

Magazine
serving
the Parishes of
St Mary & St John
Wigan

Spring 1990

30p

March, April & May 1990

St Mary's Presbytery

Dear Parishioners,

This (to point the obvious) is the first Magazine edition of the last decade of the twentieth century. At least two of our parishioners, Mrs Gleeson and Tom Standish have seen every decade in the century. Let us hope they see it out. The Church (and the Churches) have named it the decade of evangelization. The modern penchant (excuse my French) for using a long word instead of a simple one gives us "evangelization". It means the Good News or as I (as one who just missed the first decade) would prefer "the Gospel". Which, in turn, means God's Spell or God's word. So many of our words are contracted in this way. Like "Good Bye" which means "God be with you". I could continue indefinitely with such useless erudition, but I will refrain.

In this decade which ends with the two thousandth anniversary of the coming of God made visible and audible in Our Lord Jesus Christ, we are asked to concentrate and be more positive in our efforts to bring God's message to those we come in contact with. The first and most important way of doing this is by a campaign of prayer. What about fixing a number of times in the day when we would say a short prayer for the conversion of our friends and acquaintances? What about getting the family together for five or ten minutes to pray? What, if you are passing St Mary's, not passing but nipping in for a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament? Or would it occur to you to suggest to a spouse or a friend that they might be interested in learning more of the Catholic faith? But gently and, if not, don't press it. Any genuine acceptance of the faith must be entirely free.

The season of Lent reminds us as we receive the ashes on Ash Wednesday that we are exhorted to "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel". One of the most powerful means to help us to turn from sin is that sadly neglected sacrament of Penance or Confession or, following the aforesaid penchant, reconciliation. Try it and bring the children. Or suggest it to the older ones. But again gently. No force. And be faithful to the Gospel. What about positively thinking of what opportunities we come across to do a kindness for someone. The Gospel is one of love. Of God and our neighbour. To be faithful to it we should be on the look out for helping the sick, disabled, housebound or elderly. Why not join the Care Group?

In this century there have been seven Parish Priests of St Mary's: Fr Webster, Dean O'Donohue, Fr Whitely, Fr Mason, Fr Gore, Fr Murphy and the present incumbent. Is it an ominous sign that I now get letters addressed to "The Incumbent or His Successor"? Pray for them all. The late ones may not need it. The present one does. So say one for him and for Fr Gagie who has to put up with him. And from Fr Gagie and me "God be with you".

Yours,
Thomas Cummins
Parish Priest

Wigan District Council of Churches

Christian - Line

In a recent letter to local churches the Chairman, Rev Hardcastle, urged our participation in some forthcoming events in the town:

"One of the principal aims of the Council of Churches is to encourage different denominations to work together at local level.

Clearly there are issues that divide us. There are beliefs that we cannot compromise without loss of integrity.

But at the heart of our various expressions of the Christian faith is the cross of Christ. Here, surely we can gather and witness together to the supreme importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There are two cross-centred events in Standishgate soon. I ask you to support them both:

On Saturday 7th April at 10.45 am there is a march of witness called 'Make Way for the Cross'.

On Good Friday 13th April the Council of Churches has arranged an act of witness around a cross.

Please pray for both of these events and encourage people to join in."

We thank all who have sent in contributions for new equipment. About £250 has been received so far and a search is going on for acceptable equipment. In the meantime we are continuing with the old.

Here are our speakers for the near future. The two minute recorded message is changed each day by the staff at the Words Book Shop.

March

4th Rev A James, St John's, Hindley Green
11th Mrs A Moss, Liverpool
18th Rev C Pope, St Luke's, Orrell
25th Fr W Murphy, St Cuthbert's, Pemberton

April

1st Rev R Gibbard, Chaplain, Hindley Prison
8th Rev J Winnard, St Barnabas, Marsh Green
15th Fr V Cunningham, Our Lady's, Bryn
22nd Mr J Whitely, Deanery High School
29th Fr J Heneghan, Sacred Heart, Gidlow

May

6th Mr N Prescott, Indep Meth, Kitt Green
13th Rev D Lyon, St Aidan's, Billinge
20th Fr B Eager, St Catherine's, Lowton
27th Rev D Percival, St Thomas', Ashton

June

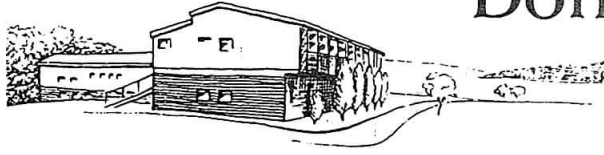
3rd Rev T Frost, Queen's Hall, Wigan
10th Fr L Dumbill, St Aidan's Winstanley
17th Mrs J M Holt, Appley Bridge
24th Fr T Cummins, St Mary's, Standishgate

Magazine Matters

For the first time your magazine is extended to 30 pages. This increase results from three things: - the volume of material received - a dislike of very small print - just sufficient cash in hand to cover the extra printing cost. We hope the decision proves to be a wise one. And another small change - At the recent magazine meeting it was agreed to restore the prize money to £5 for each competition, as it used to be.

