinge District Commissioner for the Girl Guide Association with effect from January 1984.

The units in the district are:

- Sacred Heart Guides and Brownies.
- Leamington Foad Guides, Brownies and Rangers.
- St. Silas' Guides and Brownies.
- St. Lukes (52) Guides and Brownies.
- St. Lukes (74) Brownies.

(the numbers 52 and 74 are the unit registration numbers)

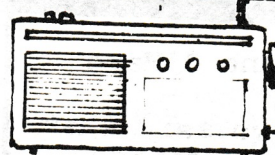
Mrs. McGonagle has been the warranted Brownie Guider at St. Silas since 1966. and was very honoured to be asked to be District Commissioner.

THAT WAS THE TEA

THAT WAS!



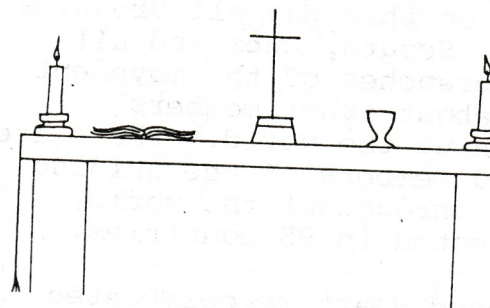
That was the tea that was: Unfortunately the over 60's afternoon tea sessions on a Thursday in the Sacristy never even saw one person over 60. So meantime, the venture has been abandoned - 'till Spring does it's work and revitalises them. Before we try again perhaps we'll invite all the ol'codgers to a coffee morning Watch out for details.



Radio Lancashire - Lenten PH

Why not tune in every Wednesday in Lent on 351 MW or 964 VHF listen and discuss topics including loneliness, love, marriage, sin and forgiveness divorce.

7.30 - 9.30



New altar cloths

Have you seen them? I'm not sure whether they're legally ours but rumour has it that there's not been any candle wax spilled and Fr. Michael has had a bit of trouble recently trying to get the lectern cloth to stay still while preaching. Maybe when he's as experienced (oops, I mean experienced) as I am then he'll learn the technique.

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SUNDAYS: 11am - 1pm AND 7.00pm - 9.30pm

News...News...News

MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

On December 13th the Mother and Toddler Group held its first Christmas Party. The food was contributed by the mums, as a result of which we had a good spread. The Sacristy was decorated with balloons and a tree, and we looked very festive. Whilst the children were tucking in, the sound of jingling bells could be heard and shortly Father Christmas appeared, much to the delight of some children and the horror of others. Each child received a card and a gift from Father Christmas, although some were reluctant to go near this 'strange' man with the white beard and red coat.

(Photo. P. 36)

Once the tables had been cleared and the mothers had indulged in a well deserved glass of wine, the music and dancing began, the 'Birdie Dance' has never been seen like that before!!

At the end of the afternoon it was agreed that we all deserved a pat on the back as it appeared that a good time had been had by all. I would like to thank everyone who helped in making the party a success, especially Father Christmas, if this magazine gets as far as Greenland.

Helen Brennan



UNDER 12's FOOTBALL NEWS

At the Blackburn Parish six-a-side knockout competition held at Darwen Leisure Centre on February 8th, Sacred Heart were represented by two under-twelve teams made up from the team which has recently won the local Parish League.

Whilst the 'B' team were knocked out in an early round by St. Peter's 'A' team, Sacred Heart 'A' team had a successful evening and beat St. Peter's 'A' team in an exciting final, to win the Trophy.

The team is now hoping for another successful run in the Cup competitions.

Bernard Fahey.

Down to earth

At the time of going to print, the Youth Debate on "Abortion" yet to "happen". This will have been the 2nd debate for the young people of the area - but hopefully not the last! The first topic "Peace at what price" had given rise to lots of healthy discussion.

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News...News...New



Guides

At Christmas the Guides sang carols at Nazareth House again. This has become a popular event on our calendar. This term we have held a clothing party and sponsored silence in aid of Guide funds, and our thanks to parents and friends for their invaluable support. We are holding our own Thinking Day celebrations in the form of an International Evening in addition to taking part in the District Service at Leamington Road. After half-term we are hoping to make some permanent patrol boxes to give a basis for future patrol equipment and activities.

S. Bloomfield and D. Mortiboy.

PTA

At the recent meeting it was agreed by a large majority that in future, the "First Communion" dress should be in white each year. There has been much mumbling concerning the alternate "blue year" and this seems to be a good solution

The style and material of the dress will still be decided upon by the school, with the aim of keeping uniformity in all processions.

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Anfield Football Stadium is one of the six centres planned for a Crusade from July 14th - 21st this year. Other centres are Bristol, Sunderland, Norwich, Birmingham, Ipswich. The Crusades will begin in May and end in July. Already local Christians are planning events and booking coaches to take some of the 240,000 people expected to visit Anfield.



ECUMENICAL GROUP



"Let's Come Together"

A group of women from all the various local churches have been meeting together on the first Tuesday of each month. Their object is to share prayer, and to have a cuppa in each other's homes, putting aside the differences and building on the common ground.

THE WINNERS of the Dec. Mag.

Colouring Competition were
Scott Cameron and
Caroline Yates!!!!

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...PARISH COUNCIL IMPRESSIONS.....continued...

The disturbing point about it however, was that nobody on the "full Council" seemed to notice this!

In contrast, the second twelve months seemed very energetic on the Project Committee: we were almost overworked with a lively and adventurous leadership. This seems to be one of the main faults, in my opinion, of the Parish Council as it functions at present too much depends on this sort of leadership by "random choice". A lot of it's members come along with plenty of enthusiasm but then find that this disappears when they are not given any real direction as to what they are supposed to do. Perhaps the situation would be improved if each sub-committee was given a clearer idea of what exactly it was meant to do. Personally I feel that there would be more achieved if there were no sub-committees at all and then each of the members of the Council would feel free to contribute to whatever he felt best at without feeling he was treading on someone else's toes etc.

I leave the Parish Council with the impression that it is a good idea in theory, but is not made the best use of in practice. Several of us wonder whether the Parish actually wants a Council. Very few parishioners actually use the Council as a means of voicing their complaints, making suggestions or request etc and this leaves many members with the impression that they are only putting forward their own ideas rather than serving as a channel for other people's ideas.

A new Council will have been chosen by the time this magazine is published. Make use of it. Let your Council members know what you think of life in the parish: anything from the choice of hymns at Mass to the sort of social functions you want. They won't always be able to do something about it but you can be sure it will be brought to Father Peyton's attention. You could also make suggestions as to how you think the Parish Council could be run with more obvious benefits to the parish.

(see you at the A.G.M. on the 23rd March!) Jim Grogan.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Jo Sweeney's letters (issue No. 10) requires support I think. Not only should children be welcome at Mass, they should come in at as early an age as possible. They will learn in time to modify their behavior and keep quiet, at first 'for the people who want to talk to Jesus'. More important, by coming they witness adults praying, and thus will learn to pray.

As well, keeping children out of Mass will not necessarily make it easier when, as older children, they come for the first time. Being quiet and still, is alien to children, way beyond the toddler stage. We also forget, I think, since Mass has been in English, that adult language, and especially the language we must use to describe God, is difficult for children to understand. It is difficult for adults too. How many of us understand every word spoken at Mass? With time, and by learning to listen, understanding will develop. Only by being quiet and still can we listen, and only by practise can children learn this difficult skill.

The valid point made by Mrs. Durnan; that mothers of youngsters get little time to listen and pray during Mass, may be answered in two ways. First, I am sure God would never allow a mother to lose grip on her faith in the years she struggles to give that faith to her small children. Second, on a more practical level, might not a mothers' Mass be celebrated from time to time. Volunteer helpers, grans, dads or aunties could baby-sit whilst mums came to the Mass without their little ones. They might even have a night out afterwards!

ANNE SOUTHWORTH, BLACKBURN

Dear Editor,

May I, through your column, thank all the Parishioners of Sacred Heart for their prayers, good wishes, cards and telephone messages during our trials and tribulations these past two years.

