

Magazine  
serving  
the Parishes of  
St Mary & St John  
Wigan

Autumn 1998

50 p

# September, October & November 1998

ARRIVEDERCI .....

As Autumn follows on ineluctably from the summer that never was and the leaves threaten to fall the shortening days signal that the time to move on has arrived. Such times always seem to come upon us with a strange and uninvited suddenness as though trying to catch us unawares, try as we might to make preparation. Leave takings are never easy and one searches for the right words to say. Plain ones seem the best.

The last two years have been for me a marvellous experience. I could not have asked for more. Moving on I feel that I am taking with me something that is beyond price and that I go with far more than I came.

For this I thank you all.

Yours in Christ,

Father Kevan O'Brien

## MAGAZINE MATTERS

On behalf of readers we welcome Fr Leo Cooper to his new appointment at St Mary's and trust that his stay will be a long and happy one.

We offer congratulations to Deacon Andrew Jolly on his ordination to the priesthood this month here at St Mary's and hope that we will still see him from time to time.

We thank Fr Kevan O'Brien for his devoted work in the two parishes and at the Infirmary and wish him success and happiness with his studies in Rome.

Perhaps we shouldn't mention this but we thought you would like to know - Fr Johnson has just had his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! Again on your behalf we offer him congratulations and hope that he remains with us for many happy years to come.

Our regular contributor Maureen Burns marks the occasion of Princess Diana's anniversary with a poem. This is welcome and reminds us to mention the coincident anniversary of Mother Teresa of Calcutta whose handwritten extracts we have been privileged to print in the past, thanks to Maria Schickhoff.

Please note the Parish Contacts changes on the back page: St Mary's Covenants, Guides and Brownies.

At last month's magazine meeting it was agreed that we should seek assistance with compiling the magazine. Though it is essentially a 'one person' job, an 'assistant' could ensure the future continuation of the magazine. Please let us know if you are interested or would like more information.

Following discussion with the clergy the meeting also agreed to bring forward the sale of the winter issue so as to avoid the Christmas period. It will go on sale on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November so that the closing date will be Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

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## NEWS FROM THE DON ORIONE CENTRE, UPHOLLAND

Looking back to this time last year one is immediately struck by the improvement in the surroundings of the Cardinal Heenan Home for the Elderly, here in Upholland. The landscaping, which took place after the many building projects of the past two years, gives us a beautiful rural setting. The well-mown grass and the fairly recently planted trees, added to the distant attractive view over Upholland, make a pleasant setting for the Home, the bungalows and the farmhouse.

There, under one of the trees on the lawn alongside Cardinal Heenan House, is the bench bought in memory of our past manager, Margaret Young, and bearing a plaque inscribed with words reminding everyone of her many years of dedication to caring for the residents. In between the frequent showers of this year's poor summer, the garden seats have been well used by our fitter residents, who frequently comment on their good fortune in having such a pleasant environment. The only complaint I heard was from a lovely, pleasant lady who said the men wouldn't share a bench with the ladies. When a woman joined their ranks they moved! Don't know what we do about that. More benches? Public relations lessons for male residents?

As in all communities, hospitals, schools, factories, etc, there is a lull in some of the projects during the summer months at the Centre. There are fewer meetings at the farmhouse. But the sick and elderly must still be cared for so there is still a buzz at Cardinal Heenan House. Annual holidays for staff must be fitted in, so everyone not on holiday seems to be working at full steam.

The two priests become very involved in happenings to do with the Order because certain events always take place at this time of year. The priests are required to 'make a retreat' - withdraw from the ordinary activities of life for a while and ask themselves if they are really living up to their commitment to the Don Orione way of life, that is, to their leader's dedication to the sick, the old, the handicapped, the poor, the lonely, etc. They declare again their loyalty to Christ, to Our Lady, to the Pope and to the Diocesan Bishops.

This year the retreat for the English delegation, led by Fr Hugh, a Jesuit priest, took place in the lovely surroundings of Worth Abbey. The English Delegation includes Jordan, Kenya, England of course and Ireland. Other provinces spread throughout Italy, Poland, South America, USA, etc. Thus the priests are reminded that they are members of a large organisation. One poor little country boy, Luizi Orione, grew up to start this work, and one of his

dreams materialised only in the past few years - the dream of his priests, brothers and nuns working in Africa.

Father John Carlo Perotta was again voted head of the English delegation at this retreat, for a further term of three years. He is based in Kingston-on-Thames, London. He is a very busy man, yet on top of the work in the various Homes around London; he functions also as a Chaplain to HM Prisons and proudly sports his lapel badge to say so. Prisoners are a concern of the Order. Father Malik, a lively Polish priest who has volunteered to join the English Delegation to do a stint of service in Kenya, was there prior to leaving for that country. His youth, his liveliness and his guitar will bring stimulation to the community out there. Remember we have our own Wigan nun, Catherine Vose from Hindley Green, out there in Kenya. But the two young volunteers may be disappointed in their welcome. Remember when our own Fr Joseph Tirello, semi-retired in Upholland, visited Kenya recently, the young did not want to allow him to return. They declared their intention to recruit wise old men. Not many live to be wise old men in Kenya. Most die by the age of forty. The young men just stopped short of kidnapping him.

There was a one-day Annual General Meeting in London in July. Fr Carlo and Fr Joseph left early in the morning with a small party of lay people, to meet with visitors from many communities throughout the world. MPs would be present and the trustees of the Order. The group made the journey there and back to London on the same day.

And who would keep the fort at Upholland? Whenever I popped up there I would meet perhaps Fr Philip Keogh, our own Lancashire priest, with brothers from his community in Zerka, Jordan. Or, popping in to say Mass would be an Italian priest with his students in training. They would also hope to pick up a little of the English language to make them better equipped to do their work in this exciting field of activity. Being a member of the Sons of Divine Providence is hard work, but it must also be extremely satisfying. Please pray for the success of their work and perhaps sometime pray with them at their 11.45 am Mass in the Chapel at Cardinal Heenan House. Or, attend Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the farmhouse on Saturday morning. Mass offerings are welcome too. If you wish to attend the Mass, ask Father Carlo to give you the date of the Mass. Same day is sometimes possible!

A friend of Don Orione

# FROM ST GEORGE'S

## TWADDLE, TIFF, OR TOGETHER?

It has been famously said, though I have no idea by whom, that all political parties are coalitions. Only a fool would suppose that all members of the Labour or Tory parties agree. They agree sufficiently, about enough important things, to work together, and to try to manage, or ignore, the less important things they do not agree about.

Churches must surely also be coalitions. Any idea that we shall agree about everything is plainly ridiculous. We are individuals, from different backgrounds, cultures, and countries. What is surely needed is sufficient agreement, about enough important things, to be able to co-operate, despite the points on which we disagree.

It is not easy to tell how far we agree, when even the simplest arguments are so often based on misunderstandings. It has become marvellously clear that the main Christian denominations are much closer than was once thought, but how close? When we discuss ultimate mysteries, which few of us would have the arrogance to claim we understand, how shall we know whether we agree?

Plainly, there are differences, and authority is commonly thought to be one of the main ones, but I wonder how great the difference really is, for the Churches are also voluntary societies.

I have authority, but people will only do what I say if they agree, more or less. The Bishop and Archbishop are much grander, but can no more claim blind obedience. Even the Pope himself has very limited power to command, especially over the laity.

The Pope is against women priests. Many of his members campaign for women priests. He is against contraceptives, yet Catholic families do not seem much larger than others.

The Church of England is often criticised as being without form, coherence, or any real central authority, yet all the Churches are coalitions, and voluntary societies. There is limited agreement. People will do what they are told only within reason. If they are disaffected enough, they simply stop coming.

Two Lambeth Conferences have been presented as showing the Anglican Communion as hopelessly divided, and in disarray. Ten years ago, the issue was women priests. This time, it was homosexuality. Plainly, there is disagreement. Plainly, we have agreed to go forward together, as a coalition, and a voluntary society.

I see this as reason for hope. It suggests to me that unity is possible, even where there is disagreement. If unity has to wait until we are all agreed about everything, it will wait for ever.

Bernard Harrison.

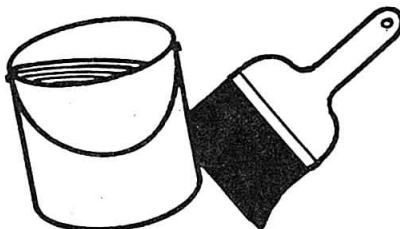
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# St John's Club

A report to the Committee at our last meeting indicates that the Club is still slowly bleeding to death. Bar takings were down on the previous month, and although annual holidays may have played a part in this, there is still great cause for concern.

Various fund-raising events have been held in the Club, and whilst attendances were quite good, they were mainly by people unconnected with the church. We need *parish* members to take an active part and support the various functions in the Club.

In June we held a Murder Mystery Evening to raise funds for BETA - Basic Education & Training for Adults, a charity for adults who need help with numeracy/literacy. It was an enjoyable evening for all, especially for those who correctly deduced that Mary Jane Pager (who always had her mobile with her) was the heartless killer.

In August we held a 'Teddy Bear Crufts', a sort of beauty contest for Teddy Bears. This was quite well attended, but I think the pouring rain (what's new?) did put some people off coming.

The judging was very difficult, but Andrew did a wonderful job, and I don't think he upset too many people. It's just another string to his bow as he proceeds on his life in the Church.

We have a Casino Night booked for 24<sup>th</sup> October and tickets will be on sale nearer the time. These nights have proved to be a really good fun night, also profitable for the Club. We are also looking at holding a Race Night sometime in the future.

Every Wednesday we have a quiz night, these are great fun, but again we need more people to support these and all functions in the Club.

It's your Club - *USE IT OR LOSE IT*, but you will still have to pay for the Club so it makes sense to **KEEP IT OPEN.**

George Walsh

# The Thistle Society

## Wigan

During the summer the Society has enjoyed two evenings at members' homes. On both occasions we were very fortunate in having day evenings. We danced on the lawns till the light faded and then retired indoors to partake of delicious refreshments and lively chatter. The adults are back to their usual Monday meetings at the Baptist Church Hall in Charles Street as from September 7<sup>th</sup>. The juniors started on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the United Reformed Church in Milton Grove.

On Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> we give our annual charity concert at the Mill at the Pier. Our chosen charity this year is the Wigan & Leigh Crossroads 'Caring for Carers'. Your support would be greatly appreciated. The concert is a variety of Scottish entertainment - music and song, pipe bands, violins and accordions, Highland and Country dancing.

If you would like any further information about the Society please ring me on 01942 247403.

Margaret Rowe

## THISTLE SHOW '98

An evening of Scottish entertainment  
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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November '98

Proceeds for Wigan & Leigh Crossroads 'Caring for Carers'  
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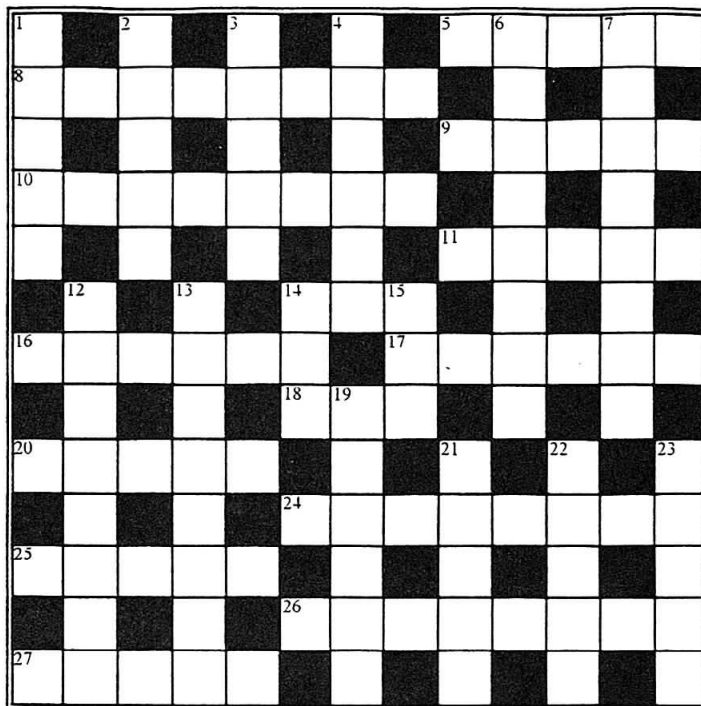
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# Crossword No 63

## Across

- 5 Enjoy going around with 20 (5)
- 8 Prophetic scrooge (8)
- 9 Snip the tail off 4 (5)
- 10 Lifts up the French pupil who sat around (8)
- 11 Owing from the French piece (5)
- 14 Look outside 4 (3)
- 16 Adore 4 with a short head (6)
- 17 Arrange EST (3,3)
- 18 Covenanter's craft (3)
- 20 Bar the return of 5 (5)
- 24 You may be small, but put others down (8)
- 25 Punishment in 3 (5)
- 26 A well-made living (8)
- 27 Direct a bovine creature (5)



## Down

- 1 Drive away .... (5)
- 2 .... and he will drive 1 back (5)
- 3 A high state of 25 (5)
- 4 Strictly more than 9 (6)
- 6 The last man and almost the last hour (8)
- 7 Appointment with a mere suit (8)
- 12 16 the Bible in a suitable manner (8)
- 13 16 in a 12 manner (8)
- 14 Find water in a diviner's search (3)
- 15 A valley in Heskin (3)
- 19 Wound in in an uncontrolled manner (6)
- 21 Strive to contain a bolt (5)
- 22 See an ugly mug in the inset (5)
- 23 Prepare 27 again (5)

## Answers for No 62

- Across**
- 1 Stumbled
  - 5 Mastic
  - 9 Distinct
  - 10 Milieu
  - 12 Slight
  - 13 Bad habit
  - 15 Doublet
  - 16 Leer
  - 20 Oils
  - 21 Accosts
  - 25 Schemers
  - 26 Cannon
  - 28 Double
  - 29 Validate
  - 30 Rehash
  - 31 Slighted

- Down**
- 1 Sadist
  - 2 Unsaid
  - 3 Brighton
  - 4 Ecce
  - 6 Alight
  - 7 Thimbles
  - 8 Counters
  - 11 Game boy
  - 14 Obscure
  - 17 Consider
  - 18 Although
  - 22 Ambles
  - 23 Intact
  - 24 Indeed
  - 27 Pall

There were 13 entries

Winner: Mrs M Hall of Trafalgar Road

Entries please to the Competition Secretary: Mrs E Hutchings, 13 Ashland Ave, Wigan WN1 2DP with the envelope marked "Crossword" so that it can be separated from other mail and kept unopened until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1998 when the first correct one opened wins £10.