Though a number of obituaries are included in this issue we are still needing a volunteer to make discreet inquiries and write brief appreciations on a regular basis.

The Summer issue will be on sale on Sunday 10th June so that the closing date for material will be Sunday 27th May 1990.



Don Orione Centre, Up Holland

Telephone: Upholland (0695) 625255

In the last edition of this magazine applications were invited for the post of Matron at Cardinal Heenan House, Upholland, because of the retirement of Mrs Cathy Gibbons. After generous celebrations and heartfelt thanks to her for her service, a new Matron was appointed. The post was filled by Mrs Margaret Young, the former Deputy Matron. We wish her great fulfilment in her new position.

The great highlight of the past few weeks at Upholland has been the celebration of Fr Angelo's 25 years as a priest. On February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, he and Fr Malcolm Dyer celebrated Mass together at Upholland Residents and friends of the Home shared that Mass and also a buffet lunch. Fr Angelo gave a pleasant little talk in which he explained the coincidence of so many things which had happened in his life on that date - amongst them his parents' marriage and his own ordination. He looked back over 25 years and wondered how perhaps his master would see his achievement. He felt, not as a great scholar or a great preacher, but perhaps as a handyman, a practical man. He thought perhaps God might say he had used his hands to God's honour and glory. He reminded us that this is probably all God expects from each of us - that we use whatever talents he has given us. He hoped perhaps he had done just that. The celebration was simple, sincere and most enjoyable.

Looking ahead at the time of writing - the important date would seem to be March 8th, when some of the British priests of the Order and some of the lay Friends of Don Orione fly to San Kemo to a convention to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Blessed Don Orione's death. It is open to all people, religious or lay and from all countries. Its purpose is to deepen our knowledge, understanding and love of Blessed Luigi. Representatives from the Upholland Centre will be in the party which flies from Gatwick on March 8th.

Fr Angelo asks us to keep in mind the date of the Garden Party at Cardinal Heenan House. It is on Bank Holiday Monday, May 28th. The Wigan Group of Friends of Don Orione and the Catholic Women's League do valuable work by running stalls at this event. The proceeds are in aid of the Home for handicapped young men at Croston. Helpers are very welcome - people with new ideas for stalls, entertainments etc. There is a raffle with excellent money prizes. Can you help in some way? Perhaps you could buy or sell some tickets, give a bottle for the Bottle Tombola or pass a gift to a member of the Catholic Women's League. Please help to make the day a success in some way. Contact Fr Angelo on 0695-622516 if you have an idea for injecting innovation into an event which is always enjoyable.

Please pray for our important people the elderly, often sick, residents at both Cardinal Heenan House and at Springfield. Your prayers are also asked for the success of the venture in Croston.

A Friend of Don Orione

Thanks

The family members of the late Frederick Connolly wish to thank all who sent Mass/sympathy cards. Especially they wish to thank the clergy for hospital visits and for concelebrating the Requiem at St Patrick's.

Youth Club News

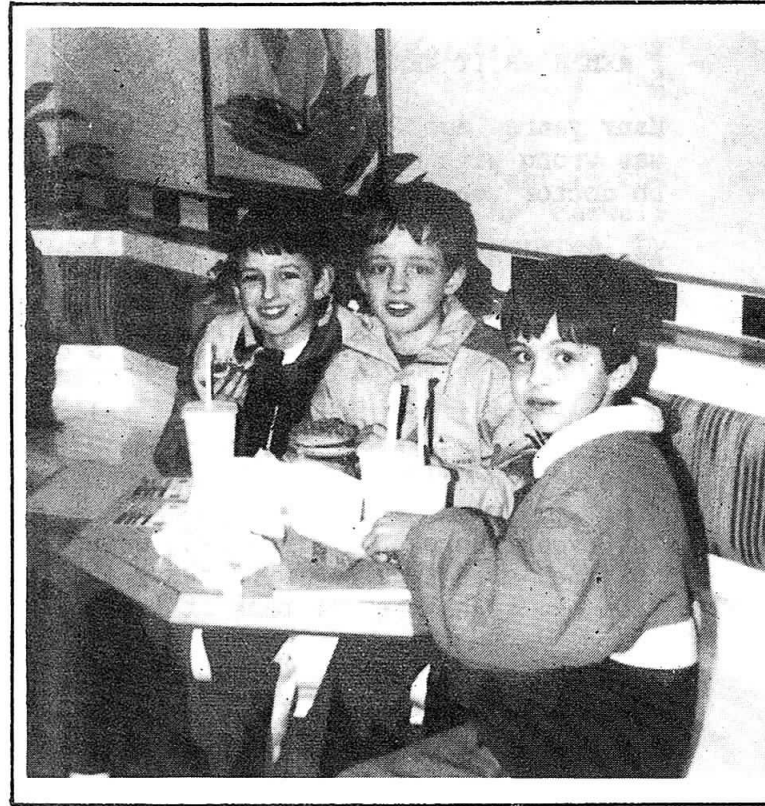
This our first article in the Parish Magazine must start by thanking Father Arthur (who started this venture) and Father Cummins for all their help and encouragement. We really miss the help that Father Arthur gave us.