It is very hard sometimes, trying to keep faith when everything seems to be against you, but just when I thought God had forgotten me/us, something or someone would come along to re-new our faith in both human nature and God.

If I mention any names I am sure to forget one, so I will say a big 'Thank You' to all who visited me, one in particular who struggled to walk to keep up my spirits (Not whisky either) and another who visits regularly on Tuesday mornings, providing news, magazines and contact with the Parish.

What a comfort they have been. It is reassuring to know that in these times of short term hedonism, there are still people prepared to give up their precious time in practising their faith. I am sure God will reward them.

Although still struggling with blurred vision in one eye I hope I can reciprocate in visiting others, who, like me, may benefit in the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.

Yours sincerely, Cecily Shaw
61 Dukes Brow

Dear Ed,

Thanks for the amusing story of the Black Bag and for the reply by a certain parishioner in the last issue. As I work in the Travel Trade you can appreciate my amusement, I hear this kind of story regularly.

The reason I write, is in appreciation of the Christian Way in which a call for help was answered, and to inform the said parishioner that I have circulated his telephone no. to all my clients, in the hope that they will ring HIM and not me next time they are in a predicament.

PS. If any member of the Parish requires the No. let me know.

Sheila Cookson.

(Ed. Note. see issues 009&010)

LETTERS continued



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have followed with interest your endeavours to obtain a Parish Centre in which to develop fellowship apart from your place of worship. It must have been a disappointment when your planning application for a 'Centre' adjacent to the Church was turned down.

However, all things work for good for those who love God, said Paul in his letter to the Romans. The problem for us so very often is to see the 'good' and discern the Lord's will in a given situation.

May I state here and now that my view of the situation may not be the correct one, however, I feel strong enough and interested enough at least to beg your attention to a possible way forward.

The basis of my suggestion is 'UNITY', - Much is said about Church unity but little practical work done in our area. It seems to me that for a start we are already united in the area in which we live, work and socialise. In general our hopes and aspirations for the welfare of our community are the same. Our differences in churchmanship are historical, traditional, complicated and sometimes simply personal prejudices. Sadly such things are unlikely to be solved overnight. They can however be overcome by mutual respect and understanding. Perhaps it is in this sphere that the Lord is directing us. Not to building a "Sacred Heart" Parish Centre or "St. Mark's" Parish Centre, or any other denominational Centre, but a Christian Parish Centre to serve the needs of our common community. Surely, an economical project which avoids the more obvious problems of Churchmanship and doctrinal difficulties (which will have to be tackled in due time) yet in a way brings about a real church, the body of believers sharing and working together in the name of Christ.

Thank you for giving me space in your excellent magazine (another area perhaps in which co-operation is possible).

Yours in the love of Christ

David Weatherspoon
Vicar of St. Marks' Church.



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and before and after 10.30 Mass

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IF YOU DISAGREE
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OR WE DON'T DEAL
WITH THE ISSUES YOU
YOU THINK WE SHOULD--

PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR

Ed. Catherine has sent me a letter for every magazine. I've finally given in! _____

- When I knew that I was having my teeth out I was very excited. I was very excited because I was going to be put to sleep. When the day came I went to the dentists and waited. When it was time for me to go in I sat on the dentist couch and then I was put to sleep. When I was asleep I heard a very loud B Z Z Z and all around me I so yellow things after that I said to my self 'I bet I'm asleep now! and yes a was I was properly asleep. When I awoke I felt very dizzy so I had a sleep when I got back home and I had a photo taken of me without my teeth in.

CATHERINE HIGGINSON

- HOWS ABOUT A KIDS LETTERS PAGE? COME ON GET! WRITING!

LETTERS

Continued

To Everyone:-

My father-in-law's death shocked us all. He was chatting happily and then minutes later he was dead. We were aware that his heart was weak. Fourteen years ago he had suffered a massive coronary, and during the last year angina seemed to be troubling him. Yet we had not been prepared for this sudden end.

When I told my daughters how Gramps had died, and how he had known no pain, it did seem the best possible way to die. Yet the rest of us, selfishly, keep feeling that the very suddenness makes us unable to cope, unable to live. At this time, one has to trust in offering back to God, but few have that perfect faith always to say without bitterness "Not my will, but Thine".

I don't think any of us, especially Claire, my mother-in-law, would have survived the last fortnight though if it hadn't been for prayer: the prayers, the love, the kindness that so many people have shown. Fr Peyton was with us within minutes, and with prayers and his mere presence, he prepared us for the days ahead. Doctor Rebello followed almost immediately, and since that first hour we have been inundated with Mass Cards, messages of sympathy, personal callers and flowers. Even though we have cried, even though John will never be back, they have all helped. You have all helped. All we can say is

"Thank You".

Catharine Warland.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

For children attending non-catholic schools, classes are held weekly during school-term by Mr & Mrs J Sweeney, at 37 Revidge Road.

Primary school children Saturday at 10.30 am.

Secondary school children - by arrangement.

PLEASE TELEPHONE 57018 for details

SEPARATED?

DIVORCED?



Marriages fail for many reasons, some of them obscure and maybe, not even fully comprehended by the parties concerned. The plight of separated and divorced Catholics is a special one, despite the broadening of grounds for annulment in recent years, the majority will never qualify. They know that re-marriage during the lifetime of their former partner would not be recognised by their Church and would debar them from the Sacraments.

The Church now recognises marriage breakdown as a serious social problem. There is a growing realisation that the issues involved are complex and require sympathy and understanding consistent with the Gospel. We can no longer pretend that separated and divorced Catholics are an insignificant minority within the Church. One in three marriages now ends in divorce, but it could be nearer one in two, because separated Catholics are not included in that figure. More and more families are affected by divorce or separation - parents, children and grandparents all feel the pain caused by the breakdown of a marriage.

Committed Catholics also face a crisis of conscience, often resulting in feelings of failure, guilt and rejection. If ever there was an area of need for healing in the 1980s' this must surely be a priority. Pope John Paul II speaking in York, during his visit to this country said:-

"We must reach out with love, the love of Christ, to those who know the pain of failure in marriage, to those who know the loneliness of bringing up a family on their own".

What has been lacking is a clear coherent ministry which meets the needs of those who are experiencing or have experienced a breakdown of their marriage. One answer to this was the Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics set up in Manchester in 1981...

Continued Page 21

comment

- Which provoked the greater discussion in your family or at your place of work - fact or fiction? Was it the controversial "Thornbirds" which made the Catholic Church and her priests the subjects of many a heated argument? Or was it the headline story about the disabled man who was refused permission to be married in a Catholic Church? Which is really worth wondering about? fictional controversy can of course be dismissed ultimately, as we shrug our shoulders and say that it probably would never happen anyway. Fact however cannot be dismissed so lightly, because what is fact does or did happen. It cannot be ignored.

- Most of the people to whom I spoke on this topic, shared a common reaction when the story first hit the news - one of shock and disbelief.

Others even mocked a church which held itself up to such ridicule. There was also a number of people, well-schooled in obedience who were ready to support the Church at all costs. I can even quote a Muslim who said that this priest was to be commended for enforcing the law laid down by his religion.

- In any civilised society laws are essential, for the well-being of the majority, and cannot be twisted to suit the individual. In England we drive on the left and cannot change that law to suit a visiting foreigner for whom it would be more convenient to drive on the right. Obviously allowing the foreigner to drive on the right would endanger many people, but by bending the Church's law on marriage, would the joining of these two people in matrimony have endangered others in any way? The danger, as some people see it, is that once there is a chink in the door, the door is soon thrust wide open. We have only to look at the vast increase in the number of abortions and divorces to see that this does happen.

- Perhaps what that particular priest seemed to lack was compassion. What saddened me was that the couple seemed to be simply a case to be examined and pigeon-holed and dealt with in a bureaucratic fashion. Is it not possible that the laws of the Church are only a guide? Or is it written somewhere in the Scriptures that Christ said that the sacrament of matrimony cannot be administered if there is a possibility that the marriage will not be consummated?