# J D ENGLAND

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## FROM THE FRONT PEW.

### What is a Senior Citizen ?

*By Cyril Birchall*

A Senior Citizen is one who was here before the pill, television, frozen foods and ball point pens. For us, time sharing meant togetherness not a computer, and a chip meant a piece of wood. Hardware meant hardware and software was not even a word. Teenagers never wore slacks or jeans and we were before drip-dry clothes, dishwashers and electric blankets.

We got married and then lived together. We thought cleavage was something the butcher did, and we were before Batman, jeeps, instant coffee, and Kentucky Fried wasn't even thought of. In our day smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing whilst pot was something one cooked in. A gay person was the life and soul of the party, whilst aids meant beauty lotions or help for someone in trouble.

I am a 'today's' Senior Citizen, one of a hardy bunch when you think of how the world has changed, and the adjustments which have to be made. When I was younger I never got the amount of mail I get now relating to my style of living. It is impossible to ignore the letters received and I am faced with three starving donkeys. A sad, bedraggled one eyes me from one appeal letter, an elderly donkey called Mozart reports that he is happy now, whilst an Ethiopian donkey is the subject of a book. I am not commenting on the appeal to save cats in Venice. From another appeal letter a cheerful but sick African child stares at me. Yet another from 'Help The Aged' urges me to "save an elderly person from the miseries of cold and hunger at Christmas time". It shows an elderly, ill-clothed old man slumped in a chair, and his plight is described graphically. Inevitably it is blamed on the Government, but the donkey and the African child do not blame the Government, but give them time.

All these appeal letters are sent to me personally, and in fact yesterday I received two identical letters from the same 'good cause'. Many never tell me how much out of my contribution actually goes to the cause and how much is spent on salaries, postage etc. Like many of thousands of people I respond from time to time, but it has made me a marked target, to be pursued relentlessly. Charities never give up ! One letter rebuked me sharply "It is some time since you sent any contribution....." Then set out acceptable ( to them ) amounts to send like £15.

Charities are big business these days, employing professionals and nearly always succeed in tearing at heart and head and pocket. It is of course, vital that the fund raisers administer a professional organisation with adequate staff and equipment. Why then am I irritated by this constant flow of

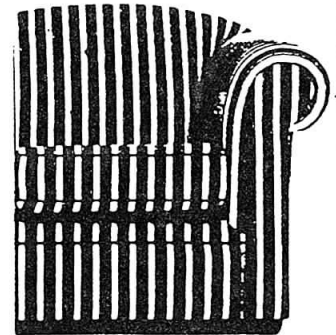


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begging letters ? Is it because I haven't the resources to respond to all of them and cannot take a decision ? Or a subconscious feeling that the operation is too professional, too public relations-orientated for its own good ? So many thousands of people give their time *voluntarily*. They are the true representatives of Faith, Hope and Charity. They do unglamorous things like organising jumble sales and running second-hand clothes shops like our own Lourdes shop in Wigan Lane: they give themselves not their money. I salute them. My concern is that I do not have the health to offer my services in some way. I cannot however waste my time, or my guilt in regretting that I have only limited funds with which to choose between the donkey and the child.

However, I think that I can sum up my present Senior Citizen status by quoting the following few lines:

How do I know my youth is all spent ?  
 My get up and go has got up and went.  
 But in spite of it all I am able to grin  
 When I think where my got up and go has bin !  
 Old age is golden, I've heard it said  
 But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed  
 With my ear in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
 My eyes on a table until I wake up.  
 Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,  
 Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf ?  
 When I was young my slippers were red  
 I could kick my heel right over my head.

When I grew older, my slippers were blue  
 But I could dance the whole night through.  
 Now I am old, my slippers are black  
 I walk to the store and puff my way back.  
 But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin  
 Of all the grand places my get up has bin.  
 Since I have retired from life's competition,  
 I busy myself with complete repetition.  
 I get up each morning and dust off my wits  
 Pick up the paper and read the 'Obits'  
 If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead  
 So I eat a good breakfast - and go back to bed.

## Holiday Photo Competition

Closes on 24<sup>th</sup> October

A pretty little earner! - Take another look at your holiday photos - you could well be holding a winner in this year's competition.

There are two classes you may enter, with a prize of £20 for the winner of each:

Class A for pictures of people - Class B for pictures of places.

Prints in colour or black & white are accepted. The taker's name and address should be written or stuck on the back of each picture together with a note to say which class and where it was taken.

Winners will be selected by Mr J Fairclough of the Wigan Photographic Society but all entries should be sent to the Competitions Secretary, Mrs E Hutchings, 13 Ashland Avenue, Wigan WN1 2DP with the envelope marked "Photo Competition" so that they can all be handed over to Mr Fairclough by Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1998.

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes 1998

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July at five in the morning outside the old Gas Showrooms in New Market Street a motley crew of Wigan sick and helpers assembled for the journey to Lourdes. First stop was Vernon Sangster at Liverpool where we met up with our fellow pilgrims. We arrived at 6 am but were not the first and there we found that excitement, exhilaration and enthusiasm always found at this time.

The Jumbulance and coaches were duly loaded and by 7.15 the full pilgrimage was on its way south. The journey was uneventful, thanks to effective planning, and all reached Dover in good time for our Channel crossing. Once on the ferry, the independent sick were taken up to the Lounge for refreshment and sea breezes.

At Calais Ville station for the overnight ambulance train to Lourdes we were made to feel at home - the train was an hour late! When it arrived the beds were duly made, the sick were transferred to the train and pilgrims sought their own Couchette and bed for the night. Departure was 40 minutes late but we made good time and arrived at 9.25 next morning.

What a welcome! The Liverpool Youth Service was out in force with renderings of "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "In Your Liverpool Home". Not a dry eye to be seen!

There was work to be done. The Advance Party had to 'leg it' to the new St Frai Hospital in time to welcome and attend to the sick as they arrived from the Station. The hospital has been renovated, there were many new tricks to learn. The sick were arriving and being made welcome; they were helped to the refectory for a meal and after that a wash and change of clothes.

It was nearly time for the Welcome Mass at the St Bernadette Church, across the river, in front of the Grotto. And so the pilgrimage had begun. Later there was the Blessed Sacrament Procession, the Torchlight Procession, a visit to the Baths, Mass at the *Grotto*, an International Mass in the underground Basilica. Also a trip to the local *Lac de Lourdes*, a real beauty spot for all sick and helpers alike. Help was also on hand through the Youth who kindly took all sick persons willing to explore the town on shopping expeditions and visits to the local cafe, given that their energy levels held out.

After a slow start the week romped through and it was time for the Farewell Mass and to vacate the Hospital rooms which had been our home.

The journey home was not as trying as the outward journey; it never is; a family spirit prevails. All have confidence in and respect for one another. Our Lady has intoxicated our spirit; we are at peace with our comrades; love, joy and peace reign in our hearts. May

I come back some day *Our Lady*? Your gifts are rays of sunlight to warm our embroiled souls.

The journey home is again uneventful, just as we had hoped. *Our Lady* was seeing her visitors were well cared for.



In the Underground Basilica

We arrive back at Vernon Sangster where our coach is waiting to carry us on to Wigan. We are all tired and weary but inside our spirits are aglow. It will keep us warm and renew that faith and hope which makes of us better people, more able to cope with life's stresses. We silently thank Our Lady for her welcome, hospitality and the graces we have received during our visit and we pray that we may be allowed to revisit either in service or to seek that peace, once experienced never to be forgotten.

Wigan Lourdes Association

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## Twenty Years On ....

In the space of a few short weeks in the Autumn of 1978 there took place a series of events which were of great importance to us all.

Firstly on 6<sup>th</sup> August we sustained the death of Pope Paul VI who had lead the Church so marvellously at the end of the Second Vatican Council and during the early post-conciliar years.

Then there was the rejoicing in the pastorate of the "September Pope", Albino Luciani, Pope John Paul I, who during 33 days touched the hearts and hopes of the world with his joyful faith, simplicity of life and his wonderful smile. He taught us how we ought to teach through personal example. Then suddenly we were to hear the news of his unexpected death and yet it was in the feelings of tragedy and shock that the Conclave of Cardinals gave us Cardinal Karol Wojtyla from Cracow in Poland who chose the name John Paul II. The consequences of that choice have been seen throughout the last twenty years. In his first greeting as Pope, John Paul II said to the world:

*"I was afraid to accept this nomination but I did in the spirit of obedience to Our Lord Jesus Christ and of total confidence in his mother, the most holy Madonna. I present myself to you all to confess our common faith, our hope, our confidence in the Mother of Christ and of the Church, and also to start anew on this road of history and of the Church, with the help of God and with the help of men."*

Throughout his Pontificate John Paul has visited more countries than any other Pope and has touched numerous peoples throughout the world but perhaps one of the hallmarks of the Pontificate of John Paul has been his great Marian devotion. Speaking on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday he said,

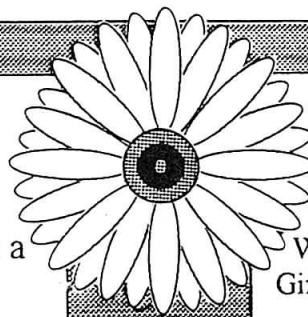
*"I never stopped asking Mary's intercession, the Mother of Christ and our Mother and Queen - She who has been my guide since the earliest years of my childhood.. And it is to her, Mother of the Church, now and in the future: Totus tuus ego sum et omnia mea tua sunt"*.

As we remember the past twenty years let us rejoice in those memories of the Papal visit to England and especially the time he spent here in the North West of England.

Rev Andrew Jolly

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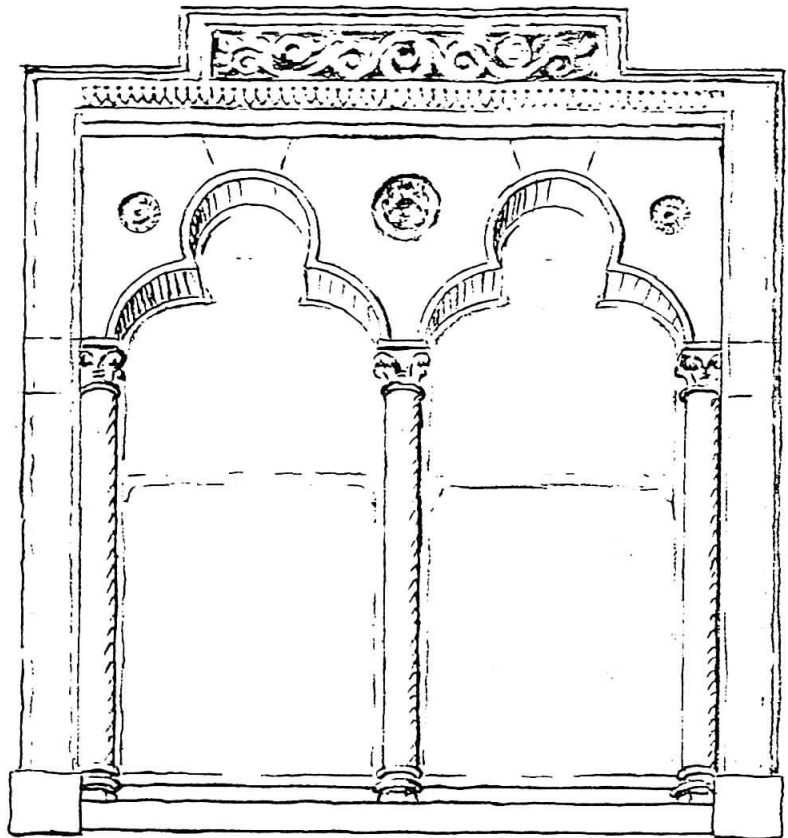
Tel: 242379

# Feature Quiz

## No 69

As usual the feature is within half a mile of Market Place but you will need to raise your eyes to spot it. It may help to know that it is part of a stone building, erected in 1870.

If you know where it is please tell our competitions secretary:  
(Mrs E Hutchings, 13 Ashland Avenue, Wigan WN1 2DP) marking your envelope "Feature Quiz" so that it can be separated from other mail and kept sealed until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1998 when the first correct entry to be opened wins £10.



The balcony shown in Feature Quiz No 68 is in King Street West. The 'Wigan Town Centre Trail', a handy booklet recently

revised and on sale in book shops at only £1.50, tells us that it was built as **Wigan Reform Club** by the Liberal Party but by the time it was opened the Liberal Party was allied with the fledgling Labour Party!! An architectural contest for the best design was held which attracted 13 competitors, the one finally chosen being by the Wigan architects Heaton & Ralph.

There were 7 entries for *our* competition and the winner was Mrs Walker of Alvanev Close.