Members seemed very shy to come to us at first but we are gradually building up good numbers now that we have some kind of programme and know what we want to do.

The Discos have been very well attended, especially our last (a Valentine's Disco) but we desperately need youth or adult help on these evenings as it is difficult for two people to give the supervision needed.

We have had two cookery evenings. One for cake decoration and one of "Super Sweets" which even the boys seemed to enjoy. Our thanks to Mrs Eileen Walsh for her help.

In the Summer we took about twenty of the group canoeing at Three Sisters Recreation Park. This was one of our most successful outings. No - the leaders were not persuaded to 'try out' the canoes.



In McDonalds

November and December found us having two Art Evenings run by Wigan Metro. These were something different at which we made Christmas decorations and cards and learned the art of marbling.

A couple of weeks ago we took about seventeen young people to the Octagon Theatre at Bolton to see back stage. It was really interesting. We were shown the make-up rooms, costumes, lighting, props etc and we were given a talk about the history of the Theatre. The day was rounded off with a visit to McDonald's.

Future events include helping at a Youth Mass, Ten Pin Bowling, a First Aid Course and swimming at Bolton.

A special 'thank you' to Mr George Walsh, who keeps our tuck shop well stocked. We really would welcome anyone with special skills or interests who could spare one hour or so any Tuesday between 7 and 9.30pm.

Finally, we look forward to seeing any young people who think they may enjoy being with us.

Barbara Davis &
Denise Eccleston



Valentine Disco

From St George's

I REMEMBER IT WELL

Many years ago (I remember it well) a succession of doctors always knew what was wrong with me, though none of them could do anything about it. Nowadays, no doctor ventures a diagnosis, but they seem to be able to cure most things.

As a child, I caught flu in the autumn, followed it with a succession of colds (with catarrh), and then caught flu again in the spring. I followed this with hayfever. Late in summer I closed my mouth, and breathed through my nose. This was in Oxford - like Wigan, a damp and catarrhal valley.

No longer! I get injected. The science may not be precise, but the benefit is clear. I breath through my nose all through the year, and only open my mouth to upset people. I recommend the injections - they do not hurt at all.

This year, however, things went wrong. Vaccine was in short supply, and I did not feel able to claim my January injection. Result: flu, misery and frustration - it has set me back at least a month.

Even now I am not sure how I am. They say that flu sets you back and I certainly do not feel full of vigour, but when did I ever? And how can I tell the difference between the after-effects, and plain laziness? I think they feel much the same.

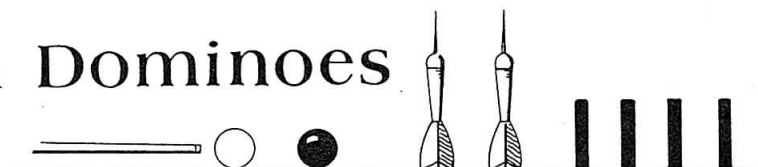
Some small news. One of the stainless steel hooks anchoring our splendid new doors has been wrenched off and taken away. A hundred years ago in Devon a man came over to Wreyland to fetch something left for him a couple of days before, and it had been stolen.

"People shook their heads and wondered what the world was coming to, if you couldn't leave things by the wayside from a Saturday to a Monday without their being carried off." (Small Talk at Wreyland - Cecil Torr)

Win some, lose some?

Bernard Harrison

Snooker, Darts & Dominoes



As the WHITBREAD CMS League draws to a close I'm afraid our snooker teams don't seem to have had the breaks that you need for championship honours. Both A team and B look likely to finish mid-table.

The darts league sees our A team in fourth place with the B just below.

However there are some good spots of news regarding our dominoes teams. The A team is knocking on the trophy door at the moment - it is joint top. Although

the B team is well down in the league it's already got its hands on a trophy by knocking spots off St Aidan's in the CARMELITE CUP FINAL.

Once again both captains would like to thank all the players for their efforts and support and look forward to seeing them - and any new players next season.

The recent CHRISTMAS HANDICAPS saw the snooker won by MARK GRIMES. The dominoes by the 'good-un' MICK JOHNSON and the darts by someone called JOHN GOLLOP - no, it wasn't fixed. Honest!!!