Discrimination between the sexes, discrimination between races, discrimination between creeds and now discrimination between the disabled and the able-bodied -- does every man wishing to marry in church have to proclaim his virility and every woman her ability to bear children? Surely this would all mean that those marriages between elderly couples should never have been allowed.

- In all this I am still confused. Yes, I do think that laws are made to be upheld. Yes, I do think the couple should never have been refused a wedding in church.

Two last points still niggle. Firstly, what was this "new medical evidence" which prevented a bishop from supporting one of his priests but saved the face of the Church? Secondly, why, when they had suffered the indignity of making their story public to achieve their goal, were these two people not prepared to stand before God in church to be married?

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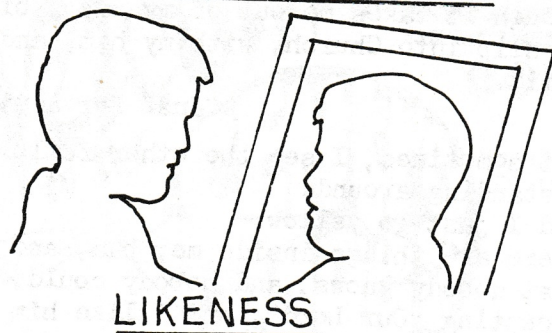
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CULTIVATING HIS



An elderly Doctor tells of an incident whilst he was still a very irritable young man. He met an older man who told him that he had found relief from irritability by looking up the moment he felt it welling up inside, and saying, 'Thy sweetness, Lord'. He tried it and it worked!

It is worth passing on as something which can be of help to all of us in moments of weakness and temptation - those moments when we feel the anger rising, or impatience getting the better of us, or when we feel tempted to say unkind things. Take the opposite of your temptation and look up inwardly to God.

- Unkindness - Thy Kindness, Lord.
- Impatience - Thy patience, Lord.
- Selfishness - Thy unselfishness, Lord.
- Discourtesy - Thy courtesy, Lord.
- Untruth - Thy truth, Lord.
- Roughness - Thy gentleness, Lord.
- Resentment - Thy sweetness, Lord.
- Anger - Thy calmness, Lord.
- Anxiety - Thy peace, Lord.
- Bitterness - Thy love, Lord.

There are many more, but the secret is to look up IMMEDIATELY we are aware of these things within us and ask God to change them to the opposite. The longer we leave it, the more likely it will be that these things will eat into our souls and take a hold of us. If, however, we cultivate this habit of continually looking to God, then our lives will be much sweeter and more Christlike, and will bear testimony to the Christ who is at work within us.

religion? ...



If somebody had asked me
To give my views two years ago
I would have said
I DON'T BELIEVE
Various events led up to this
One was the way I had Catechism
Drummed into me at school

I don't think
I even thought about God
Till my Grandad was ill
I PRAYED FOR HIMbut he was old
And he died.
He had been a good Catholic
All his life
He gave generously to the Church
Six months AFTER he died
The Parish Priest came to see him???
----- NO, I DID NOT BELIEVE.

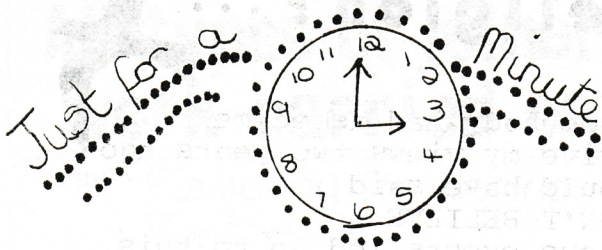
I thought that I
was more of a Christian ----

Years later I prayed again
For nine months I prayed for my
father
But my prayers were not answered.
THERE WAS NO GOD

Over three years ago I moved to
Sacred Heart Parish and through
my children I saw that the
Catholic religion was not as I
remembered it. The children were
not afraid to question. Through
them I began to take a closer look
at things. I started to search -
my mind-my heart-my soul. With
help I think I am at last getting
answers to the things I never
understood.

I STILL do not go to Mass.
I DON'T KNOW WHY. But I feel
more at peace --- I am finding
this very difficult to put into
words ---

Jenny Walmesley.



I remember, when I was only four,
mother would take me round to the store,
and just outside the Church she'd stand,
and, come in she'd say, reaching down for
my hand.

"Just for a minute"

And then, when I started going to school,
she's bring me down, every day as a rule,
but first, the steps to the church we'd
climb,
and she'd say, "we'll go in", you've
always got time.

"Just for a minute"

Then I got big, I mean seven years old,
and went by myself, but was always told,
when you're passing the church, don't
forget to call,
and tell our Lord about lessons and all.

"Just for a minute"

And now, its sort of a habit I've got,
in the evening, coming from Casey's lot,
though it takes me out of my way a bit,
to slip into Church, with my hat, and my
mit.

"Just for a minute"

But sometimes, I see the other fellows
standing around,
and I just go yellow.

There are things inside me, bad, and good
that nobody knows, and nobody could.
Excepting "Our Lord", and I like him to
know,

and he helps me, when in for a visit I go

"Just for a minute"

He finds it lonesome when nobody comes,
there are hours, and hours, when nobody
comes,
and He's pleased when anyone passing by,
stops in,
though its only a little guy.

"Just for a minute"

I know what happens, when people die,
but I won't be scared, and I'll tell you
why,

when "Our Lord" is judging my soul, I
feel,

He'll remember the times I went into kneel

"Just for a minute"

Josie Dowall

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WELCOMES CENTRE PAGES CENTRE

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Heather Bulcock	38 Gorse Road	698435
Sheila Cookson	67 Livingstone Rd.	62021
Bernadette Dudley	373 Revidge Road	65732
Joe Magee	31 New Bank Road	64904
Eileen McGonagle	34 Gibraltar Street	675498
Larry Moriarty	6 Mavis Road	62957
Mike Neild	10 Mavis Road	580443
Fr. Martin Peyton	313 Preston New Rd.	51808
Bernard Seddon	16 Whinney Lane	60488
Irene Walker	30 Harcourt Road	57639
Seamus Wright	68 Dukes Brow	580268

Vice-Chairman
Secretary

£800

That is the amount raised so far. YOU and YOUR EFFORTS have achieved this since November. There are too many people involved to thank all of them personally in this magazine; but the heartfelt thanks of the Fund Raising Committee, and hence the rest of the Parish, are sent to every single person who has helped in any way whatsoever. Please, PLEASE, continue the good work.

THIS SUM HAS BEEN RAISED BY DIRECT DONATIONS, FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE LADIES CIRCLE: FROM MONEY GIVEN TO THE PARISH CENTRE FUND INSTEAD OF FLOWERS AT A FUNERAL: FROM EVENTS SUCH AS AUCTIONS, FOLK EVENINGS AND PLANT SALES, AND FROM THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE. HAVE YOU ANY MORE IDEAS . . . LET US KNOW . . . WE WILL HELP.

WHAT IS A

Question

COVENANT?

&
Answers

1. The Covenant is a simple agreement between the individual and the Parish, to give a chosen amount, on a regular basis.
2. Under the Covenant Scheme, the Parish can claim back from the Tax Authorities, the tax which the individual has already paid on this money in his salary.
3. In effect, this increases by 43%, yes 43%, the value of your contribution to the Parish, and is now viewed as an essential source of income.
4. Confidentiality and discretion are guaranteed - - We are seeking only to enlist your help in a simple matter.
5. Initially, you will be asked to sign a short form of Covenant which the Parish will provide. Then, on an annual basis, you will be asked to sign an Authority (again provided by the Parish.)
5. The Parish then re-claims any tax paid at source, on your contribution to the Parish.
6. The new 'season' for Covenants begins in April.
7. In case of any difficulties or doubts, please contact Father Peyton, or the Parish Covenant Organiser. (Pat Humphreys, Tel. 673242.)