## Thoughts on the Family Prayer

Miss Mary Doherty drew to our attention a series of ten short poems by Dorothy Heddle called "Thoughts on the Family Prayer". Each poem relates to a section of the Lord's Prayer. Here we continue with the ninth in the series. The last one will follow in the next issue

### AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Lead us, Your children, from all things that tempt  
To lower standards than Your love demands;  
From sights that in their brilliance and allure  
Would make us heedless of our Lord's commands.

Then when our souls are made by Your strong Hand  
Fit to become involved with Satan's power,  
Grant us, and all for whom we seek Your help  
Deliverance to match the evil hour.

# Reflections on a Chinese Poem

A favourite anthology of mine is a war-time publication. It has a nondescript hard-back which covers pages of poor quality paper now beginning to yellow with age, but within this utilitarian volume are gems as rich as rubies.

This one was written by Wei-Ying-Wu in the 8<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AD.

## *The Eastern Suburbs*

*For the whole year I have been cooped up in my office;  
Now, outside the walls, the country lies silent in the dawn,  
The wind sighs quietly in the willows  
The blue hills calm my thoughts.  
Amidst leafy boughs I pass the hours  
Or pace the banks of a mountain stream.  
A gentle rain veils the fragrant plain.  
Whence is the spring turtle dove calling?  
I love this peace but can seldom attain it,  
Those who follow the world must hurry their footsteps.  
In the end I will give up my post and here build my hut.*

Although this poem was written in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century AD it has a timeless quality. The theme is certainly contemporary. The delights of the pastoral scene are desirable to us. With the poet we too long for the peace, the leafy boughs, and the calm of the blue hills.

“Only connect”, was the advice of E M Forster. At this point I treat of his earnest persuasion as I recognise a remarkable similarity to a well-known poem by W B Yeats written 1,200 years later.

## *The Lake Isle of Innisfree. By W B Yeats (1865 - 1939)*

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there of clay and wattles made:  
Nine bean rows will I have there, and a hive for the honey bee,  
And live alone in a bee-loud glade.  
And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow.  
  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;  
There midnight's all a-glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.  
  
I will arise and go now for always night and day  
I hear lake-water lapping with low sounds by the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

In this present age when public tranquillity is threatened by the terrorist's bomb, by thugs who break into people's homes, by loud raucous music wherever we go and the roar of traffic in our towns and cities, we find ourselves allured by the natural sounds of the island. Nature gives us its own music; the bees, the flapping of linnet's wings, the song of crickets and the lap-lapping of lake-water on the shore. The island invites us and we go willingly. We collect the honey and attend to the beans; and watch as the veiled morning gives way to the 'purple glow of noon'.

In both of these poems we see nature being used as an escape and also as an earthly paradise.

The Chinese poet looks beyond the walls of his city in the same way as Yeats looks at his island. These become places where men can be reconciled. Both poets blot out the vision of the world in which evil is present. Both poems illustrate too how the private imagination of the individual can see and feel more than the words.

Reading a poem is a simulated experience which we have chosen to enter for our own ends. In exploring pastoral poetry we need to be imaginatively awake and wholeheartedly in tune with nature. In being so we are rewarded by spiritual refreshment.

B Walters

## Miss Mary Marsh

Miss Mary Marsh died on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 1998. She was a month short of her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, the 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Mary loved life and was a life long fan of Wigan Rugby. She was a member of St Joseph's Sodality, the Catholic Women's league and towards the end of her life a member of the Margaret Clitheroe Club.

The Requiem at St Mary's was celebrated by Fr Johnson and interment was with her mother and father at Our Lady and All Saints, Parbold.

Mary was a dearly loved sister, sister-in-law and aunty.

May she rest in peace.

Kathleen, David, Stephanie and Matthew Moss.



## Mrs Jane Siney

Mrs Jane Siney died on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1998 at the age of 94.

She was born in Leigh but brought up in Harper Street and Hartley Avenue, Wigan. She attended St Patrick's infant and girls school. On leaving school in 1918 she worked in several of Atherton's toffee shops and with Emily McKenna in her shop in Standishgate. Jane was a member of St John's Children of Mary and St Joseph's Sodality.

In 1930 she married Arthur Siney who died in 1992. She leaves four children, twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. The Requiem Mass was at St John's church on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

May she rest in peace.



# Mrs Joan Ashall

Mrs Joan Ashall died on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1998 in Haigh Nursing Home where she had resided for the past five and a half years. She was 87 years of age.

Mrs Ashall was a daily communicant at St John's for many years until going into the home. She was also a member of the Widows Welcome Group, many of which attended her requiem Mass at St John's on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Interment was at Gidlow Cemetery. Thanks to all who attended the Requiem. Mrs Ashall would have been very proud.

May she rest in peace.

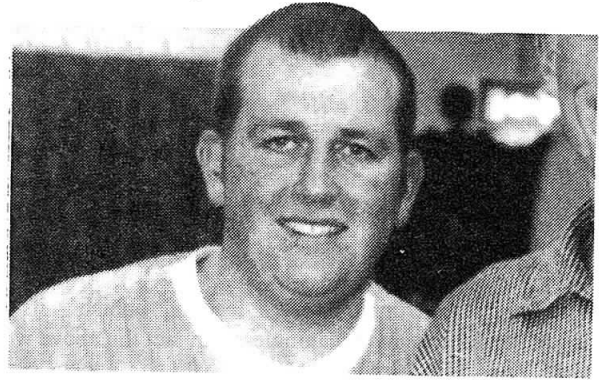


# Darren

Many of you wouldn't have known DARREN ASPEY but your would have seen his name appear countless times in this magazine's cricket articles during the last nine years.

DARREN who was only 25 years of age died suddenly during the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> August. A few hours later he would have been on the cricket field as usual, with the rest of his ST JOHN'S team mates. Those same team mates were stunned, not believing what they had heard, as the tragic news filtered through during the morning. At 9.30 am when I heard, my thoughts went back to 21<sup>st</sup> December 1989 when another team member JOHN GANNON died suddenly in an accident. By a strange coincidence DARREN joined us only weeks after that accident; his first game being the opening match of the 1990 season at GOLBORNE on 29<sup>th</sup> April. He was a very

similar type of player to JOHN: a hard hitting batsman and more than useful opening bowler. He was team captain this season.



On the cricket field he was a most feared player, as witnessed by the cries of delight and relief by opposing players when they caught or bowled him. Off the field he was very popular and well liked by players and officials in the league. He was a very helpful person and will be very much missed by the younger players for his coaching and helpful cricketing tips. In his nine years with us he played in 166 matches and scored 3,251 runs in his 156 innings. He also took 279 wickets and 47 catches including 5 as wicket-keeper. Apart from his 107 against WINWICK on June 13<sup>th</sup> 1992 he got 108 not out and a hat-trick during the 1997 season.

He was the "MR VERSATILE" of the local sporting world and had packed a lot into his short life of twenty five years. He played for LANCASHIRE under 10s and 11s at BADMINTON - FOOTBALL for JUNIOR LATICs under 11s - RUGBY LEAGUE for ST JUDE'S amateur rugby team and SACRED HEART and later ST JOHN FISHER at under 11,12,13,14,15 and 16 and WIGAN town team at the same ages. He was the only schoolboy to play for WIGAN at both RUGBY and SOCCER AT THE UNDER 11 STAGE. He was a cup winner last year at GOLF, having a handicap of six, and was even a doubles champion at POOL. He had just started a season of football with the GIDLOW sports bar team.

He will be greatly missed by all at ST JOHN'S CRICKET CLUB, and even moreso by his MUM and DAD, MARGARET and FRED and FAMILY to whom we send our heartfelt sympathy and join them in their prayers.

SACRED HEART church was crowded for the REQUIEM MASS on 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, and afterwards a large number went to GIDLOW cemetery to bid a very sad and tearful farewell to their great friend and sporting colleague DARREN.

# FROM THE BACK PEW **Special Operations**

By Cyril Birchall

*"The love that I have of the life that I have  
is yours, and yours, and yours.*

*A sleep I shall have, a rest I shall have,  
Yet death will be but a pause.*

*For the peace of my years,  
In the long green grass,*

*Will be yours, and yours, and yours."*

You might well think 'what a load of rubbish' - its just incomprehensible and meaningless. In fact the above words were the most important ever uttered under certain circumstances. They could mean life or death to the speaker, because they were a code of recognition from the French Resistance to the headquarters of the Special Operations Executive in London, during the last war.

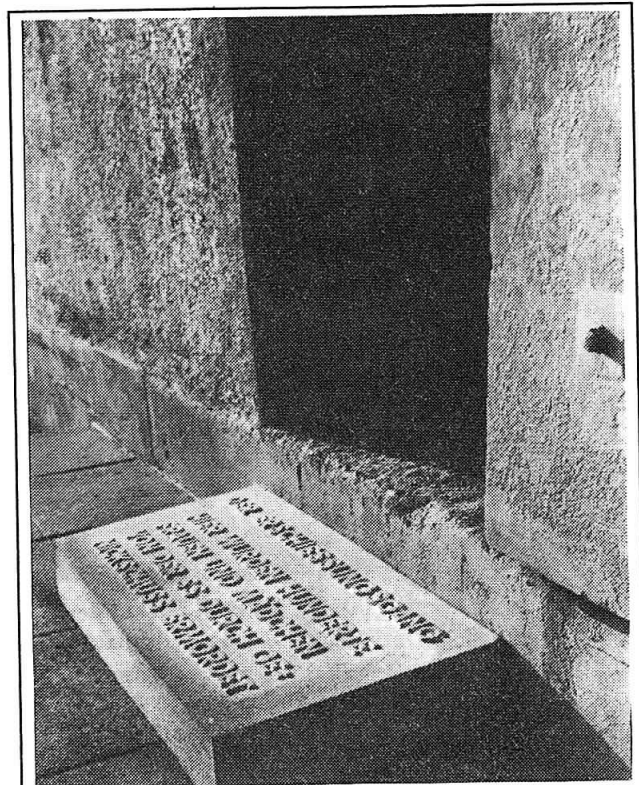
Imagine trying to remember those words, so that in harrowing and unreal circumstances you could repeat them word for word and comma for comma to prove your identity. With the Gestapo growing impatient at the door you have to get an urgent message to your headquarters, but you have to speak the above poem first for verification purposes. The poem was written by a pilot, Leo Marks, when he was the head of the codes and cipher section of the Special Operations Executive, the unit which was formed in 1940 to help Resistance fighters and encourage spy networks.

It was used as a vital part of the coding system committed to memory by agents parachuted into Northern France and elsewhere. One of the parachutists, trained at Manchester Airport, was Marks wife, Violette Szabo who was a member of SOE's F section. She was betrayed and captured on her second mission into France by the Gestapo in 1944, and sent to the infamous women's concentration camp at Ravensbruck, which was situated 50 miles north of Berlin. It was a camp specialising in women inmates. Surrounded by swampland, it was established in 1938 and eventually became a place of internment for Russian women captured on the battlefields, French nationals, members of the resistance and female slave workers. The main camp was supposed to accommodate only 6,000 prisoners, but from 1944 there were never fewer than 12,000 inmates, and in fact documentary proof shows that in January 1945 it held just over 36,000!

About 50,000 prisoners perished in the camp, and Polish women were selected for transplantation of human bones in experiments carried out there. Furs, expropriated in other concentration camps were sent to Ravensbruck to be remodelled, and the camp was captured by the Allies on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1945, too late to save Violette Szabo and other resistance fighters who were all shot three months before in January.

Violette was awarded the George Cross which her daughter received on her behalf.

You may have seen a somewhat glamourised version of the story on BBC 2 a few weeks ago. It was filmed under the title 'Carve Her Name With Pride'.



This is the entrance through which Violette and all the women passed for execution. The inscription reads:

**"Here hundreds of women and girls were murdered with a shot in the neck by the SS."**

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# General Knowledge Quiz No 21

## Love, Money & British Landmarks

Compiled by T Chadwick

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Who wrote 'Sons and Lovers'?  | 12 Moliere wrote in 1668 'L'Avare'. Translate to English.                                     |
| 2 Who wrote 'The Four Loves'?   |   |
| 3 In 1942 a German film was made called 'Die Grosse Liebe'. Translate to English.                         | 13 Which castle has a leaning tower?  |
| 4 Name the tennis player who became the first woman to win \$ in prize money.                             | 14 Which is the largest inhabited castle in the world?  |
| 5 What kind of toy was known as 'Put & Take'?   | Which is the nearest town to each of these famous houses ?-                                   |
| 6 In what year was the Wall Street crash?   | 15 Chatsworth.  |
| 7 What annual issue of money is thought to exceed the annual dollar output of the United States Treasury? | 16 Knole  |
| 8 Who was the main star in the 1925 film 'Gold Rush'?   | 17 Osborne House  |
| 9 What do you call a fixed annual payment by an insurance company to a client?                            | Where can one see these ancient customs?  |
| 10 Which bank became state owned in 1946?   | 18 The Furry Dance  |
| 11 Who was the star in the 1953 film 'How to Marry a Millionaire'?  | 19 The Tynwald Ceremony   |
|   | 20 Which island off the North Eastern coast of England is accessible by car only at low tide? |

Entries please to the Competitions Secretary: Mrs E Hutchings, 13 Ashland Avenue, Wigan WN1 2DP, with the envelope marked "GK Quiz" so that it can be kept unopened until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1998 when the first correct one opened wins £10. Send it in even if you can't complete it. You could still win.