John Gollop

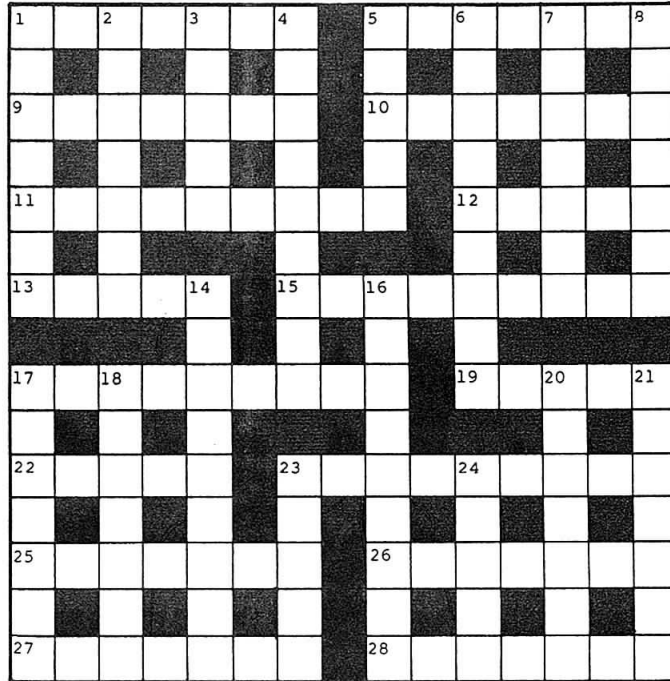
Crossword

No 29

No 28, the Winter Crossword was won by Mr and Mrs S R Blackwood of Victoria Ave, Park Road.

The first correct entry for No 29 to be opened on Sat 21st April wins £5. Please send your envelope, marked "Crossword", to:

Mrs E Hutchings
13 Ashland Avenue, Wigan
WN1 2DP



Solution to No 28

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Jacob	1 Jericho
4 Dingley	2 Choir
8 Rooster	3 Bottled
9 Anger	4 Durban
10 Carol	5 Neath
11 Ash cans	6 Lug sail
13 Erne	7 Ypres
15 Overdo	12 Semi
17 Marley	14 Road
20 Amid	16 Emanate
22 Charade	18 Adviser
24 Vigil	19 Yule Log
26 Avast	21 Medway
27 Wassail	22 Chant
28 Treacly	23 Antic
29 Redig	25 Grand

ACROSS

- 1 Scott's Russian garden tool (7)
- 5 A first rate city (7)
- 9 Her suit may become very hairy (7)
- 10 Picks up the sound of a murder (3,4)
- 11 Thrombosis (5,4)
- 12 A region of emptiness in the atmosphere? (5)
- 13 A Red Indian rod or perch (5)
- 15 A trial marriage (4,5)
- 17 A dead person celebrates about midnight (4,5)
- 19 The king has got the measure of it (5)
- 22 He may be thin but he's got some over (5)
- 23 Things are improving with your head back (7,2)
- 25 Fraudulent dealer in the city (7)
- 26 These alumni are not young girls (3,4)
- 27 Gives a sudden, loud account (7)
- 28 The Queen, a Sergeant-Major and you and I produce Dutch sage (7)

DOWN

- 1 Live in monastic attire (7)
- 2 A light drink - Charles de Gaulle or John F Kennedy, for example (7)
- 3 Thompson's celestial dog (5)
- 4 Might be rough now, but should improve in time (4,5)
- 5 Organ box (5)
- 6 Become an actor through prior conjunction (9)
- 7 Assemble with the light off (4,3)
- 8 This palace sees honour in a strip of wood (7)
- 14 A quiet dreamer arranged is unlikely to get lost (3,6)
- 16 Keep on refusing, in silence! (3,2,4)
- 17 It rules with far more virility (7)
- 18 Gets together for a team drink (5,2)
- 20 French husband can spread out (3,4)
- 21 The model rests again (7)
- 23 Grassy clearing in St John's Wood, for 15 (5)
- 24 In the Sind, I am there (5)

WIGAN DEANERY

(Deanery 20)

Our Lady of Good Council

Comprising the parishes of:

Sacred Heart
St Aidan's
St Cuthbert's
St Edward's
St John's
St Jude's
St Mary's
St Patrick's

The next deanery meeting for both clergy and lay people is arranged for Thursday 26th April at 8.30 pm in St Mary's Parish Centre.

Name
Address

Leningrad & Moscow

After planning for twelve months Saturday the 17th of February 1990 finally dawned. Our party of five joined the coach in Wigan for the journey to Manchester Airport. Hearing all the tales of Aeroflot having wings fastened on with superglue and elastic bands and not being the bravest of persons in the air I wondered whether to take a valium or a whiskey. However, our journey proved to be very comfortable. We left Manchester at 3.45 pm and arrived in Leningrad at 8.45 pm (Russian time). The flight took 3 hours.

It was snowing with a temperature of -5. All the formalities were soon over and we were taken to the Hotel Pulkovskaya and enjoyed a nice hot meal.

Sunday 18th. The sky was blue, the sun shining and glistening on the crisp snow. Our hotel looked across to Victory Square and the monument depicting the nine hundred day seige of Leningrad in which 1,000,000 people perished.

The coach took us on a grand tour of the city, with stops for photos of the Peter & Paul Fortress and Cathedral with its tall slender spire of gold. The famous cruiser Aurora is moored in the River Neva and is now a historic monument.