MANY PEOPLE ARE DOUBTFUL ABOUT SIGNING COVENANTS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER
BE OF GOOD CHEER . . .

What the Parish wants is to gain the full benefit of your generosity, by re-claiming a tax already paid.

What the Parish does NOT want is to pry into your affairs, know how much you earn or cause you any hassle whatsoever.

A 'Spring Fair' is something new,
to have a good time, and raise money too.
So come along and have a laugh,
You never know, it could be quite a gaff.
We've got someone famous to open the show.
Guess who? Go on.. you'll never know.
Contests for cakes and eggs and bonnets too,
We'll plan them all for you to do.
So come on now and have a go....
Yes you... not just the friends you know.
The date to remember is April seven,
Sunshine we need, not rain, from heaven.
We hope to see you having a ball.
Starting at two in the old school hall.

FOOTNOTE

WHAT WE NEED IS A POET NEW
TO GIVE A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW
SO LETS HAVE YOUR ENTRIES GOOD AND SOUND
TO THE BEST OF WHICH I'LL GIVE A POUND.

S.C.



Come and join us

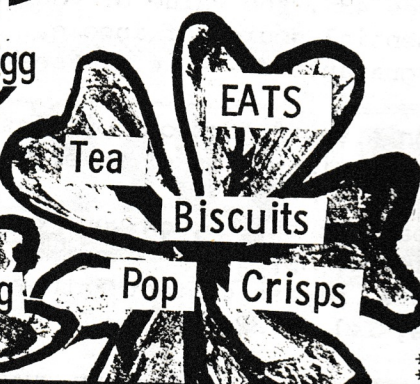


COMPETITIONS

Fancy Dress
Easter Bonnet
Decorated Large Cake
Decorated Boiled Egg

GAMES

Computer
Activity (if dry)
Guessing



The Competitions will be divided into two or three different age group classes. There will be prizes for the best entry in each class.

Entry forms will be printed shortly, and then be available to all who need them. You can enter before the day of the Spring Fair, or fill in an entry form when you visit the Fair.

The "Static" Competitions will be judged during the first half hour of the Fair, and the results announced during the afternoon.

The Fancy Dress and the Easter Bonnet Competitions will involve a parade and then the judges will give their verdicts. (Probably during the first hour, so come prepared.)

There is no limit to the number of entries per person, or to the number of competitions each person can enter...
AS LONG AS EACH ENTRY IS WITH THE 10 pence ENTRANCE FEE.
Come and see who can take away the most prizes from the afternoon.

Buy your Easter Eggs

The Fund Raising Committee would like some help in the form of volunteers, who would deliver information to Parish members in their area.

If about twenty people would become involved in this important area of communication, they would only need to make contact with twelve neighbours. With regard to how often information would be expected to be delivered:- at present, we would not expect this to be more than once a month.

It may be of course, that these 'contact workers' would like to do a little more than deliver envelopes. If so, then this could take the form of testing opinion on what the Fund Raising Committee is doing; in generating enthusiasm; even eventually, of organising an event which would raise money for the centre.

If anyone is interested in either becoming a 'contact worker' in their area, or finding out a little more about this important aspect of communication, please contact Sheila Cookson at 67, Livingstone Road, Tel. 62021, Irene Walker at 30, Harcourt Road, Tel. 57639, or Seamus Wright at 68, Dukes Brow Tel. 580268.

One final thought - - even if we had the money for the Centre, and had solved all the problems about its site; if we have not developed a communication system which both informs others of our feelings and needs, and makes the whole of the Parish a party to any 'Parish Activity'; we may end up with just bricks and mortar.

Go on, give it a 'go' for twelve months.

Become one of our first
'contact workers'.



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Below are 33 song/book titles, well-known sayings, various facts and figures of general knowledge, abbreviated into letters and numbers, some small words are given to lend a hand. HOW MANY CAN YOU GET? (answers to the first 3 are at the bottom)

1. 3 C in a F
2. A Y has 4 S
3. 2 C 3 A C
4. 4 P in a B
5. 15 M on a D M C
6. 14 L in a S
7. 7 C O T R
8. 147 M B at S
9. 30 D H S
10. 180 M on a D B
11. I T 1 T K 1
12. 1, 2 B M S
13. A C B has 64 S
14. 22 T in the E F D
15. A S in T S 9
16. 10 G B H O T W
17. T A W in 2 B 2
18. 64-61-36-62 G S M
19. 8 M A M
20. T S of D has 6P
21. 2 S D M A S
22. C of 9T
23. T 7 Y I
24. 8 N in a O
25. 59 S B S (F G)
26. A B A T 40 T
27. 3 L O M
28. 350 D F or R M 4
29. 3 L on a M S
30. I T 2 T T
31. T of T S B 90
32. A T W I 80 D
33. A D H 21 S

Solutions:-

1. 3 coins in a fountain
2. A year has 4 seasons
3. 2 company 3 a crowd

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SEPARATED // // // // // DIVORCED

Cont. from P. 12.

The Aims of the Association:---

- I To uphold the sanctity of Christian Marriage.
- II To help heal the hurt experienced by those who feel rejection and isolation, because of their present predicament.
- III To provide support and encouragement for those whose homes have been broken, and to provide help and support for the children of broken homes.
- IV To keep those who are going through a traumatic period of their lives in touch with God and the Church.
- V To educate the Catholic community to the needs of the divorced and separated people.

The Association meets on the second Monday of each month at 8. pm. at Marian House Beech Grove, Ashton, Preston. These premises were offered by the Knights of St. Columba, to whom we offer our sincere thanks for their charitable hospitality. The Association has its own Catholic solicitor whose kindness and concern have proved invaluable since the inaugural meeting in September, our membership has grown. We are not a Catholic "Gingerbread", a Singles Club or a rebel group within the Church. Our aim is simply to support and encourage Catholics by spiritual programmes, socials and new friendships to get back on their feet, avoid a ghetto mentality, practice their faith openly and free of guilt or anxiety, and eventually contribute to helping others, particularly those in the early stages of their troubles.

Because of the very nature of his/her experience the divorced or separated Catholic can emerge with new personal insights, a profound sense of his faith, a determination to build a 'new life' a deep sense of compassion for others, and contribute greatly to the life of the Church and Society in general.

The Association has received the Apostolic Blessing of John Paul II. For further information tel. Fr. Flynn (Preston 555547) Ann Gerrard (Preston 862076), or myself, Freda Potts (Preston 36402) P.S. On March 12 at 8. pm the meeting will be a pastoral exercise. Invitations have been sent to all clergy in the southern part of the Diocese and those parishes involving members south of the Ribble, to attend. Object:- to give members an opportunity to voice their anxieties and worries and to give the clergy an opportunity to show their concern.

2084 EXTRACTS FROM A PARISH NEWSLETTER



HER LORDSHIP THE BISHOP 2059-2084

GREETINGS FROM THIS WEEK'S NEWSREAD!

Congratulations to our Parish Priest, Monsignor Martin Peyton, on his Plutonium Jubilee. When, back in 2001, the Church sanctioned the Contrasenility Pill, we little guessed how effective it would be for some lucky individuals. When many parishes have to make do with a Hologram for Sunday Services, we are fortunate to have retained our own priest, and the oldest in captivity at that. Father Peyton just wishes there was a pill to restore hair: Many Happy Returns Father - and keep taking the tablets.