### General Knowledge quiz No 20: - Answers

1 A butterfly    2 A cat    3 A parrot    4 Salmon    5 Maryland    6 Australia  
 7 Portmeirion    8 New Mexico    9 Adige    10 Pacific    11 Massachusetts  
 12 Resurrection Symphony    13 Clarinet    14 Sir Michael Tippett    15 Abbey Theatre  
 16 Sergei Prokofiev or Tchaikovsky    17 Peter Korda    18 Sixteen    19 Earth Summit  
 20 Alec Stewart

There were 11 entries and the winner was Mrs E Slevin of Wigan Road, Standish.



## .....Sincerely Yours

By Nellie Murphy

They are the finger on the emotional pulse of the nation. They may be constructive, contentious, positive or negative but always controversial. *They* are the voice of the people, airing their views and diverse opinions, biased or bigoted, the nations voice in anger, demand or rebellion, that emotional voice of the nation in celebration, even in grief and sorrow. *They* are 'Readers Letters', that prominent and popular feature of national and local press, of 'free issues' and magazines - that 'Merry-go-Round' circulation of people in touch.

..........

Individual contributors to the Parish Magazine are known to have received letters in appreciation of talent, effort and support; letters from strangers; letters from other places sometimes resulting in new found friendships.

An approach from Poland to Mr Cyril Birchall followed his writing of many visits to that country and of his Polish friends and acquaintances.

..........

Her letter was stylish and eloquent, her appreciation of the magazine content beautifully expressed. In reply I sought her permission to include it in the next issue, since when Mrs Betty Walters has herself become a valued contributor. Her articles are notable in their literary sophistication and intellectual elegance.

..........

'A Girl from Standishgate'. "Thank you for the lovely memories of my childhood ....." she wrote, in the nostalgic emotion that had overwhelmed her as she read 'Standishgate As It Was Then' 'Then' being the era of her schooldays in that area. "I played in the shadow of 'Bon Marche' of florist, jeweller, musicians, photographer, tobacconist, greengrocer, of offices, public houses, schools and five churches. "It was" she continued "the Carnaby Street/Covent Garden of its day".

We were strangers, had never met, and thus began a beautiful friendship. She wrote long warm letters, vibrant, nostalgic and oft times hilarious. "I sang 'Oranges and Lemons' as the bells of the Parish Church rang out for 1 hour on 2 evenings each week and people sat quiet in our beautiful Mesnes Park to listen. "Sadly in the ambiguous name of *progress* that oasis of peace was, along with many others, wilfully destroyed and I fear for my grandchildren's future as more and more Christian morals and values are eroded."

We met, our friendship deepened and the long letters continued. It was last November when in a letter she recalled ... "I played in the back yard of the White Horse with the daughter, of my age. She lent me her lovely 'teddy bear' coat and she had my plain navy one. For an hour I strutted

around in make believe - I was the Queen of Sheeba and not just an ordinary girl from Standishgate".

She died recently. I will miss her and I will miss those letters from the heart of that extra-ordinary girl from Standishgate. RIP

..........

'Mary' - Her letter, after reading 'The Angelus Bell', revealed her sentiments and her love of 'this beautiful prayer'. An equally beautiful sequence was to follow. In the same sentiment Mary sent the magazine on to the Midlands where her relative, Irene, (herself an old girl of Wigan Notre Dame Convent) was equally delighted to send it on to her daughter in a French Convent - Sister Anne Marie de St Jean, La Tour St Joseph, ILLE-ET-VILAINE.

Then as the power of the Angelus prayer drew them close they agreed that from their different locations they would meet daily in thought and prayer at the sound of the Angelus Bell ..... "this beautiful prayer" ... this moment of withdrawal from the world, this moment of reflection on the Incarnation of Christ. Son of God. Thank you ladies.

..........

The contact with Mary, Irene and her daughter Sr Anne Marie has gained us details from the Convent's magazine concerning a visit by the Pope during the World Youth Days last year. It involved 515 bishops from 5 continents, 20,000 volunteers and 3,000 journalists:

19<sup>th</sup> Aug - Opening Mass by Cardinal Archbishop of Paris - 300,000 young people from 24 countries.

23<sup>rd</sup> Aug - 500,000 young people cheered wildly as the Pope was driven in his Pope-mobile through the dense crowd for his opening Mass at the Champ de Mars.

23<sup>rd</sup> Aug - 450,000 youth gathered on the boulevards encircling Paris. On a signal given by radio they linked hands to form an immense chain of brotherhood, 22 miles long in a universal sign of peace.

24<sup>th</sup> Aug - The Pope's Farewell Mass before more than a million people on Longchamp racecourse. As he took his farewells a radio signal released a peal from all the bells of Paris. A further radio signal brought in all the bells of France. "Young people you are the hope of the world." proclaimed the Pope amidst cries of "VIVE LE PAPA".

Here in Britain we knew little, if any thing, of these glorious events.

Could we do it? Doubt it!

# School News

## Our First Communicants

20<sup>th</sup> June 1998

A wonderful day was had by all and we thank Mrs Westhead, on behalf of parents, for all her hard work in preparing the children. The choir from the school sang beautifully under the watchful eye of Mrs Kearsley. Everyone was invited back to the Parish Centre for the presentation of certificates and a most enjoyable party organised by Mrs Hutchings and the Mums of Y4.

## PTA News

This last academic year the PTA made a magnificent £3,000 thanks to a lot of hard work by its members and the generosity of the parents and children. This money has helped to bring the school's computer system up to speed for the millennium. The Christmas raffle money will each year be used for an 'outward bound' trip for our top year to help broaden their experiences and fulfil the Ofsted requirements.

Some of the money is also going towards sports equipment and a CD player for the school.

Next year we have some ideas for the start of term but would be grateful for any new ideas or help from the children's friends and relatives to make this year even more successful. Every penny we make goes to help in the education of our children and hopefully give those involved some enjoyment along the way.

## The School Run

The national news has featured "The School Run" as an unnecessary use of the car and there are suggestions to go to bicycles or walking to reduce the number of cars on the roads. At our school we are lucky to have a good car parking facility but does this perhaps make us use the car more frequently? From the garages of the top car park, down the ramp and the Church forecourt is of course Church property and Fr Johnson kindly gives us permission to use this for school business. Unfortunately

it was not designed for the traffic load it holds and a reduction in car numbers would certainly help in maintaining its repair.

We are all worried about the safety of our children, especially in view of a very busy Wigan Lane. The children are taught to say "No" to strangers but again it is very difficult to decide at what age they should be given the freedom to walk to school. Many parents do walk their children to school and express concern about crossing the car parking area and it may be necessary to designate a strip of the car park as a pathway in order to overcome this fear.

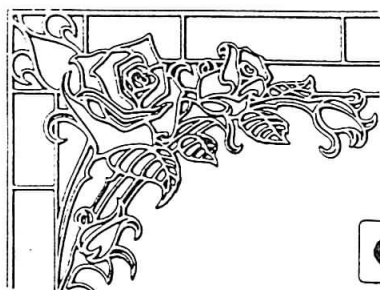
Those who drive may already share transport and 'pool' their journeys. Again, this could be expanded upon to ease the number of cars and help working mums with a tight morning schedule.

Would it also be possible for older children to set up a bicycle route to school with the co-operation of the Local Authority? Mr John Prescott has suggested the introduction of bicycle lanes, which would make cycling far safer. If this could be implemented a safe storage area for the bicycles would be required and communication with the Local Authority to set up the cycle paths. It may also be helpful to approach them regarding a crossing for outside the school to help the children from the lower end of Wigan Lane and the Swinley area to walk the shortest route to and from school with greater safety.

We all appreciate the need to reduce the use of cars and the importance of teaching our children to consider walking or cycling rather than going straight to the car. Walking to school has often been a pleasant social part of the school day but our fears for the children's safety must first be addressed.

If you could offer some help in this or want to express your ideas please contact the school and we can work on getting our children to school as safely and responsibly as we can.

Mrs S Greaves PTA



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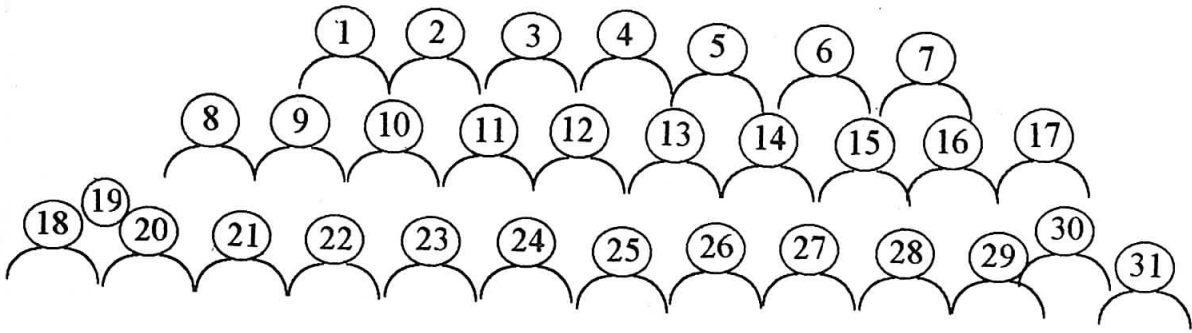
Tel: 491490



# First Holy Communions



- |                     |                     |                      |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Michael Urmston   | 9 Marcus Schickhoff | 17 Sarah Farley      | 25 Hannah Latham     |
| 2 Nicholas Goulding | 10 David Ryding     | 18 Amy Fisher        | 26 Laura Kelsall     |
| 3 Henry Foster      | 11 Matthew Gray     | 19 Elysia Ward       | 27 Daniel Butler     |
| 4 Victoria Greaves  | 12 William Rawson   | 20 Natasha Cottrill  | 28 Laura McMullen    |
| 5 Daniel Lythgoe    | 13 Matthew Wright   | 21 Jodie Stanton     | 29 Owen Davies       |
| 6 Dominic Atherton  | 14 Etienne Leblan   | 22 Ben Winstanley    | 30 Natalie Moorhouse |
| 7 Alexander Austin  | 15 Matthew Melling  | 23 Catherine Melling | 31 Laura Stubbs      |
| 8 Amy Leigh         | 16 Kilian Wallace   | 24 Kieran Clossick   |                      |



## A Letter from India

Daily Mass attendees at St John's during recent months will have noticed and spoken to a small bespectacled gentleman with a happy smiling face, who had come from India with his wife Lucy to visit their son, daughter-in-law and baby daughter, who live in the parish. Joe Roche's devotion to Our Lady was apparent as he always spent time praying in the Lady Chapel before Mass. Joe and Lucy returned to Madras in late July.

Readers may be interested in extracts from a letter since received from Joe:

*"Thanks for your prayers for our safe journey. Please tell your Parish Priest that I thank him for his prayers ..... We arrived in Bombay at 12.30 am and stayed the night at a guest house. Then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> evening we took the train to Madras. This was a long and tedious journey which took nearly 28 hours .....*

*"Well we certainly miss beautiful Wigan ..... It was a pleasure for me to attend daily Mass at St John's. Oh, that church is so beautiful. And you parishioners are such a loving and friendly people. May God bless you all. I will treasure forever the memory of our stay.*

*Here the heat is awful. It is in the 40s. But the Lord took pity on us and sent some rains from the day we arrived here and so this has cooled the place a lot. I think wherever we go we create an atmospheric disturbance. When we came there we spoil your summer and it was so wet and cold. Ha! Lucy is finding it very difficult to adjust to the Indian conditions after having lived there for the last six months. She is more British than Indian. Ha!*

*We really enjoyed seeing your beautiful gardens with all the flowers in full bloom. It was a riot of colour. My gosh, what a pretty sight each house was. I was amazed to see the variety of roses that you have there. Their sizes and colours were simply out of this world. Lucy and I love gardening. But in our part of the world the climate is not conducive to grow colourful plants like you have. Otherwise we would have brought back a lot of packets of seeds that we saw in your shops. The only flower seed that would grow here would have been the dwarf African marigold. These seeds we get here and they normally bloom during Christmas time. I am very fond of roses.*

*I miss your lovely climate. Although I used to walk to church I never used to sweat since it was cool and nice. I enjoyed that walk to church and back. .... Our grandchildren were thrilled with the clothes and little ornaments we brought for them. We also bought chocolates for them which they are relishing. Your chocolates are of such excellent quality. The Indian chocolates are no comparison to them. ....*

*Please convey our kind regards to your Parish Priest who is such a wonderful man. Please tell him that I enjoyed attending his Masses. God bless. Joe."*

With Joe's devotion to Our Lady and love of roses it is hardly surprising that his apartments are named "Rosa Mystica".

Mary & Gerard Siney

## Golden Wedding

Marie Siney and John Prestage were married at St John's on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1948. Much to their surprise, fifty years later, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 1998 they were back from their Wirral home to celebrate their Golden Wedding in St John's.



Their children had arranged the Celebration Mass with Fr Tillotson without Marie and John knowing. Eldest son John (and grandchildren) had taken on the task of "getting them to the Church on time" under the pretext of taking them for a drive! On seeing the "Wigan" sign on the M6, John suggested the children might like to see where Grandma used to live in Eckersley Street - then where Grandma and Grandpa were married. Both were surprised and overwhelmed on entering the church to find family, relations and friends waiting. Some of the relatives had travelled from Ireland and Canada to make this a Golden Wedding to remember.

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## Walsingham Association

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual pilgrimage to Our Lady's National Shrine at Walsingham left St Mary's on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August at midday.

After a very pleasant journey in glorious weather we arrived at 5.15 pm found our allocated rooms and reached the dining room for the Evening Meal at 6.30.

At 8 pm we assembled in the village church of the Annunciation for the pilgrimage service: Sacrament of the sick, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, followed by the Torchlight Procession to the garden of Elmham House and the statue of Our Lady of Banneaux, sent to Walsingham some years ago from Belgium

On Monday, after morning prayers in the church followed by breakfast, the pilgrims assembled for the Holy Mile Procession reciting the 15 mysteries of the Rosary intermingled with hymns on the way to the Slipper Chapel and the large church of Our Lady of Reconciliation which was opened in 1982.