After dinner we were whisked off to the Theatre for an evening of folk dancing.

Monday 19th The Winter Palace and Hermitage Centre was magnificent and one could spend a week viewing the marvelous collection of treasures.

We had a coach trip to Pushkin 35 km away, where the famous poet Alexandra Pushkin studied at the local school. The main interest here was Catherine Palace, The rooms are decorated in different colours contain furniture given by various countries. The Germans took over this palace during the war then destroyed it by fire. It has only recently been restored.

Tuesday 20th Trip to Basils Island. Stopped at Gulf of Finland - Baltic Sea was frozen and people were walking near the edge. We called in a Beryozka Shop for Souvenirs. Here £1 = 1 Rouble. Official exchange rate is £1 = 10 Rbls. Our last call in Leningrad was to St Isaac's Cathedral which is the 4th largest in the world a has a similar architecture to St Peter's in Rome. The interior walls and ceiling are covered with paintings and icons.

1 pm left Leningrad by train on our journey to Moscow. This took 8 hours. The Russian countryside was very flat and covered with thick snow. Passed mostly through small villages and just a few large towns. One could get a substantial meal on the train for 5R (about 50p).

9 pm arrived in Moscow: temperature -5.

Wednesday 21st After breakfast the guide arrived at our hotel - Cosmos (one of the largest with 3,500 rooms and we were on the top floor). He took us for our first glimpse of Red Square and the Kremlin. Then to the Armoury where more treasures awaited us in the form of jewelry, carriages, clothing etc. From there we toured Cathedral Square with a visit inside the Church of the Annunciation. This was the Czars' private church. They were crowned in the Cathedral of the Assumption and buried in the Cathedral of St Michael the Archangel.

After lunch we were off to the Metro, and how beautiful they were with chandeliers, monuments and paintings. The famous Gum Store had queues of Russians but we could find nothing to buy. They seem to spend days queuing and sometimes only for frostbitten fruit and veg but the longest queue fo all was at McDonald's. It must have stretched for more than a mile, but at least they knew that they would get something at the end. One of my favourite sights was the changing of the guard at Lenin's Tomb. Every hour the Guards would come through the famous Sparky Tower and Goose Step along Red Square to the Tomb.



St Basil's Cathedral and the author in Red Square, Moscow.

Thursday 22nd City Tour. Stopped at Moscow University for view but it wasn't very good due to mist and rain. Passed Gorbachev's city residence, the British Embassy, KGB Offices and the Bolshoi Theatre. Down by the River Moskva one had a good view of the Kremlin Palace and some of 20 towers that surround the Kremlin Buildings. The eternal flame burns to the unknown soldier but we departed across Red Square to the famous St Basil's Cathedral. Everywhere children are wanting chewing gum and bins and in return give badges of various times in Russian history. I did swap a Wigan Athletic scarf for a Russian watch. Only heard later that the match between Wigan and Moscow was a 0-0 draw. After dinner we went to the Moscow State Circus and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Friday 23rd Left hotel at 10 am for Moscow Airport - boarded a very new plane.

12.30 pm take off very smooth could see ships on Baltic and North Sea. Arrived Manchester 1 pm British time after a three and a half hour flight.

Completely thrilled and excited with all we had seen but utterly exhausted and pleased to be back safe in a free country.

Just for interest: Russian Orthodox Churches don't have pulpits or seating. Leningrad has 28 active churches - 18 Russian Orthodox and the rest made up of Pentecostal, Baptist, RC, Jewish Synagogues and Islamic Mosques.

K Chadwick & Co



KEVIN McDONNELL
TV — VIDEO — AUDIO

TEL. WIGAN 48582

Standishgate - opposite St Mary's

* ALL ITEMS BRAND NEW * SAME DAY DELIVERY — FREE! * BACK-UP SERVICE

**INTEREST FREE CREDIT
AND 6 YEARS
GUARANTEE AT**

Available on all our **HITACHI, ITT, TOSHIBA, PHILIPS, FERGUSON, MITSUBISHI, and SHARP** TVs and Videos.



TOP AWARD VIDEO

Example: Mitsubishi B10 £339
10% Dep., 10 payments of £30.51
T.C.P. £339 0% APR.

★ EXTENDED LOW-PRICE CREDIT ON SAMSUNG, TV-VIDEO PACKAGE

PLUS 3 FREE TAPES

Both Remote Control
£12.95 Month
NO DEPOSIT

TCP £298.80

CARAVAN CORNER COLOUR PORTABLE TV

(Mains/Battery) **£165**
or No Deposit monthly payment **£4.98**

APR 29.8% Typical on advertised items

Easy Parking



Satellite Technology Now
Live in-store deomonstration
Buy ITT system on 12 months
Interest Free Credit, 0% APR.