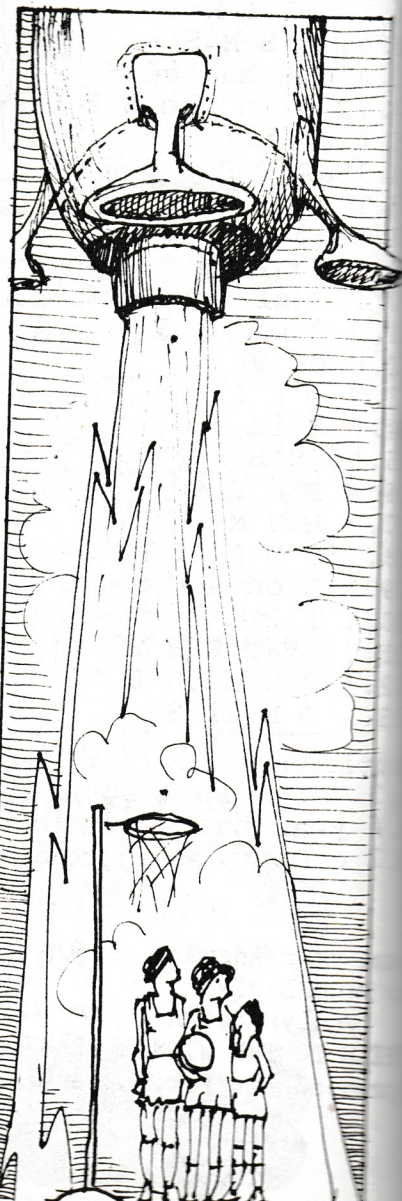
Congratulations are in order for our Bishop also - it's her Silver Jubilee.

Last Sunday's collection yeilded £69,754 in Sterling, an Antarctic Crown, 20 Euro-Roubles, a 5 Billion Franc Note and 2 Welsh Florins. There was one interesting old coin, a 10 cent piece from what used to be called the United States of America, now of course part of the Emerald Empire.

At the request of the Diocesan Innovations Board, the Parish has tested two devices which it was hoped might help to improve the quality of our Spiritual Life:-

1. Mechanical Altarboys Garment Evaluation Equipment (M.A.G.E.E.). This revolutionary machine had a promising start, but a rattling noise and smell of burning were followed by complete breakdown. Investigation revealed that this loss of function was caused by the presence of a foreign object. Will the owner of a badge bearing the legend 'BONANZA FOR POPE' kindly report at the Sacristy after 10.30 Mass.
2. Discouragement of Inattention by Electricity (D.I.E.) This machine has been found to be unreliable and its use cannot be recommended following an unfortunate incident involving Mrs H.B. of Azalea Accommodation Units. We accept that she was deep in devotions and definitely not asleep. Your prayers are asked for her speedy recovery.

The Catholic Netball League will meet today at 1400 hrs on the Church Transporter Pad.
Beam-Up to Dumfries will be at 1410 hrs.
D O N T B E L A T E ! ! !

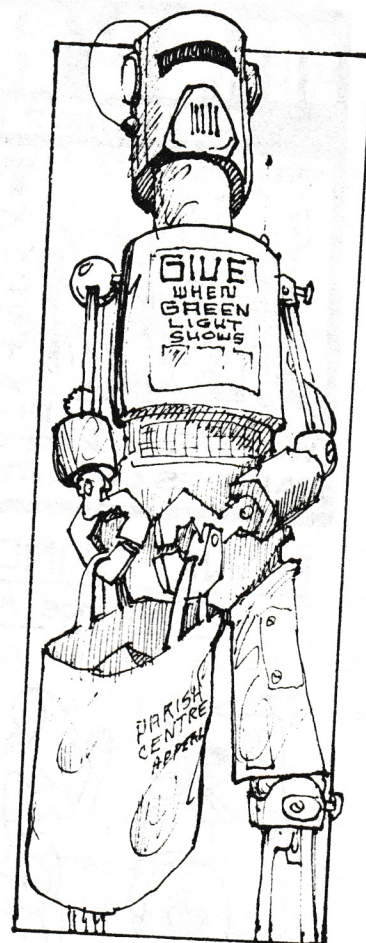


As part of the build-up to our May Fair, robots with carrier bags will visit most addresses in the Parish. Last year some parishoners complained that the robots were less than polite, so this year new "User-Friendly" Andriods will be employed. We hope this will encourage you to give generously.

Next month's edition of the Parish Magazine will contain a Special Free Gift - a Life Size Inflatable of the very first Editor, Mr (later Sir) David Higginson.

The latest plans for the Parish Centre are on view at the back of the Church. If anyone knows of a suitable site within 2 light years of Blackburn, please let us know.

From his Summer Residence in St. Petersburg, Pope Ndabaninge I has issued a Papal Encyclical. Entitled 'De Mirabilis Donis Dei', it concerns the recent development by many Church members of metapsychic abilities - telekinesis, telepathy, infravision etc. Counselling groups are to be established whereby those finding themselves in possession of these talents can learn to accept them as part of God's plan. Metapsychic gifts are to be used wisely and in moderation. They should not be employed to influence the results of Tombola or 500 Club Draw.



FINALLY, will parishoners please replace Missalette Cards after Mass in the receptacle provided. Father Peyton has lost count of the number of times he has had to make this request.

SIGNING OFF NOW - BUT REMEMBER - HEAVENLY FATHER IS WATCHING YOU!

programmer

```

10 REM COLLECTIONPROGRAM
20 LET A$="COLLECTIONFOR"
30 LET B$="SUNDAY"
40 LET C$="DATE"(INPUTDATE)
50 LET D$=A$+B$+C$
60 PRINT D$
70 REM MAINPROGRAM
80 DIM T(4),F$(9)
90 FOR I=IT09
100 DATA IP,2P,5P
110 REM 1/2PNOTINCLUDEDASTHESECOINS
120 REM WILLNOTPAYGASORELECBILLS
130 DATA IOP,20P
140 REM NOWTHEBISHOPBEGINSTOSMILE
150 DATA 50P,£1,£5,£10
160 REM NOWFRPEYTONBEGINSTOSMILE
170 FOR I=ITT09
180 PRINT "HOWMANY";F$(I);
190 INPUTN
200 REM ROUTINEFORCOINTOTALS

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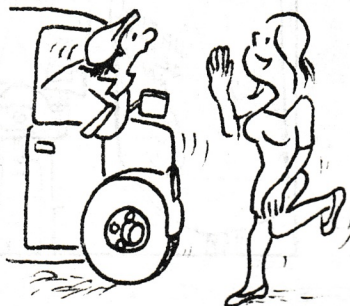
```