There were opportunities for Confessions and the Stations of the Cross out in the open before the Pilgrim Mass at noon. Then back to the Friday Market (but not walking) in time for lunch. Free time in the tight schedule gave our pilgrims chance to visit the Anglican Shrine and other places of interest. Some found their way to the "Martyrs' Field" which is presently identified by an altar and a large wooden cross.

On Tuesday, Morning Prayers in the village church were followed by breakfast. At 11 am the two coaches took pilgrims down to the main church where our departure Mass was offered at 12 noon. Lunch followed and at 2.30 pm we left Walsingham once more after a wonderful and happy pilgrimage.

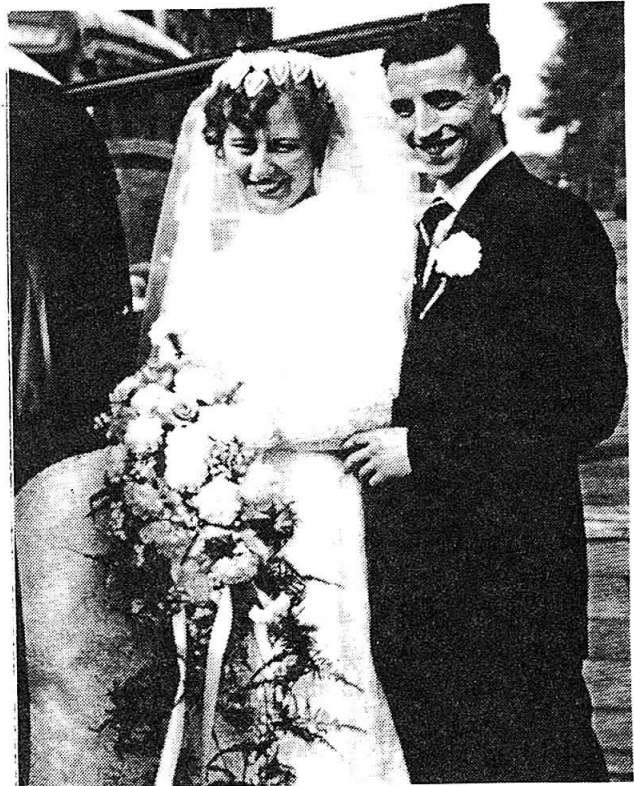
At our next meeting on Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup> we hope to establish a new committee with Fr Johnson who has kindly taken over as Chaplain. Our previous Chaplain, Fr Ball, is leaving Wigan to be Parish Priest at Sacred Heart Church in Chorley.

The Committee

## Ruby Wedding

Josephine and Frank Moffatt, recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary having married at St Mary's on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1958. Their three sons and five daughters have delighted them with fifteen grandchildren.

Frank, now 65, originates from Scholes and left St Patrick's school in 1947 to become a miner in the Wigan area until his retirement a few years ago.



Josephine, now 62, came from Greenough Street and attended St Mary's school. After a short spell as a 'factory girl' she settled into her role of housewife and mother.

The happy couple would like to thank all those who expressed their kind thoughts, gave cards, sent floral displays, and in particular those who gave Mass cards and arranged for Masses to be said.

**Head Office**  
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Autumn 1998

# Madge in India (Nov '97 to Feb '98)

Nellie Murphy reports from Madge's diary:

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> '97 Madge had settled in, attended to the affairs of her Rosa Mystic House and the welfare of her blind boys. Fr Baytone on retreat, his sister staying with their Aunt who keeps house for him. Told the boys "Leaving tomorrow for Madras, return Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>" when they will put up Christmas decorations. They sense excitement - can't wait.

En route, an interesting 87 year old Muslim, had worked many years under British rule, still admired its integrity. A devout man, he read the Koran most of the night. Should we not admire his integrity as a quiet courteous traveller in contrast to the drunken disruptive ones to be seen on our trains and planes.

Madge was attending the wedding of Gerald, Fr Paul's nephew at St Theresa's, diocese of Trichy at 4 pm Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Met by Fr Paul and his relative Joseph Raja, employed at the Loyola College.

Then the rains came - in torrents - a freak cyclone, floods combined with intense heat, the air like a steam bath distressing Madge. The bridegroom was late, so was the Bishop (of Nellore) who solemnised the marriage and concelebrated Nuptial Mass with 10 priest friends of Fr Paul. A crowded church - and despite the rains more than 1,500 from all the villages.

As Madge begins her travels it is well that we have an overall picture of name places, Convents, Orders,

Sisters, where Madge as a friend is accepted and welcomed:

Satya Sandesh Convent of The Immaculate Heart of Mary - white habit - blue veil. This is the Catechist Centre.

St Anne's Convent. Nursing Order in NYUDUPET. Sisters of mercy. Now have a new dispensary, catering for all Surrounding villages with Sister Michael in charge.

Servite Convent Bangalore. Servants of God - Mother Superior is Fr Paul's sister - Feed encampment and gypsy children

Vijaya Mary Convent. As Satya, Immaculate Heart of Mary. Sister Rosary now Mother Superior. This has a huge school for poor families, many children obliged to live there along with 50 blind children also many day students. Another Convent nearby cares for deaf and dumb children. Most of the blind children here are good musicians, have a band and are practising for Christmas Concerts, for which they have had many requests. Sister Rosary is very proud of them.

St John's Medical Centre is a vast compound of Nursing Sisters, students and priests. Fr Valerian, Capuchin Monk, recently here in Canterbury, is now the hospital chaplain.

Sister Mary's Convent, NELLORE, is not far from the Bishop's house. This again is an "All Care" house.

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Sister Rosary

By Dec 12<sup>th</sup> (still raining) Madge had visited at all these Convents. If she had a choice she would work with Sister Josephine (Servite Convent) who devotes her life to babies and young children, all from poor families. Sister sees that they are fed and clothed. Each Convent and all the sisters cover every aspect of care: nursing, shelter, food, education and religious instruction. Of loving and giving - owning nothing themselves, they are still able to give and give more. They care with serene selflessness. They radiate peace and contentment.

Being accompanied by Sister Rosary, Madge was allowed to meet Mother Superior of the Carmelite Convent and later the sisters. Sparse meal, warm welcome. Stayed 6 hours (of heaven). Superior greatly interested in England and the English. Questioned at length about the Queen and the Royal Family.

Finally to Fr Paul's parish - "Catholic Mission", FITARAM - ERPURAM. Remote and very poor; yet with lush green fields, spectacular mountain view, grazing goats and buffaloes. Met the villagers, went into school. - just one room for two teachers and 125 pupils - no furniture so sitting on the floor! Eighty or so children go to the house for lunch, cooked on a wood fire outside by Fr Paul's "daily". A massive pot of rice. The children sit on the floor to eat. Fr Paul now has 15 boys living at the house. This enables them to be educated at the school nearby. - Unable to accommodate more - unable to educate more. - poverty again! Evenings and Father tells them the story of 'Macarthy, the American Detective' whose robbers always get away by helicopter or submarine. It is fascinating to watch their enthralled expressions. Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1997. Return to Sister Christine's and Fr Baytone, to Rosa Mystica and the boys. The church is being cleaned - the crib decorated - Fr Baytone has had Rosa Mystica House colour washed. The blind boys happy to help, quite excited. No rain - hot and humid - power off for 7 hours - very distressing.

More next time.

**MADGE'S SICK FUND**

From her own resources, on her own initiative Madge started her 'sick fund' about 3 years ago. She has recently mentioned a young man who benefited by a life saving operation. There are others since and Madge will supply more information for the next issue.

**From Madge**

"I wish to thank Mrs Josie Maye and all her friends for the generous collection of £260.00 to be used for the sick and infirm in these Indian villages."



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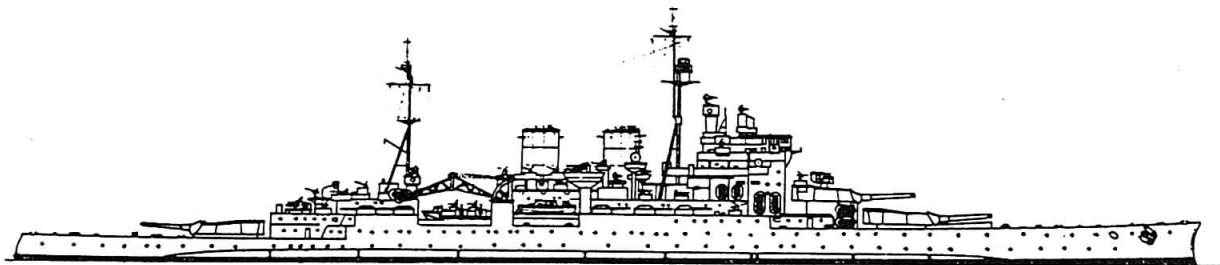
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# HMS RENOWN

Recently we had the pleasure of reading one man's scrapbooks which span  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years wartime service in the Royal Engineers, 30 years police service and 6 years on the staff of a local firm of solicitors. Very entertaining they are too. They are the recollections of Chris O'Brien who may be remembered as a Chief Inspector of Police in Wigan. In the chapters relating to his military service and escapades with the British Expeditionary Force in France in 1940, notably after Dunkirk, and with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in the Desert Campaign in the Middle East (where he was Mentioned-in-Dispatches for distinguished service), he considers that from a strictly personal point of view his venturesome rendezvous on board HMS Renown, one of the Navy's most illustrious battlecruisers, was his most satisfying and rewarding experience. To say the least in its time and setting it could be said to have achieved the almost impossible and it will certainly interest many of our readers. Chris has kindly acceded to our request to publish his account which reads:



"Some 18 months or so before my return home on leave after  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years service in the Middle East I was serving on the staff of the Deputy Commander, Royal Engineers in Port Tewfik (a suburb of Suez) when I had occasion to visit Navy House Headquarters situated nearby. Whilst there I learned, quite by chance, that the legendary battlecruiser HMS Renown had just anchored in Suez Bay. The news was of great interest to me as I was aware that my cousin Edward (Ted) MacFarlane was serving on the ship as a Chief Petty Officer.

There was little difference in the ages of Ted and I and we had been brought up as more like brothers. We had attended St William's school, Ince, together and shared common interests but on the outbreak of war in September 1939 our paths parted and as we had not seen each other for 4 years I was hopeful that the long spell would be broken by meeting up with him when the ship's company was granted shore leave.

Alas, my hopes were dashed when I learned that there would be no 'shore leave' as the ship was on a 'Hush-Hush' mission (Renown took the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, on two wartime trips to conferences with world leaders) and would only remain in the Bay overnight. I was bitterly disappointed, the more so it being a 'so near and yet so far situation' and was reluctant to let such an opportunity pass without at least doing something about it; so I set wheels in motion by mentioning the matter to my Commanding Officer, with whom I got on extremely well, knowing full well that he was on the friendliest of terms with high ranking Naval Officers at Navy House. He listened patiently to my

hopes and aspirations, and sensing my genuine desire he undertook to see what he could do and promptly went off to Navy House with that in mind.

He must have been most convincing for, much to my amazement and delight, within the hour I was told to collect a pass from Navy House and to be at a certain location on the quayside in Port Tewfik by 1400 hours that day! Somewhat dazed and bewildered by the speed of events, clad in my rather scruffy battledress and battered cap I took up the pre-arranged position well before the appointed time. Almost on the dot of 1400 hours a most impressive looking launch manned by naval personnel in immaculate 'whites' pulled in by the quayside. For quite a few minutes I watched with admiration, such was the expertise in which the craft was handled (not for a moment did I think it could possibly have anything to do with me) until my reverie was shattered by one of the crew bellowing out:

"Are you Sergeant O'Brien of the Royal Engineers? If so LOOK LIVELY MAN and get yourself aboard with your Army Service Book and Pass from Navy House at the ready".

Flabbergasted I did so and off we sped into the Bay weaving our way between other well known fighting ships which lay at anchor - it was all so exhilarating. Eventually we came within sight of the illustrious Renown which looked so graceful and yet so sinister; it was an awe-inspiring sight. Safely fastened alongside I climbed the steps to the deck conscious as I did so of boarding such a famed ship which had been involved in many epic battles and had played such a vital role in the war at sea (it was to continue to do so throughout the war). Immediately I set foot on the deck I was cognisant of

gold braided figures on the bridge observing what was going on and also a single file of navy personnel lined up to my right who were impeccably dressed in navy tropical attire. Judging by the way they eyed me over I got the impression that they thought I was infectious, which wasn't surprising really in view of my 'sartorial elegance'!!!! Undaunted, I 'slung up' the best army salute I could muster. On being asked for my Army Identity Book and Navy Pass I handed them to the first person in the line and watched as they were passed along to the last in the line who scrutinised them most carefully. He then extended a most cordial welcome and told me that I was permitted to spend 4 hours on board and be ready to leave at 1630 hours.

There was no sign of Ted whilst all this was going on until a steel door swung open and out he stepped onto the deck. It was really a moment to savour - our first sighting of each other after four tumultuous years in our lives - and to be taking place in such an august setting. I felt such a sense of accomplishment but one thing I shall never forget was the look of incredulity on Ted's face. Small wonder, for he told me in our eagerly awaited conversation that he had been told only a short time before that I had been granted special permission to come aboard. Naturally in view of the 'melodramatic' circumstances he was somewhat shell-shocked and feared all manner of things. However over a protracted hearty handshake I put his mind at rest and explained how I came to be there. Thereafter we both babbled on about news from home, our respective exploits etc, etc, etc. My time aboard passed swiftly and the hospitality I was afforded by all I came into contact with was overwhelming. So much so that in what seemed to be the blinking of an eye my time for departure drew

near and promptly at 1630 hours the launch reappeared and I bid my farewells. As the launch drew away, Renown gradually disappeared from view in the shimmering heat and I was returned to the quay I had left some 4½ hours earlier.