AMSTRAD ALBA SYSTEMS
£4.98 Month
Deposit £20
Cash £185



Usually £20 Cheaper than other stores

PLUS HALF YOUR MONEY BACK IN 5 YEARS GUARANTEED PART EXCHANGE ALLOWANCE



PRICE GUARANTEE—WE GUARANTEE YOU THE LOWEST PRICE ON T.V., VIDEO, HI-FI, CAMCORDERS AND MICROWAVES

THE FIELDS BENEATH THE SUBURBS

From the earliest times Wigan seems to have been a centre of trade and industry, but it long remained dependent on its own agriculture for its food supplies and for much of its raw materials. Until the middle of the nineteenth century buildings had not extended far outside the boundary of the old borough within the peninsula formed by the bend of the river Douglas. Within living memory farms crept down to within sight of that boundary, and from Market Place one can still look up and see green fields. The ancient fields remain beneath the pattern of modern streets, and survive in the names of the suburbs.

These place names are a mixture of the British (like Wigan and Douglas) of the original inhabitants and of English of immigrants who came over the Pennines in the sixth century and of the Scandinavian of the settlers who also came over the Pennines or up from the Irish Sea in the ninth and tenth centuries.

The people of Wigan probably tilled open fields divided into strips (which can still be seen in the fields in the outlying districts) and pastured their herds of livestock in the surrounding wooded uplands.

Some of these place-names need no explanation: Beech Hill, Springfield Marsh Green, Rose Hill and Spring Bank are all obvious enough.

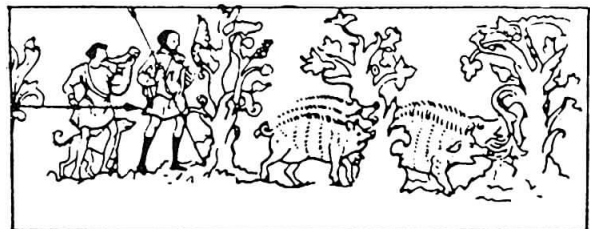


AUGUST HARVESTING.

The meaning of others need a little teasing out but they all relate to physical features and/or the farming of medieval Wigan. Thus Ince is a British word meaning water-meadows, and obviously describes this low-lying area covered in water again by the mining operations of the Industrial Revolution. Poolstock is Old English for a place (or stock) with a pool. Pemberton is Old English for the settlement (or ton or tun or town) of someone called Pember. Gidlow is Old English for the hill (or, oddly, the low) of someone called Gid. Scholes is Scandinavian for a shieling or hut probably used by a shepherd. A ley or lea or lee or liegh is Old English for a clearing in a wood or a cultivated area or farm. Thus Norley is the north clearing, Whitley is the white clearing, Swinley is the swine clearing, and, intriguingly, Whelley is the clearing with a stone-circle (where exactly was it and when did it vanish?).

Think green. Forget the brick and concrete. Close your eyes and imagine Pember in his settlement under the hill covered with roses near the spring in the bank or think of Gid on his hill with his swine grazing in the clearing in the woods.

J A Hilton



SEPTEMBER. HUNTING-PASTURING SWINE.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

E Ekwall
E Ekwall
D Mills
M Humphries
O Rackham
J J Bagley

THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PLACE NAMES
THE PLACE NAMES OF LANCASHIRE
THE PLACE NAMES OF LANCASHIRE
'PLACENAMES' WIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, II
THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE
HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

Backward Glances

by Nellie Murphy

1930 May 3rd

Golden Jubilee of Upholland College. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, was accorded a civic welcome by the Mayor and Corporation when he arrived in Wigan for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of St Joseph's College. Thousands lined the streets as the civic procession left the town. His eminence was accompanied by Dr Richard Downey, Archbishop of Liverpool, and many other Archbishops and Bishops.

Among the many representatives were Fr Fitzmaurice SJ, Fr Pye SJ, Fr Crook SJ, Fr Whitely, Fr Morrissey and Fr Greenhouse. Children from Notre Dame Convent formed a guard of honour at the station.

Celebrations were continued for a week with open air Masses and Benediction and the College thrown open for inspection by the public.

1940 April 20th

Death of Fr James McKenna PP of St John's, Standishgate in the Lourdes Hospital Liverpool. He was 49. Fr McKenna was appointed Rector of St John's only twelve months ago in succession to Fr Philip Mahon who died suddenly, also at the age of 49, in St John's churchyard in March last year.

By a strange coincidence Fr McKenna's funeral was on the exact anniversary of the day he took over the Rectorship of St John's, 17th April 1939. He was particularly popular as chaplain to the CYMS. This branch has now had the sorrowful experience of losing its chaplain, twice by death in the last twelve months.

1940 May

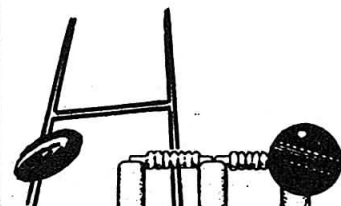
Monsignor Joseph Moss DD at present at Upholland College has been appointed PP at St John's in succession to the late Fr McKenna. Until the outbreak of war when he came to Upholland Mgr Moss was Vice Rector and Professor of Moral Theology at Beda College Rome.