210 REM THISLOOKSTOOMUCHLIKEHARDWORK
220 REM I'VESTARTEDSOI'LLFINISH
230 IF I 4THENT(I)=T(I)+N:GOTO270
240 IF I 6THENT(2)=T(2)+N:GOTO270
250 IF I 8THENT(3)=T(3)+N:GOTO270
260 T(4)=T(4)+N
270 NEXT
280 RME NEARLYATTHEENDNOW
290 T=0
300 FOR I=IT04
310 PRINT "TOTALFORGROUP";I;"Is";T(I)
320 T=T+T(I)
330 NEXT
340 REM JUSTTHEGRANDTOTALCOLLECTEDTOGO
350 PRINT "OVERALLTOTAL";T
360 REM WITHTHATMONEYWHONEEDS
370 REM THETHORNBIRDS
380 REM ALLFOREIGNCOINSINDRAWERMARKEDHOLS
390 END

```


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Have you ever felt
really down? Like
the whole world is
against you - & nobody
really understands?

It's at times like these that
you need a good friend! If it's a
spiritual crisis, the priest can
come into his own - suddenly seem-
ing like a last hope and source of
comfort! Amazing how much better
we all feel for a bit of sympathy
or encouragement!!

Well, if we "grown-ups" get a
bit rocky, I suspect young people
(of all ages) must experience equally
worrying times of doom and gloom.

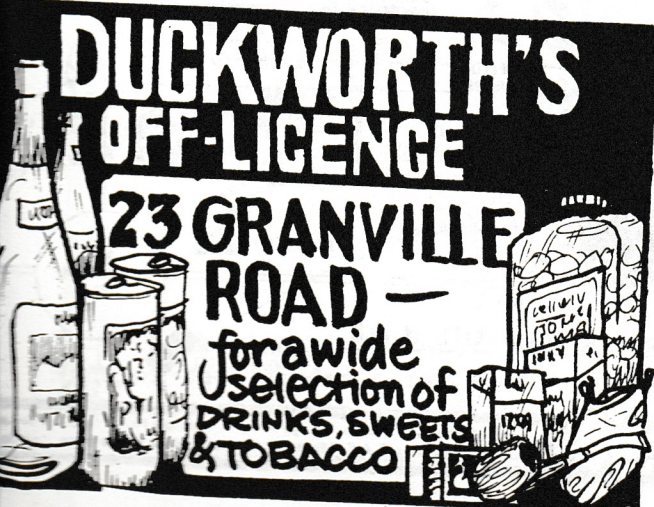
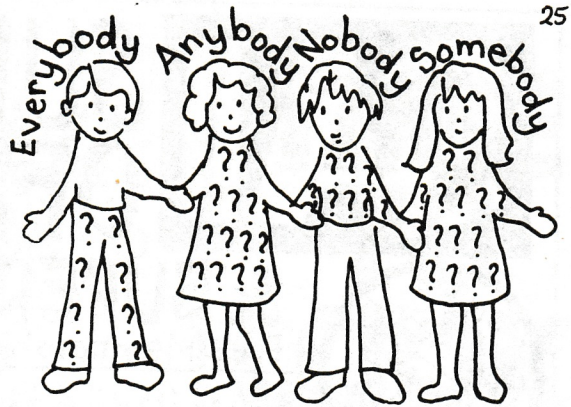
Last Sunday David and I went to
our little niece, Deborah's christ-
ening. Although not actually the
god-parents ourselves, it did make
us think quite deeply about that
function; the role of god-parents
in this modern Church.

We have no less than six god-
children, and I suddenly realised
just what a responsibility that
really is. If we can simply be
there when these children are go-
ing through their crises - support
them through the rough times, -
then maybe we'll be doing what the
Church intended! And if, like us
you think your god-child would
never come to you even if she/he
did indeed need a shoulder to cry
on, perhaps it's because you, like
us, haven't developed that special
relationship that such trust would
depend on.

- When did you last love your
god-child? While you count the
months, excuse me while I blush!!

Ann Higginson.

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25

This is a story about four people
named Everybody, Somebody,
Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to do
and Everybody was asked to do it.

Well Everybody was sure Somebody
would do it, Anybody could have
done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about that,
because it was Everybody's job.
Everybody thought that Anybody
could do it. But Nobody
realised that Everybody wouldn't
do it.

It ended up that Anybody blamed
Somebody and Nobody did what
Anybody could have done.

The moral of this story is,
If you think you are nobody,
just be sure that anybody can
be somebody,

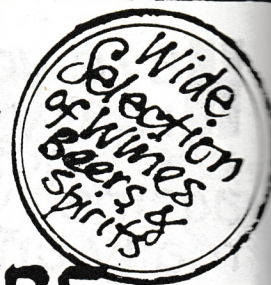
If everybody will pitch in and
do the job.

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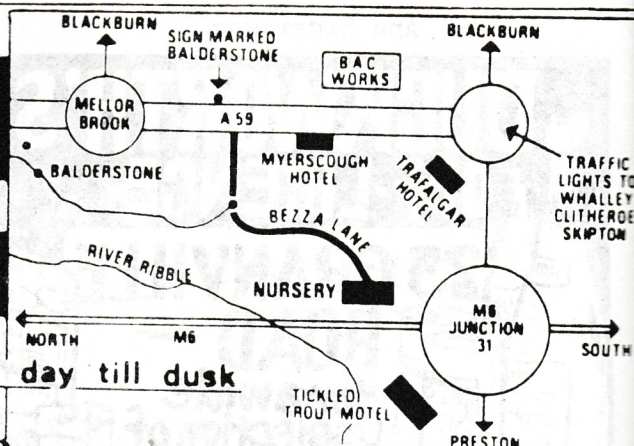
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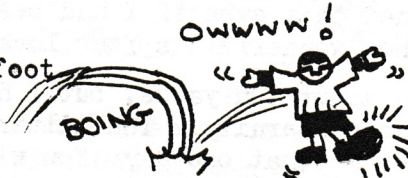


On the A59 between Mellor village and The Trafalgar Hotel take the Balderstone turning, opposite BAC Main Gates, then follow Bezza Lane, cut down.

Eight little Altar Boys
Like cherub sent from Heaven
Joseph said a rude word
And then there were seven.



Seven little Altar Boys
Polishing a Pyx
Matthew dropped it on his foot
And then there were six.



Puff!
Pant! Six little Altar Boys
At the church arrive
Father says to Ben "You're late"
And then there were five.



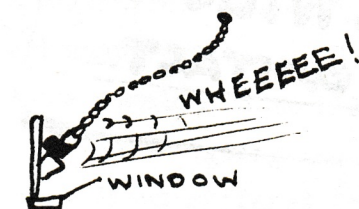
Five little Altar Boys
Proceeding through the door
Kenny got his cotta caught
And then there were four.



Four little Altar Boys
Clean as clean can be
Graham spilt the cruets
And then there were three.

Three little Altar Boys
With nothing much to do
Paul swung on the sanctuary lamp
And then there were two.

HEY!
WHO IS
GOING TO
HELP
ME!?



Two little Altar Boys
Looking for some fun
Tony said "Lets frighten Joe"
And then there was one.



One little Altar Boy
Left all on his own
He joined the moonies
And then there were NONE.



N.B. Thanks to all the above for being such good sports.
None of them minded being accused of such heinous crimes.
- In Fact some seemed quite proud!

Mary Waters

Illustrations by Andrew Booth

TIME TO LOOK AT YOU!

Happy New Year! — It's the time for new beginnings, fresh hopes and lots of good intentions! Try to find a few quiet moments to think about one or more of these questions. Parents, children, singles, grandparents....all will find food for thought and perhaps some ideas on how we can improve ourselves in the coming year.

- What's my best time of day, what's my worst time of day?
- Would I like to live with me at my worst time of day?
- What's my tone of voice when I talk to my family, my friends, people I want to impress?
- Am I generous in sharing my possessions with my husband, wife, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, relatives, friends, neighbours?
- Am I equally generous of my time with my husband, wife, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, relatives, friends, neighbours?
- After work am I eager to get home? Why? Why not?
- How do I welcome family members when they come home?
- Would they know I am glad to see them?
- When was the last time I hugged a member of my family for no particular reason except love?
- How do I feel about our family praying together?
- When was the last time someone in the family helped me out without being asked? How did that make me feel?
- When was the last time I helped someone in the family without being asked? How did that make me feel?
- What specifically could I do to improve our family time together? David Polek, C.S.S.R.

from "FAMILY PLUS", on sale at the back of Church(quarterly).

DEAR LORD

It was a cold November morning as I set off to town to do some shopping.