In retrospect I think it was only then that I found it difficult to fully comprehend all that had happened in such a short space of time and how well blessed I had been (as indeed I was throughout my Army days) that a 'landlubber' such as I had been favoured with such VIP treatment in such momentous times. It increased even more my admiration and pride in the Royal Navy. Upon return to my headquarters I was only capable of giving a rather hysterical account of my unique experience. My colleagues simply refused to believe me and thought, as military jargon has it 'I was swinging the lamp'. Very early next morning, armed with binoculars, I raced down to the quayside and looked out into the Bay but predictably there was no sign of the Renown.

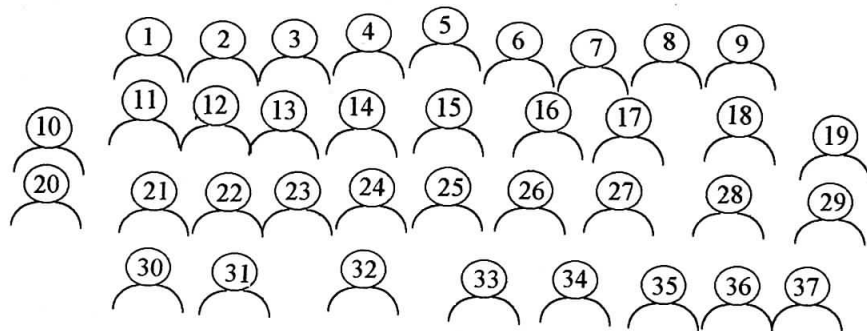
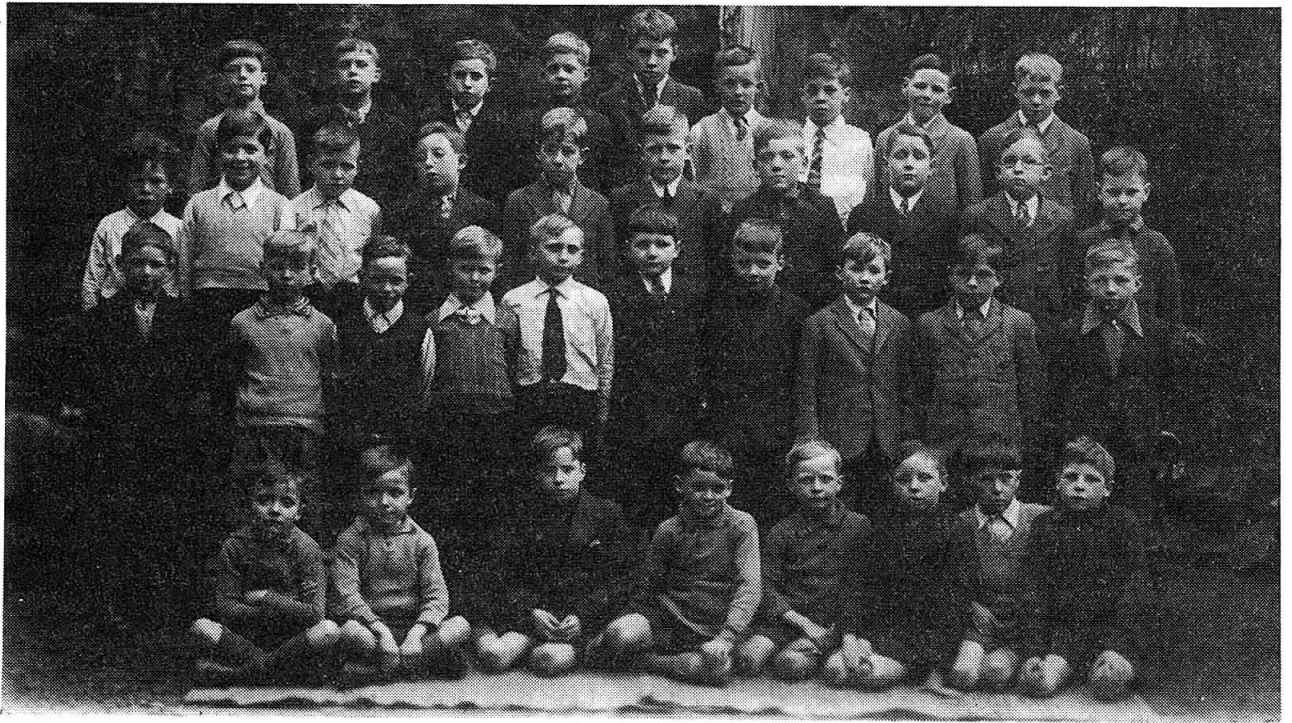
I lost little time writing to our respective parents but mindful of 'letter censorship' I merely told them that I had met up with Ted in most intriguing circumstances but they need not be concerned as we were both quite well and we would relate the full story of our rendezvous on our return home. ...This was not to be until August 1945, some three months after the war in Europe was ended. Regretfully we had no snapshots to show of our meeting as cameras aboard were strictly forbidden. I trust that Ted will live to a ripe old age because he is the only one I know who can verify this narrative. Otherwise the reader could be forgiven for regarding it a figment of imagination on my part, it being such an almost unbelievable story."

It is by coincidence that this story appears in a September issue of the magazine for to go full circle, so to speak, Chris tell us that although his family were parishioners of St Williams, Ince, it so happened that on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, he and his two brothers (both now dead) attended 11 o'clock Mass at St Mary's when it was announced from the pulpit that war had been declared.

In his early retirement years Chris was most active but his activities were somewhat curtailed following major heart surgery and other less serious operations, however, at 79, he maintains his long association with St John Fisher School. For many years he was a governor of St John Fisher Girls' Secondary Modern School, prior to its being incorporated in St John Fisher High School 26 years ago. There he continues to serve by applying his skills of cheerful leadership as Chairman of the Governing Body. (For 11 years he was a governor of Sacred Heart Primary School retiring as Vice-Chairman 4 years ago.) In addition to his interest in other charitable institutions he was for 16 years a member of the Wigan & District Cancer Research Committee retiring as Chairman in 1993. (Since its formation in 1958 this voluntary body continues to make substantial financial contributions in support of projects in Wigan and Christie Hospital, Manchester - Mrs Ethel McHugh, a parishioner of St Mary's is a founder member and long serving secretary of the Committee.)

Married for over 52 years, Chris and his wife Teresa reside in the parish of Sacred Heart. He is a Minister of the Eucharist and a reader. Their daughter and her husband are parishioners of St Marie's, Standish.

Sadly 'Ted' MacFarlane, died on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1996 at the age of 76. He was a parishioner of St James, Orrell,



1 Gerard Latham 41	11 Kevin Egan 65	21 Laurie McTigue 67	31 Evacuee
2 Bill Christall 39	12 Billy Ashcroft 63	22 Evacuee	32 Tommy Walsh 66
3 Gordon Brown 53	13 Brian Smith	23 - Blackledge	33 J Burke
4 Edmund Everett 57	14 Peter Worden	24 Billy Taylor	34 V Gregon
5 Tom Foster	15 Gordon Hurst	25 Brian Keenan 43	35 Frank Gavaghan 61
6 Roy Evans	16 John Whittle 46	26 Evacuee	36 Ronald Briody
7 Tony Gavaghan 44	17 George Bootle 59	27 Tom Siney 60	37 Eugene McGuinn
8 Gordon Holliday	18 George Robson	28 Tom Corry 45	
9 Kevin Baldwin 38	19 Alec Hurst	29 Derek Stapleton 62	
10 Evacuee	20 Laurence Cook	30 Evacuee	

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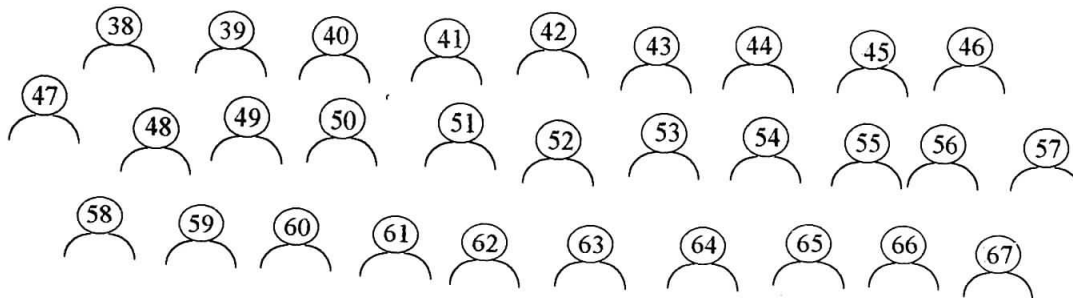
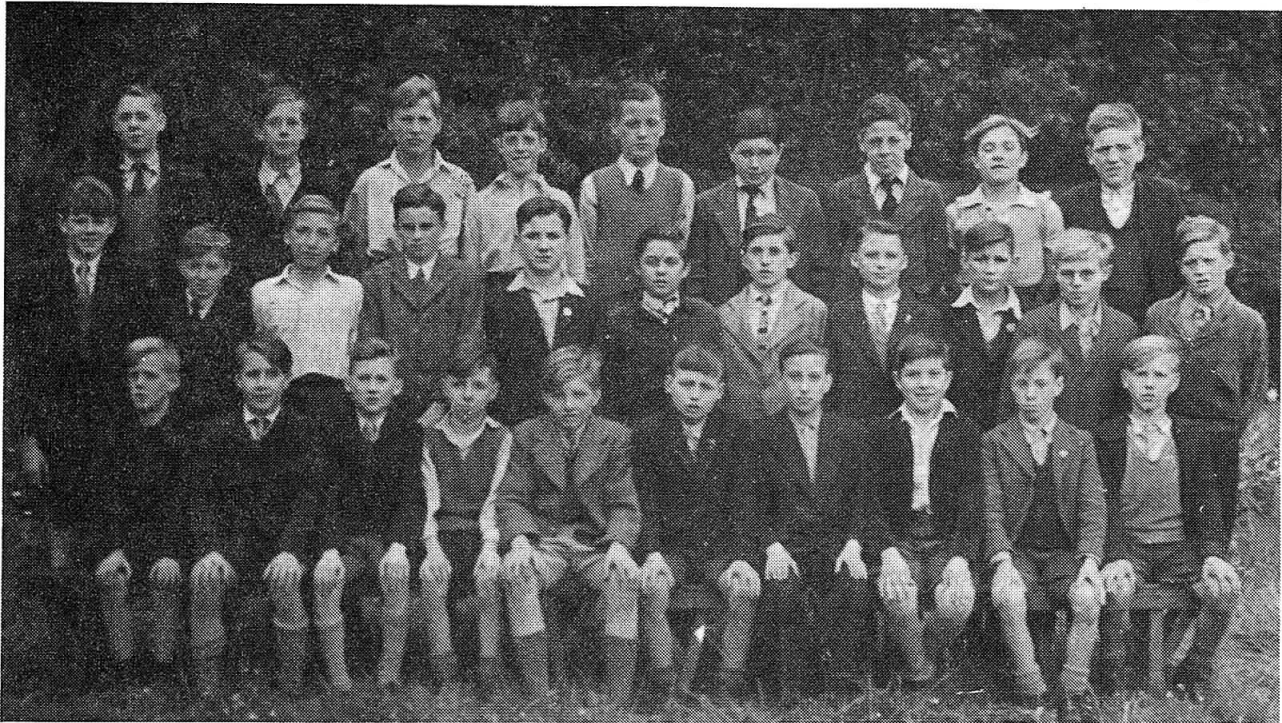
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38	Kevin Baldwin 9	46	John White 16	54	Brian Siney	62	Derek Stapleton 29
39	Billy Christall 2	47	Jim Willson	55	Bernard Powell	63	Billy Ashcroft 12
40	Jimmy Gee	48	- Birchall	56	Eddie Ormisher	64	Richard Hughes
41	Gerald Latham 1	49	John Bullen	57	Edmund Everett 4	65	Kevin Egan 11
42	Gerald Rigby	50	Tony Brown	58	Ken Ryding	66	Tommy Walsh 32
43	Brian Keenan 25	51	Charley Leary	59	George Bootle 17	67	Laurie McTigue 21
44	Ton Gavaghan 7	52	John Howard	60	Tom Siney 27		
45	Tom Corry 28	53	Gordon Brown 3	61	Frank Gavaghan 35		

The photographs were kindly supplied by Mr George Bootle.

Mrs J Siney asks if anyone has a photograph of St Mary's Crowning Group of 1963 or 1964. Please let us know if you have.

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# Catholic Men's Society



On the facing page we set out the programme for the 1998 Rosary Sunday Demonstration. We will be joined this year by the President of the Archdiocesan CMS, Brother Kevin Regan and several friends from Liverpool.

We look forward to our gathering inside St John's historic church. First-time visitors are often impressed by the majestic interior and the way reordering, decoration, lighting and carpeting all compliment the original grand setting.

The Parish Club, on Standishgate, will be open after the service. Tea and biscuits will be available in the Lower Club Room. There is limited parking behind the church with access next to the Presbytery in Powell Street.

Our annual 'Deceased Members' Mass, scheduled this year for St Patrick's, is being deferred until next year when redecoration of the church has been completed.