1950 March

A shop has been opened in Mesnes Park for the sale to the public of tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, bulbs and cut flowers and hotel guests in Manchester will be eating peaches, all produce all produce of the Haigh Estate greenhouses.



John 9



At this time of the year there isn't much to write regarding St John's Cricket Club so I usually 'miss out' on this edition. Unhappily this time is different. The players would like me to acknowledge their team mate and great friend JOHN who, sadly, due to the tragic accident of December 21st, won't be running across the turf swooping to field the ball, or bowling his inswingers again.

JOHN was with us for over twelve seasons. I remember him as a 14 year old playing his first game for the first team against Wigan Tech at Westwood on July 1st 1978. Although JOHN could wield the cricket bat with telling effect, as against SALISBURY LIVERPOOL in June 1986 when he hit 3 sixes and 3 fours in a quick fire 33 not out, and his 44 against BEDFORD in June 1985, he will always be remembered for one exceptional bowling performance that took place at LEIGH on July 18th 1982, when he joined that rare band of cricketers who have taken all ten wickets in an innings. His magical figures that day of 17.3 overs 10 maidens 18 runs and 10 wickets earned him not only a deserved mention in the local press but also national press coverage and letters of congratulation from cricket followers far afield.

To say that JOHN was a sportsman would be an understatement - cricket, football, rugby - you name it, JOHN played it - and well.

JOHN was quiet and unassuming, not big-headed and loud-mouthed like some of today's so called sportsmen. He was well liked by both players and officials in the West Lancs League. Off the sports field too, JOHN was the perfect gentleman, well mannered, very helpful - a real credit to his mum and dad who thought the world of him.

For them and especially for KYM whom he adored and their 'little treasure' LIAM JOHN we all offer our prayers.

Our players will never forget JOHN GANNON. Indeed how can they? Won't he come into their thoughts each weekend when they turn out for his and our cricket team - the 'JOHNS'.

TAS



This late Georgian town house is now swallowed up by shops and offices but its fine entrance remains intact and quite prominent. Of special interest is its metal framed fanlight and its carved stone urns.

It is within half a mile of Market Place and £5 awaits the first one to tell us just where.

Please mark your envelope 'Feature Quiz' and address it to Mrs E Hutchings at
13 Ashland Avenue, Wigan WN1 2DP.
Entries will be held until Saturday
21st April when the first correct entry opened wins.

No 34 was the top of Tower Buildings in Wallgate. There were four entries and the winner was Mr F Cumberbatch of Blackthorne Avenue, Beech Hill.

ST. JOHN FISHER HIGH SCHOOL



ST JOHN FISHER IN 'CAFOD' RUN

Of the 313,000 already raised in the UpHolland College CAFOD run on December 27th 1989, nearly £1,000 was raised by pupils, staff, parents and friends of Wigan St John Fisher High School.

Teachers Geoff Kenyon, Eric Roberts and Terry Floyd and 5th year David Rimmer were at the front of the field. Other children chose to "run with the children". The chairman of the PTA, who started late, gallantly encouraged those well down the field.

The School Chaplain, Fr John Heneghan, was the most heavily sponsored runner in the squad.

Past pupil Mike Gregory, captain of Warrington and Great Britain, obliged the organizer of the run, Vin McMullen, by publicising the event in the Catholic Press.

Parent, Philip Halliwell of St Mary's advertised his firm "Norman & Philip Hairdressers" with specially made T shirts which proclaimed "St John Fisher runs for CAFOD". Mrs Halliwell ran with the group.

This was a great success for the worthiest of causes.

John Burke
(Organizer)

The Lighter Side of a Dark Day

Written in memory of Nora Atherton

I could see that Big Gran doubted the wisdom of taking an unpredictable two year old to Little Gran's funeral. But we felt that the much loved grandchildren should all be there - "And anyway" I said "its surprising how children pick up the atmosphere on these occasions and behave appropriately. Honestly!"

Besides, nothing that happened could be any worse than at Grandad's funeral some years earlier when our - then one year old - was spectacularly sick all over Auntie Mary's elegant black suit, in the front pew, right in front of priest and coffin. That priest had missed his way. He should have been an actor. He carried on speaking as though completely unaware of the commotion going on just a few feet in front of him. As the cascade landed in Auntie Mary's lap I seemed to grow several extra arms and hands, each clutching a tissue or hankie. The hankies never went back to their owners. They didn't seem to want them any more! Grandad would have thought that his little granddaughter had thrown up on purpose!

So here we were, three more children later, at Little Gran's funeral. In the front pew again, this time with - now five year old - and two year old. Four year old was some rows back with Auntie Marie. Good old Big Gran had hung on to baby at the back of church thus enabling maximum attention to be devoted to two year old.