The fog was becoming quite thick as I entered Corporation Park, but suddenly there was a wonderful sense of peace in my heart. The fog swirled around me and it seemed as if I had become the only person left in the world, but You were there Lord, and I was reminded that even if I had been alone, You would still have died for me. O Lord, how wonderful is Your love for me.

Visibility was now down to about ten yards, but I had a vision of You, Lord, which stretched right out into eternity. The silver sun was trying to pierce the thick fog and it reminded me that one day, You will come again for me, and though life is sometimes a little foggy, I will see You. I will know then that all the struggles of life were teaching me something of my utter helplessness without you.

The pale reflections in the still lake reminded me that I must often be still and realise that You are God. You are in control and Your purposes will be fulfilled and this gives me great peace.

Little Robins hopped about on the path and a Magpie streaked accross between the trees, a beautiful winged pattern of black and white. You care for them, Lord and yet you have said that I am of much more value then many sparrows in Your sight.

As I walked down towards the gate, Lord, I was very reluctant to leave this quiet haven of peace for the noise of traffic and people in the town, but You showed me that You are in the busy work too, and that you want to reveal Yourself to many people in Blackburn who do not know Your Peace.

Some people will have accidents in the fog, Lord. Others may die without knowing You. So, Lord, if You can speak through me, please make me willing; and thank You so much for this wonderful experience of Your Presence on a very foggy day.

Anne Holding, Irene Pl. (parishioner of Church of the Redeemer).

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I heard a story of two boys who decided to give up sweets for Lent. Both saved the money they usually spent on sweets, and so, forty days later, on Easter Sunday, they had a nice sum of money saved. One boy spent all his money on sweets and toys, the other boy gave his money to a local charity

The season of Lent begins again on Tuesday, 7th March, Ash Wednesday, another forty days for the Sweetshop Owners to grumble and dentists to smile, as many people prepare to give up sweets for Lent. Lent is the Church's set time for all of us to prepare for the celebration of Easter, to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, after his Passion and Death on the Cross.



What's it all about?



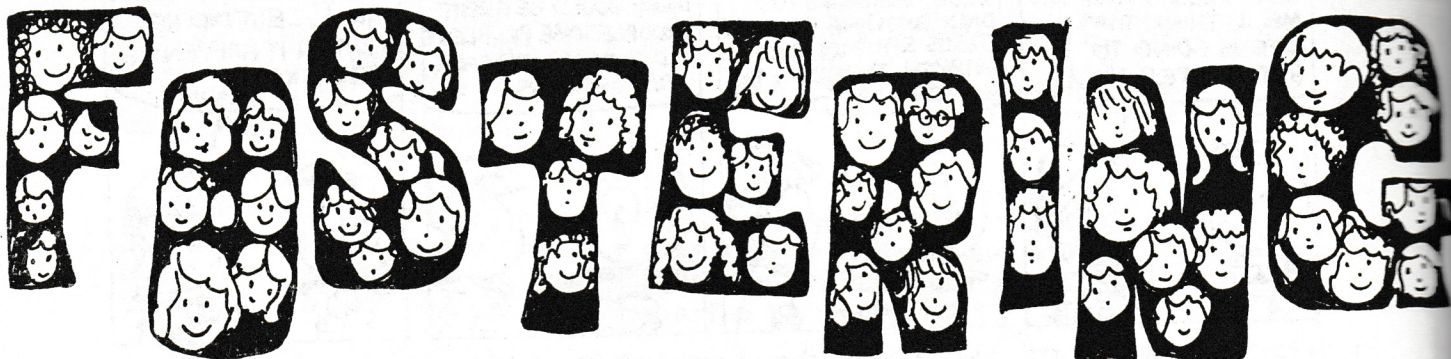
In the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, we are told "not to put on gloomy looks when we fast or to parade our good deeds before men to attract their attention, by doing this you will lose your reward from your heavenly father" (6 1-6 : 16-18).

When its someones birthday, you don't see the family giving up all their pleasures for a time before the birthday, and then on the day start to celebrate no, they make extra preparations for the birthday, which add to the events of everyday life. Preparing for the birthday means considering what the person would want most. Well isn't this more important at Easter, our preparations must be considered to help us realise what it is that God, Our Father wants of us. If we are going to give anything up, or fast from something, for lent, because Jesus suffered for us on the Cross, we have to be sure it's something to offer up to God, to show we do care and realise what has been done for us, it shouldn't be a second chance at achieving a New Years Resolution giving up something that is bad for us anyway.

Lent is supposed to be a joyful season as the time is approaching when we especially remember the miracle of the very first Easter.

Lent is a time for us to do something extra so we can help ourselves, prepare for Easter, not, as the Gospel for Ash Wednesday says, to impress other people. Whatever we do this lent, saying a special prayer every morning, calling into the Church for a few minutes, whatever we do, its worth doing if, its a way of helping us realise that Easter is a joyful time in the Church, A time for us to celebrate and be happy.

Mike Cleary (Deacon)



Not many miles from here is an end of row council house. It looks no different from any other house on any other estate. That is, until you open the door and are greeted by the family who live inside. The "family" usually consists, of Aunty and Uncle and a varying number of children. During the last eighteen years well over two hundred children have been given love, kindness and guidance by Ron and Betty alias Aunty and Uncle.

Ron and Betty are foster parents and over the years they have found places in their home and hearts for so many of the children that society finds hard to place. They are the children who as well as needing a new home, have other problems.

They may be mentally handicapped, maladjusted or they may find it difficult to cope with other people.

When talking about the children she has fostered, Betty finds it very sad that although all children are God's children, so many of them are rejected and unwanted.

Caring for other peoples 'rejects' can be a mixture of happiness and sadness. It can also be tiring, and frustrating, but from listening to Ron and Betty there certainly seems many happy moments to be shared.