God bless you all. - See you on Rosary Sunday

Gerard Dowd,  
CMS Wigan

## By Royal Invitation

As a representative of the Nursing Association and in celebration of 50 years of the National Health Service, a one time pupil at St Mary's school, Mrs Patricia Lawton RGN, (Pat,) Staff Nurse attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. It was on Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>, when she was accompanied by her husband and in the presence of HM the Queen and HRH Prince Philip. She writes:

"It was a lovely day, the sun shone as the bands played on the lawns and we strolled through the gardens mingling with the numerous other guests. Although not spoken to by the Queen or Prince Philip it was an unforgettable day and I would not have missed the experience for the world."

The only daughter of the late Mr H and Mrs Irene Cowburn, Pat's nursing career began in 1969. Having trained at Wrightington Hospital she has been district nursing since 1977 and is currently at the Beech Hill Health Centre.



# CATHOLIC MEN'S SOCIETY

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### ANNUAL

# ROSARY SUNDAY

# DEMONSTRATION

4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1998

#### *Order of the Walk:*

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The Mayor & Mayoress of Wigan Councillor Sam Little and wife Nancy  
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The President of Wigan District CMS, Bro V G Egan JP

Catholic Men's Society from Wigan & Liverpool

Catholic Magistrates and Councillors

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Parishioners walk in threes within their parish group as follows:

- |                               |                                |                                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 St John's, Wigan            | 10 Guest Parishes              | 12 St Benedict's, Hindley       |
| 2 St Jude's, Poolstock, Wigan | St Teresa's, Upholland         | 13 St Bernadette's, Shevington  |
| 3 St Mary's, Wigan            | All Saint's, Golborne          | 14 St Wilfrid's, Stubshaw Cross |
| 4 Sacred Heart, Hindley Green | St Gabriel's, Leigh            | 15 St Oswald's, Ashton          |
| 5 Sacred Heart, Wigan         | St Joseph's, Wrightington      | 16 Holy Family, Platt Bridge    |
| 6 St William's, Ince          | Our Lady & All Saints, Parbold | 17 St James', Orrell            |
| 7 St Edward's, Newtown        | St Richard's, Atherton         | 18 St Cuthbert's, Pemberton     |
| 8 St Patrick's, Wigan         | Sacred Heart, Leigh            | 19 Holy Family, New Springs     |
| 9 St Marie's, Standish        | 11 St Aidan's, Winstanley      | 20 Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn    |

- 2.15 pm Assemble inside the Park Gates on Bridgeman Terrace (opposite the Tax Offices).
- 2.20 pm Recite one decade of the Holy Rosary. Sing one verse each of "Faith of Our Fathers" & the National Anthem.
- 2.25 pm Stewards will call forward groups in the above order to walk along Swinley Road, Earl Street, Upper Dicconson Street, Dicconson Terrace to the church in Standishgate.
- 3.00 pm Rosary, Homily and Benediction inside the Church. The Club will be open after the service.

## CRICKET - FOLLOWING ON

After our Sunday team's run bonanza at BICKERSHAW, the first team travelled to WIDNES on the following Saturday to play GOODLASS. It was a rare sunny day and the home side batted first scoring 105 for 8, with ANDY McCANN taking 4 for 15. PETER BROADSTOCK opened our winnings with ANDY, and scored a very good 26 before being stumped at 63. MARTIN ARKWRIGHT came - and went - for 6 at 74, being replaced by STUART COOPER. ANDY, meanwhile, was doing nicely at the other end, and at our match winning total of 108 for 2, he had made 55 not out - with STUART not out 3. The next day, the Sunday team played at home to HIGHFIELD. We only made 46, with ANDY McCANN and LAWRENCE HOY the only players to get double figures, with 10 each. HIGHFIELD won with 51 for 3.

Our first team were at SALISBURY-LIVERPOOL the following Saturday and the home side made 150 for 7. DARREN ASPEY 4 for 60 and PATRICK FOSTER 3 for 36. Our reply started at 5.07 pm, and at 7 for 0 seven minutes later, it finished - because of rain. RAIN is putting it mildly - I know it was 6<sup>th</sup> June, D Day, but the D this time was for "deluge". I was expecting the Mersey ferry to sail by the pitch and pick us up. The next day the team was at BILLINGE and the home team made 65 - after being 37 for 9. DARREN ASPEY 4 for 10, PATRICK FOSTER 3 for 15 and STUART COOPER 3 for 24, plus two fine catches from 'NUDGER' CHADWICK. We won, with ANDY McCANN 19 and DAVID PURDHAM 17 in our total of 71 for 4.

On Saturday 13 June we were at WINWICK, and once again we got the WINWICK WOBBLER". After getting them all out for 89, with STUART COOPER 4 for 18, we started badly with 22 for 4 - and finished even worse, from 73 for 5 to 82 all out. DARREN ASPEY 19 and PATRICK FOSTER 14. The Sunday team were at Leigh on the 14<sup>th</sup> and PATRICK FOSTER 41 not out, DARREN ASPEY 33, ANDY McCANN

19 and LAWRENCE HOY 10, helped us to total 122. LEIGH replied with 126 for 6, despite PATRICK FOSTER'S 2 for 9 in his 8 overs.

With our ground not being available the following week and having no game the week after, our next game was on 28 June when our Sunday team were at SUTTON. The home team batted first and got off to a great start. At 25 overs they were 94 for 1 and heading for a large total. However, TOM WOOD then came on to bowl and got two wickets for none in his first over. He finished his 8-over spell with great figures of 5 for 22, and helped by DARREN ASPEY 3 for 15, got the opposition out for 129. In our reply, after good work from PATRICK FOSTER 25 and DARREN ASPEY 21, we lost several wickets cheaply. MARTIN ARKWRIGHT, however, was batting sensibly and was on 12 not out at 82 for 5 when he was joined by BOBBY DOHERTY, who certainly arrested the fall of wickets. He hit a run a minute - 30 not out - which, along with MARTIN'S 34 not out, took us to a winning score of 132 for 5.

4 July saw the first team at WINWICK and thanks to PATRICK FOSTER - 5 for 38 - they were all out for 105. We were going along nicely at 68 for 2 - ANDY McCANN 28 - when once again - need I say it - our batsmen "dithered to defeat". At 72 PATRICK was caught after scoring 32, and the remaining seven batsmen scored 17 in 13 overs. All out for 89, with 9 overs remaining. The following day the Sunday team were at EARLESTOWN and we batted first. PATRICK FOSTER 47, DAVE PURDHAM 32, MARTIN ARKWRIGHT 26 and IAN SINCLAIR 12, helped us to 163 for 8. EARLESTOWN replied with 107 for 7, of which PATRICK took 4 for 16.

The first team at ACTION-LIVERPOOL on 11 July batted first, scoring 98 with PATRICK FOSTER 31 and PETER BROADSTOCK 24. Even MARK FOSTER'S 4 for 31 couldn't stop ACTION reaching 101 for 6.

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In the game at BILLINGE on 25 July the home side had reached the 50's without losing a wicket. Our attack was depleted when DARREN ASPEY broke a finger when fielding. However, when ANDY McCANN and PATRICK FOSTER came to bowl they went through the BILLINGE team like senna pods, with PATRICK 7 for 21 and ANDY 3 for 9 - leaving them all out 87. The ST JOHN'S reply wasn't trouble free -losing early wickets but BOBBY DOHERTY arrived on the scene and got a valuable 20. MARK FOSTER 13 and a patient 13 from IAN SINCLAIR saw us to a win, at 91 for 7. The next day the curse of WINWICK struck yet again, only PATRICK FOSTER getting double figures with 10 in our pathetic all out 37 - against a weakened WINWICK team at that !! This nightmare display was witnessed on the sideline by the injured and very despondent DARREN ASPEY, but, unable to help, he couldn't bear watching the fiasco and left early. WINWICK had no trouble in winning at 41 for 1. Whatever happens to our batsmen when we play WINWICK is a real puzzle - is hypnotism one of the treatments at WINWICK!!!

The following Saturday, 1 August, the team were at home to SALISBURY-LIVERPOOL. Their heads had certainly cleared, for they had the Liverpoolians all out for 37 - MARK FOSTER 3 for 3, ANDY McCANN 3 for 11, PATRICK FOSTER 2 for 5 and STUART COOPER 1 for 11. In our reply ANDY McCANN was caught for 2, BOBBY DOHERTY joined DAVE PURDHAM and was next out after a fine knock of 24, at 28 for 2. We lost another three cheap wickets before 33, with "anchorman" DAVE PURDHAM beginning to wonder whether he was at WINWICK!!. However,

PETER BROADSTOCK 2 not out and DAVE 8 not out, took us to 40 for 5.

It was cup-tie day the next day, at home to ACTION-LIVERPOOL. We had another batting fiasco with STUART COOPER 12 and MARTIN ARKWRIGHT 11 in our 55 for 9. ACTION got 58 for 4. DARREN ASPEY returned after his injury for our next match at home against MERSEYBUS. However, it was a "one man band" game, for STUART COOPER with 5 sixes and 7 fours in a magnificent 76 out of our total of 101 certainly took the busmen for a ride. It was even a return ticket for he took the first three of their wickets, plus a catch as well, to finish with 12 overs, 4 maidens, 17 runs, 3 wickets. Along with MARK FOSTER 12 . 3 . 22 . 3 they were the main reason MERSEYBUS got only 82.

Only a few hours before our next match - at WIDNES - we were hit by the tragic news of DARREN'S death. With everyone in a state of shock both week-end matches were called off. The following Saturday was our last match of the season, and DARREN'S brother NEIL had asked to be in the team, to play at home to GOODLASS. Unfortunately it didn't get to be played - the Liverpoolians weren't able to get eleven players together and had to concede the match. I wonder if the fact that LIVERPOOL were playing ARSENAL the same afternoon had anything to do with it!!!

On reflection we haven't enjoyed the season at all. It hasn't been a happy one, what with the fixture list chaos, the bad weather and, worst of all, the end of season tragedy

TAS

## BOWLING

### 'A' Team

It's looking as if the 'A' team is on the slippery road back into the second division in the CMS league.

Two recent disastrous defeats against St Cuthbert's and St Jude's have left them with only nine points - with their remaining three matches all away.

As we go into those games the race for the "team merit" is between IAN HILTON, FRANK KELLY, BARRY COX and JIMMY WOODCOCK. JIMMY, I must say, has been the team's most improved player this season.

S Stopforth

### 'B' Team

St John's 'B' team are having a very good season. This despite having problems at times turning out a full team. They are almost certain of promotion into the second division and have also reached the final of the CARMELITE CUP in which they meet ST CUTHBERT'S. The final will be played on a neutral green, which with the assistance of STUART STOPFORTH will be ST MARIE'S. "Thanks Stu!!!"

Top performances this season have come from CARL ARMSTRONG, STEADY EDDIE PEARSON and JACK BURNS while COLIN 'THE COAT' DURKIN is still bouncing them out.

TAS

Its really nice to be able to start a SWEC report with good news. At long last Wigan Baptist Church have a new minister. On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September they held an induction service for James Wright their new minister. James and his wife Fiona who is a health visitor hail from Scotland as did his predecessor Alex Cook and his wife Maureen.

It is a pleasure to welcome them to Wigan and I know that they will be made very welcome in a way special to the people of Wigan.

I am glad to see James not only from the point of view of our friends at Wigan Baptist Church who after more than a year again have their own minister, but because we missed the fellowship and input to our SWEC meetings that we had in the past.

I know Malcolm Cawley and John Logan did their best to fill the void, but they were unable to attend the ministers' fraternal meetings where many of the items for the SWEC agenda originated.

On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1998 there will be the annual harvest dinner, the proceeds this year going to Christian Aid. (We agreed CAFOD and Christian Aid would benefit on alternate years). Tickets at £3 from Eric Scandrett.

There will be speakers from both CAFOD and Christian Aid, and the entertainment will be provided by Caroline Joynt and Tim Jones who will enact a series of sketches.

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 1998 there will be the Ecumenical Harvest Service at Wigan Baptist Church at 6.00 pm.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November there will be a visit from "Wild Goose" a group from Iona. The day will consist of music and Bible workshops. On 8<sup>th</sup> November they will be appearing at the Victoria Hall Bolton. It is hoped to arrange coaches for any

interested parties. (See Ian White, Whitley Methodist Church).

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1998 at 6.00 pm we will be holding our United Advent Service, also during the Advent period we will again be distributing the SWEC Christmas Card giving the services for the different churches over the Christmas period. If anyone can help deliver the cards to their surrounding area I would be grateful if they would let me know.

St Michael's parish is holding a series of six informal discussions looking at Christian attitudes and responses to some issues of today.

These will be on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 as follows:

9<sup>th</sup> Sept - **Care of the dying** - led by a speaker from Wigan Hospice

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept - **Prisoners, punishment & forgiveness** led by a prison chaplain

14<sup>th</sup> Oct - **Drug culture** - led by Christine Baxter

28<sup>th</sup> Oct - **Young people today - thoughts and attitudes** - led by Andrew Mellors

11<sup>th</sup> Nov - **Christianity; Has it a role in Education?** led by Dot Thomson, Metro's RE adviser

25<sup>th</sup> Nov - **Case Studies - drawing the threads together** - led by Philip Heyes.

All the meetings will take place at St Michael's Institute, behind the Scout Hut in Earl Street (through the wrought iron gates and along the path to the back of the building). Car parking is available in designated places on Duke Street and Earl Street during the evenings.

George Walsh

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# The Cycle of Prayer

## Ordinary Time - Autumn

This sixth and final season of the Church's year (Autumn) is brimful of feast days and special periods of time culminating in the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King on Sunday 22nd November 1998.

Then we begin our preparation year for the millennium.

So let us keep in mind all those who are waiting, preparing to start a new life - those being ordained for the priesthood and diaconate; those who are engaged preparing for marriage; those who are welcoming a new baby into their family and those who are starting at a new school or university.