One not so happy fact about fostering is that the time may come for a child who has become part of your family has to be returned to his or her parents. This says Betty can be heartbreaking. "You always have to remember that they are not your own children and never will be, so whatever you do, you should not expect anything in return. The satisfaction comes when you see them developing into decent young adults. This is what Ron and I work towards. To develop this in children who often are wary of love and kindness, requires a sense of humour, plenty of patience and most important of all faith".

I asked Betty why she became a foster mother, as she had her own family who are now grown up. She said the idea came after reading an article about children in care. "It touched my heart because I realised that we had become so complacent and selfish, when we had so much to offer",

Ron and Betty have cared for many children, some one night stays some a few months. One young teenager has been with them since he was a baby, fifteen years ago!

This interview was inspired by an article that appeared in the Universe a few weeks ago. It was not about foster parents, but about the many children in need of a loving stable environment. Many local authorities "advertise" their children in need. This I find sad, as it makes them look as if they are for sale. What price could you put on these young children? It made me think of Ron and Betty who are "special" in many ways, but their "Specialness" has grown because of their deep faith and their ability to share themselves with so many who need just what they have -

faith, love, and hope.

Perhaps we can all stop and take stock of the many things we possess. We might even find that we have so much to offer, that we too could share our lives with someone less fortunate.

Catherine Dudley.

CAN YOU CHANGE MONK TO LIST
BY CHANGING JUST ONE LETTER
AT A TIME TO FORM ANOTHER WORD

M	O	N	K
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
L	I	S	T



Children's Section

A MONK LIVES IN A MONASTERY
HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU FIND IN

MONASTERY

(AT LEAST 90 POSSIBLE)



by the Monk family

ANSWERS : Inside back cover.

Interesting Remedies...

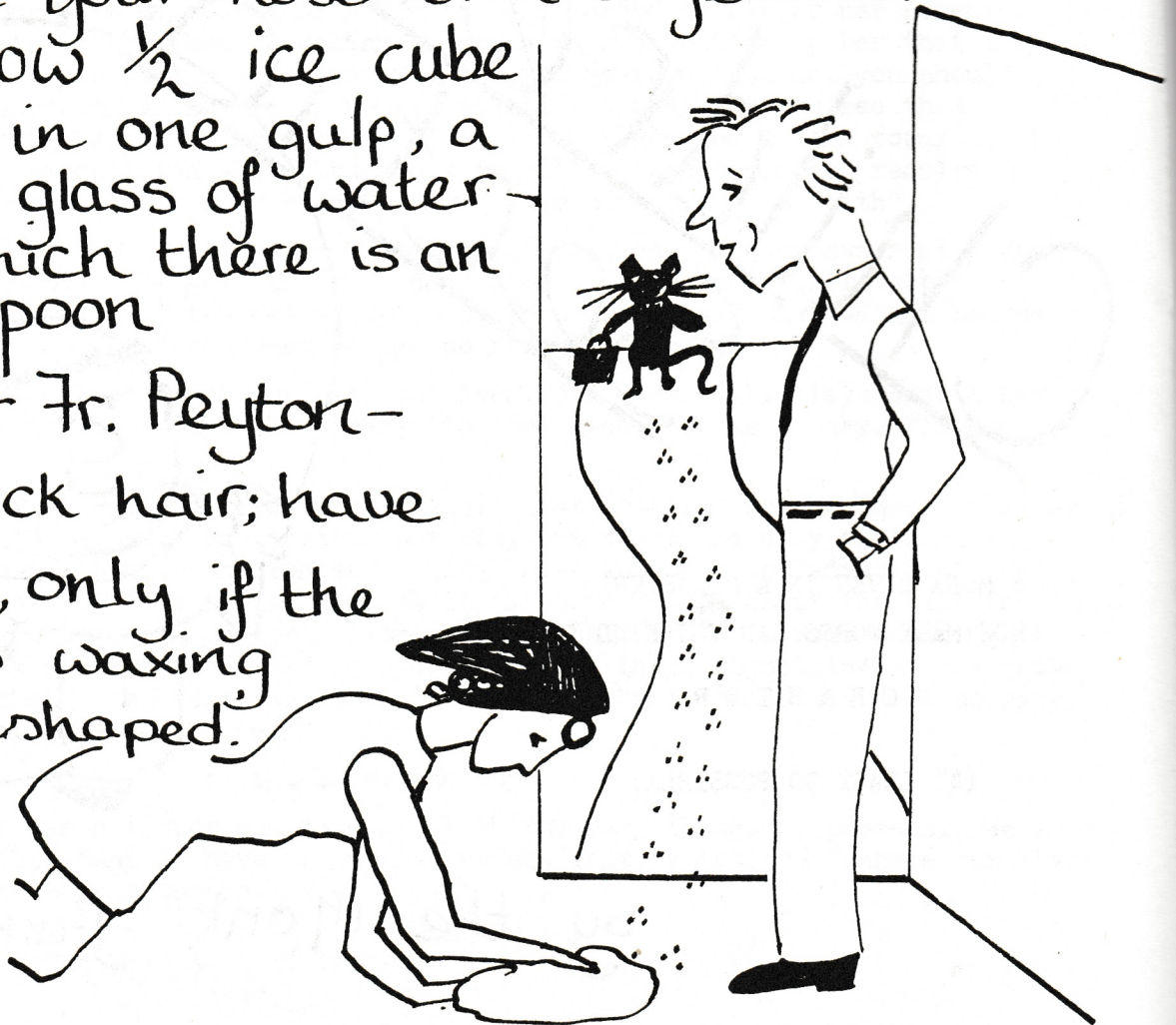
Once, my grandmother told me that the only way to keep a cat in its new home, after a removal, is to put butter on each paw!

Here is a recipe for cleaning wall paper - as long as you don't mind the company of mice! Cut off the crust of a two-day old loaf, and rub the wall paper with it, using only downward strokes.

Also, three cures for hiccups:-

- 1) Tickle your nose with a feather
- 2) Swallow $\frac{1}{2}$ ice cube
- 3) Drink in one gulp, a large glass of water in which there is an egg spoon

And for Fr. Peyton -
For thick hair; have it cut, only if the moon is waxing and 'D-shaped'.





Can you unscramble
the letters in
each balloon
to give six different
acts you may find in a circus.
then colour the picture.

Picture Crossword

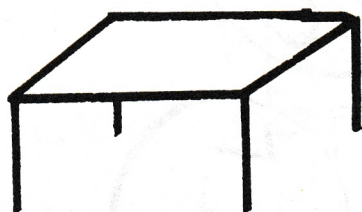
2 ACROSS



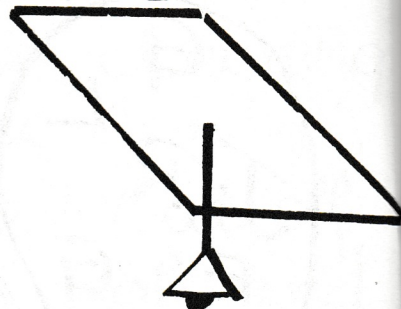
4 DOWN

2 4 6 8 are
----- numbers

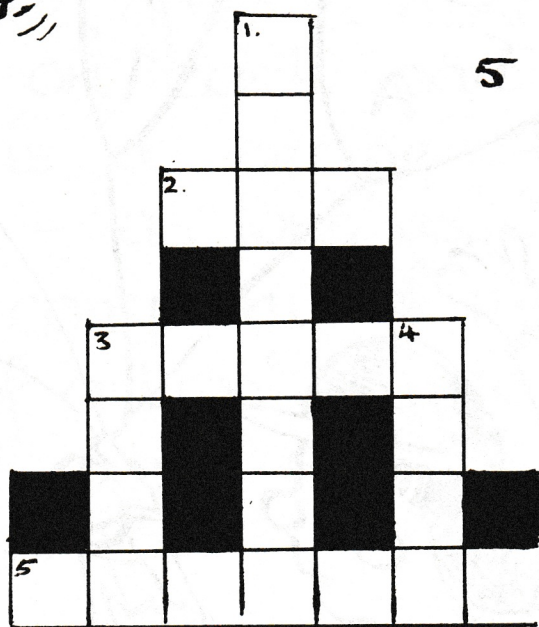
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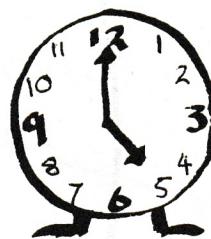
5 ACROSS



1 DOWN



3 DOWN



Dear little Lord, how
kind Thou art

How gentle, loving too;
Teach me to know Thee

more and more -

And grow to be like You.



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Some thoughts

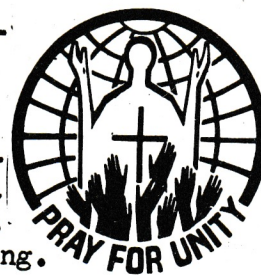
The feeling experienced at a Unity Service, when all the Churches come together, is a feeling of love and it is a most precious and peaceful feeling.

You don't have the feeling that you belong to one Church only but that you feel loved and at home in any one of them. I think this comes from the gift of the Holy Spirit. Knock and the door shall be opened!

It took me a long time to get used to knocking and patiently waiting!

I have always thought of Religion coming from within each individual, from the Holy Spirit, not from any particular Church.

Robin Taylor (St. Marks)



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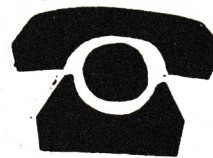
TOP Mother-Toddler Group
Christmas Party

CENTRE Sacred Heart School's
Production of "The
Wizard of Oz"
(Tracey Fisher - 'Dorothy'
Jane Hopwood - 'Wicked
Witch of the West')

BOTTOM Who's Who?
Sent in by Dorothy
Mortiboy
Anyone guess the year
and class?

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CHILDREN'S SECTION / PUZZLE ANSWERS

ACROSS
1. FOOTBALL
2. TOP
3. TABLE
4. CEILING
5. EVEN
DOWN
1. THE CLOWN
2. JUGGLER
3. ELEPHANTS
4. TIGERS
5. TRAPEZE
6. CLOWNS
7. LIONS
8. SNOW
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MARCH 17
at 7.00 p.m.

in the
**SACRED HEART
SCHOOL HALL**

IRISH NIGHT

IRISH MUSIC

A Night for all
the family: a
knees-up, games, fun
laughter.....

Everybody welcome
ALL AGES!

Supper and Glasses
provided ~~AND~~
Bring your own drinks

**FOR THE
FAMILY
CENTRE**

SPARE TOYS

Do you have any toys or children's
games in fair condition or which
could be restored/repaired?
We want them for a **TOYFAIR**
in the Autumn
— Deliver to Presbytery or
31 New Bank Road. Or Joe
Magee will collect.

WEST END GARAGE
Preston New Road. Blackburn.

Tel. 52662 MOT testing station

Fixed Price Service

Including materials,
labour and V.A.T.

6 cylinder cars £37-95

All types of repairwork undertaken

£35-95

4 cylinder
cars

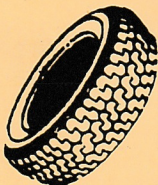
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have you heard of

RENT-A-RAMP?

Use the tools the
PROFESSIONALS
use --- and save

**Tyre
and
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Centre**



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Films £1
per night

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£11.50

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supplied and fitted