October we celebrate as the month of the Rosary and November we remember all the saints and those of our dear ones who have died.

Remember especially people who are disabled in any way and those who care for them. (The Mass for the disabled is at the Cathedral on the first Sunday in October).

Other intentions for Autumn are listed in the Cycle of Prayer given to the Church in England & Wales by our Bishops' conference as follows:

*The Spread of the Gospel.*

*The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation.*

*Justice & Peace in the World.*

*All Victims of War.*

*Young People.*

*Prisoners and Their Families*

EPL.

### Particular dates of importance during this period:

Home Mission Day	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
World Mission Day	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> October
The Harvest etc	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September or whenever Harvest Festivals are held
Racial Justice Day	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
Family Fast Day	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
Youth Day	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Prisoners' Week	9 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> November
Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November



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# St Edmund Arrowsmith Country

To honour the feast of our Lancashire martyr St Edmund Arrowsmith on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August we attended a special Mass. This was celebrated by Fr Piers of St Joseph's, Brindle at the 400 year old Arrowsmith House in Gregson Lane where it is said that Fr Arrowsmith offered Mass for the last time before his capture and later martyrdom at Lancaster on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1628.

The "visitors from Wigan" were made most welcome by Mr and Mrs Cyril Hall who now live at Arrowsmith House. Our one year old Hannah didn't offer Fr Piers *too* much 'oral accompaniment' and sitting in a small chair which Mrs Hall kindly provided she 'joined in' happily with the final hymn to St Edmund Arrowsmith. The wonderful evening ended with the Rosary and refreshments.

## THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS

She never sat upon a throne  
But was Queen of Hearts in every home.  
She lost the title of Her Royal Highness  
But the whole world knew she was the finest.  
She started off so very shy  
But her confidence grew as years went by.  
A great ambassador for the nation  
Faced with all kinds of situation.  
Reaching out to people there  
Our Diana showed that she did care;  
Wiping the tears of a crying eye  
The people's Princess was Princess Di.  
Little children she did love  
Embracing them with a hug;  
The poor and sick she couldn't ignore  
Supporting charities ever more.  
But the terrible shock that hit us all  
Was when a car she was in lost control.  
The pain of sadness and tears now shed  
Was when we heard our Princess of Wales was dead.  
For out of a tragedy such as this  
Robbed the whole world of the people's Princess,  
So as her body is put to rest  
It's good night Diana and God Bless.

*Maueren Burns*

It was to Brindle that Fr Arrowsmith came to serve the people after his studies for the priesthood at Douai.

On August Bank Holiday we joined the "Arrowsmith Walk" at Brindle which is a sponsored walk supporting St Joseph's church restoration. This annual event is a 5 mile walk in the area of the chase and capture, marking the various incidents.

We all assembled at 2.00 pm outside St Joseph's church and complete with balloons and badges set off along the fields enjoying the sunshine. It was another wonderful day, this time with bar-b-cue, fun and games besides - but that's another story.

St Edmund Arrowsmith pray for us.

M Farley

## FROM A FLEMISH CALVARY (1632)

*A Copy is in Lisieux Cathedral*

I am the Light and you do not see Me;  
I am the Way and you do not follow Me;  
I am the Truth and you do not believe in Me;  
I am the Life and you do not seek Me;  
I am the Master and you do not heed Me;  
I am the Lord and you do not obey Me;  
I am your God and you do not pray to Me;  
I am your great Friend and you do not love Me;  
**If you are unhappy don't blame Me!**

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## Whither J & P?

With acknowledgement to Rev Eamonn O'Brien for his leading article taken from *Vocation for Justice*, Summer 1998 issue.

Our media is attempting to etch a place for "Cool Britannia" in popular culture. Some churches are even speaking of the need for a spin doctor. Whatever the merits of these ideas to help people to rise again from the depression of the Thatcher era, their severe limits as analysis and strategy goes without saying.

Despite this limitation, these cultural in-words serve a fundamental purpose: that of alerting me as a newly arrived missionary in Britain, and indeed all who claim to be followers of Jesus, to two fundamental questions: Firstly, what are we about as Christians? Secondly, what is the specific context in Britain (and indeed globally) in which we attempt to carry out our mission?

My struggle with both these questions began in the Philippines about 1972. Having arrived there in 1969, as a post Vatican II graduate, armed with the latest from Rahner, Schillebeeckx etc, alas, I found all this wisdom had little to say in response to a little old man who came one day and said "Father, I have been evicted from the land on which my family have been tenants for generations. My source of life has been taken from me." The only contribution my accrued wisdom made as I conducted the funerals of children, whose lifeless bodies contributed to the high child mortality statistics, was to leave me speechless, stunned and silent. Faced with this impasse, I recalled that John XXIII had said something unusual sometime before he opened Vatican II: that he wanted the Council to make the Church one for all, but especially a church for the poor. Then began a process of questioning which continues to seek answers to this day: What is mission about? What is the fundamental meaning of the Church as the historical body that claims to continue the mission and mystery of Jesus? What was Jesus, as the bearer of "Good News" from God, really about?

I found myself in Leeds in 1975, and took up the post of full-time Diocesan Co-ordinator for Justice and Peace, solidly supported by Bishops Wheeler and Moverley. I regard my time there as privileged, working alongside an energetic and spirit-filled group of lay people, who were struggling in Leeds with the very same questions that had been raised for me in the Philippines. The Holy Spirit was indeed prodding people throughout the world.

Our baby J&P steps in Leeds had crises and memorable moments. Once, a little old lady, fed up with our cautious approach as organisers, and absolutely annoyed when she could not hear Tom Cullinan, marched down the centre aisle of Bradford University's auditorium and bashed on the head each of the National Front gang of young men who were trying to subvert our first Leeds Annual Assembly. With sadness, I recall the tedious discussion we had preparing our first National J&P conference in Spode House in 1978 where my friend Keith Siberry, who died so untimely last September, played a leading role. Never did I experience the jitters so much as before I visited Archbishop George Patrick O'Dwyer of Birmingham Archdiocese whose rigorous questioning was well-known. He conducted a thorough interrogation regarding my mission to him, but, within a short time, he was the second Bishop to appoint a full-time Justice and Peace Diocesan Co-ordinator.

Looking back on the twenty years that have elapsed, I am convinced that, excepting the poor and victims of injustices whose voices cry out to us, the men and women in Britain and throughout world who have taken up the "Justice and Peace" agenda, fallible human beings as we are, have made an

unparalleled contribution in helping the whole Church to face its primary identity: the MISSION to EVANGELISE today.

What approaches will the Justice and Peace agenda take in the future? It has blazed a trail in the past, and indeed leadership from its prophets will have to continue in the future, but surely it will splutter out as a movement unless it finds itself anchored in the total evangelisation process of a radically renewed Church. This, it seems to me, will be the challenge both to the leadership and the grassroots of J&P who can never allow themselves to be satisfied with an activist peripheral role, and to the mainstream Church membership who in the past have been unable or feared to embrace this agenda.

I believe we are all eternally indebted to Paul VI who in his encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi* gave us a treatment of EVANGELISATION which has not been surpassed, which profoundly challenges and for the greater part still has to be implemented by the Church.

Existing from an era where the Church's identity and ministry had become so identified with its structures and externals, he challenged us to understand that the Church's identity is drawn in the first place from its mission to evangelise; that the Church structures and inner life attain their fulfilment ONLY at the service of evangelisation; that the ultimate horizon of all Church work is the Kingdom of God. He confirmed what all of us knew, that there is no true evangelisation if the name and teachings of Jesus are not taught. However, he may have shattered some of us when he said that this proclamation, often seen as synonymous with evangelisation, is only one aspect of it. The second aspect he identifies is the living WITNESS of Christians, which he calls the primary means of evangelisation. The third aspect is transforming action - the most novel aspect of evangelisation - the new commandment of love cannot be properly preached without accompanying efforts to promote justice, peace and authentic human development.

These aspect of a more holistic evangelisation, Paul VI claims, are derived from a study of the evangelisation activity of Jesus, who was the FIRST AND GREATEST EVANGELISER

Hence my conviction of the urgent need for us all to take another look at Jesus; we might call it a THIRD LOOK. The companions and friends of Jesus, who knew him and believed that he rose from the dead, had the first unique look. It had a profound effect. A second look at Jesus surely began when the Roman Empire took the sibling Church under its wing.

Our third look at Jesus will give us much to behold and retrieve. His sure experience of the love of his "Abba" enabled him in deed and word to offer "Good News", and so to offer it preferentially to the poor of his time. The great millennium experience, with some notable exceptions, is in danger of being frittered away in the superficial and the ephemeral. It could be a rich time if it is grounded on a THIRD look at Jesus, the TOTAL EVANGELISATION he spearheaded, and the implications of the latter for us today. On this foundation we too will certainly be secure as we join hands with peoples of other Faiths and none in taking up the initiatives highlighted in this issue of *Vocation for Justice*.

Eamonn O'Brien SSC



Justice & Peace Group

## ONE WORLD WEEK CALLING FOR POSITIVE ACTION

The Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver in 1983 urged the churches to commitment to Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation, two issues that are urgent for the survival of humankind. Among other factors - suffering, human rights violations, discriminations, war, nuclear weapons, the violence done to creation in the drive for human progress - there was a burning consciousness that we live in an interdependent world from every point of view. One cannot reflect too often that these are themes rooted in the Bible, in our traditions of faith, in the moral obligations on which Christians should act.

William Blake wrote of seeing "a world in a grain of sand". It is literally true. Thermonuclear reactions in space, "the furnace of the stars", build up creation an element at a time. As someone remarked (wonderingly?) "The Bible was right, life was from clay, it returns to dust and ashes". Some people are so overwhelmed by the miracle and beauty of nature that they attribute a divinity to Mother Earth. Julian of Norwich saw the world as a small nut and to her question "What can this be?" came the answer "It is all that is made", again a vision not incompatible with science. Everyone has heard that a butterfly beating its wings in the Amazon can cause a hurricane on the other side of the world. Thinking in this way we can be aware of the importance of our smallest actions, in contrast with our usual feelings of being completely unable to affect the course of events.

As a corrective to these common feelings of helplessness we should celebrate the unity of

creation during Christian Aid's yearly One World Week, this year from 18 to 25 October. The theme is wonderfully wide. "Shaping Our Landscapes" covers every imaginable aspect of people and our planet. It includes environment, ethics of consumption, trade, multinationals, genetic engineering, wealth, international debt, use and distribution of resources, racism, education and health, human rights, etc. You name it, it can be included. There is growing awareness that we in the affluent north are living at the expense of the world's population and ecological balance; depleting resources, increasing pollution, widening the poverty gap. We can continue to accept this or work to change structures. It depends on our choice, the influence we bring to bear on our government and representatives. If the world is to be transfigured, we are the agents to do it and that calls for action.

At the Rio de Janeiro Summit in 1992, world leaders addressing the planet's future decided to involve everyone down to the local level, acting together to make a global impact. This process is known as Local Agenda 21, the international agenda for the 21st century. Areas of concern are environment, pollution and waste, energy, transport, poverty, equality, employment and health. It is essential for our children and grandchildren that everyone becomes aware of and informed about these issues. Wigan Council has gone far in setting up a Committee chaired by Councillor John E Hilton with co-ordinator, educational advisors, youth leaders and sector projects to implement the policy.

# Frank Ryding

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## **BOOKS**

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We hope that everyone concerned, whatever angle they come from, will join us in a celebration of One World Week. Exactly how we will do this has to be decided and organised. We hope to define some areas of concern, to inform about what is being done and to highlight how people can be involved in positive action. Willy-nilly we are all involved with one another, have to love one another, and that is very demanding. A preliminary meeting was held in St John's House on 17 August. It was well attended and constructive. There were representatives from a wide range of interested parties; three local churches, three local schools, the Local Authority, Christian Aid and the Archdiocese. It was agreed that we will celebrate One World Week by mounting an exhibition in the Galleries on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October and by organising an evening event of talk, music, drama and poetry on the theme of 'Shaping Our Landscapes' (the official theme of One World Week). Both the exhibition and the evening event will aim to show what the forces are that 'shape our landscape' and point out that as individuals we can make a difference to what the world is like.

Everyone is welcome to join in this project. There is enough work to be shared out so that everyone can be involved and useful with activities ranging from mounting displays to performing on stage. Some might consider assisting in their professional capacity by telling an audience about their work as geologists, road builders, mining engineers, town-planners, environmentalists, 3<sup>rd</sup> World workers etc.

Steve Atherton (tel: 243745) has volunteered to act as co-ordinator. If anyone has any ideas or would volunteer to help in any way, please set aside any doubts - help us to make some impact in Wigan in October. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." (Margaret Mead.) One does not have to be gifted or charismatic, the really effective

people are the unknown and unnoticed who simply do their best. Perhaps we should have statues to "The Unknown Saint" in our churches to remind us of this.

There will be a further meeting in St John's House, 13 Powell Street, on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm.

Thalia Hamilton

PS At the 1<sup>st</sup> September meeting, which concentrated on nitty-gritty details of display board dimensions etc, we reached the point of committing ourselves to the display in the 'Santas Grotto' area of the Galleries. Volunteers are needed to talk to passers by.

The evening event is less certain. If volunteers come forward by the 5<sup>th</sup> October meeting then it will take place. Otherwise it will form the main event for next year.

Steve Atherton

### THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

**Justice and Peace ANNUAL ASSEMBLY -**  
St Joseph's, Up Holland, Sunday 4 October.  
Speaker: Derek Twigg, MP on  
"The Environment & LA 21".

### RECOMMENDED READING

"God of Compassion" - Gerard W Hughes, SJ  
"Vocation for Justice" - Columban Fathers' Quarterly

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