As I had (fairly) confidently predicted, she was great. Except that in the middle of the reading her little voice rang out clearly "What in that box, Mum? When are we going to open it?" It was just after Christmas!

Now if I had reminded her that because Little Gran had died she had been put in that box called a coffin, it might have invited more embarrassing questions - "When's she coming out? - How will she get out? - Can we see?" Best to ignore her. 'Dead' doesn't mean much to a two year old.

She persisted "When can we open that box? Mummy, what in that box?" At that point she was distracted by a kick on the shin from the swinging legs of five year old. For once five year old didn't get told off. Four year old meanwhile was whispering to her auntie that Little Gran couldn't talk any more because she had died.

The sad silence at funerals is very heavy and it was heaviest that day as we miserably followed my husband and his brothers, carrying their Mum's coffin up the long church yard. As we passed the cross a bored little voice at my side began gently to sing "Dingle bells, dingle bells, dingle all the way ..." I shot a glance at Auntie Mary in her black suit. She was grinning. I heard one, then another giggle behind us. The heaviness was lifting.

The mood at the crematorium was lighter and all the little cousins were bobbing about until Uncle Mike asked them just to stand back while the coffin was carried into the chapel. The heaviness was back. But not for long. Smiles spread as, before grown ups had time to move, big cousins took little cousins by the hand and the procession of children followed their grandma's coffin into the chapel. They arranged themselves into the front pew, sorted themselves out with service books, and big cousin Helen put all the upside down service books the right way up.

After the short service I said to two year old "Come on, we're going to say a last goodbye to Little Gran" We went to the coffin. "Good bye love" I said sadly. The little voice mimicked "Good bye Wickle Gwan".

The annual White Flower collection (brought forward in St John's to coincide with Mr Harry Leigh's talk about the Government Bill on Human Fertilization and Embryology) realised the magnificent sum of £617.74 from our two parishes. This has been welcomed by headquarters at a particularly crucial time, in terms of cash, with the vast expenses of the many public meetings throughout the country in connection with the Bill. Whilst one would prefer not to have to refer to money in our fight for the unborn it is a fact that, contrary to what was suggested by the disparaging remarks of Lord Houghton in a recent debate, SPUC depends entirely on that given in good faith by people opposed to the killing of the child in the womb.

The media in general is putting out a lot of misleading propaganda in defence of the Bill which, no doubt will be proved to be unfounded if evil is allowed to have its way. One would have thought Society would have learned its lesson since 1967.

The 3:1 vote against us in the Lords was disappointing but inconclusive and we still have a few weeks left in which to try to convince our Member of Parliament to think hard about the drastic consequences the Bill will have on our Society should it become law. Please keep up the letter writing - we have been told it is drying up - to our own MP and to those key cabinet members: Rt Hon Timothy Renton, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Margaret Thatcher herself (addressed envelopes still available at the back of church). There is a particular appeal to individuals with experience of handicap and infertility, sensitive though this may be, who would be prepared to write letters to their MP condemning the false claims put out by proponents of the Bill - helpful leaflets are available.

It is encouraging that several of our schools have expressed an interest in joining the Mass Lobby of Parliament planned for 13th and 14th March (the latter date, a Wednesday, for our area). We are hoping that the fare of £10 per seat may be subsidised for the students who have already sought an appointment with their Member of Parliament. Details of the Lobby are at the back of church along with a list. Those who can manage to go are urged to sign the list as this is one of the last real chances before the vote of standing up for human life in its earliest stages.

Let us not, by our inaction in 1990, invite a repetition of what happened in 1967 when we failed to make a significant stand against David Steel's fateful Bill. Perhaps we should consider carefully those pertinent words of G K Chesterton - "I do not believe in a fate that falls on man however he acts but I do believe in a fate that falls on him unless he acts".

MPC

Healy Simpson and Co.

Principal: T. B. Bond, F.S.V.A.

11 KING STREET, WIGAN WN1 1EH
Telephone Wigan 417976 (2 lines)

AND

36 BRYN STREET
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

-- Surveyors, Valuers and Estate Agents --

Surveys and valuations for all purposes. Residential and Commercial
Property Management Sales and Lettings negotiated for all types of
Residential and Commercial property. Compulsory Purchase
Compensation negotiations.

Independant Financial Services Department
All classes of insurance business transacted with leading companies.
FIMBRA Registered.

No substitute for Sound Foundations and Experience
- Established 1880

Agents for:

Bradford & Bingley Building Society

Ashton-in-Makerfield office.



This years Valentine Dance was a huge success both socially and financially. It raised £1,050 - many thanks to all who supported it in any way. The photo shows 'Tilly's Tillers' at the final rehearsal for the dance competition.

MPC

LENTEN TALKS AT UPHOLLAND

A New Spirit, A New Heart

Father Peter Hannah, who moved recently from Sacred Heart to become Chaplain to Christ's and Notre Dame College in Liverpool, gave the first Lenten talk in a series of four. The remaining ones are:

Monday 12th March - "The Christian Understanding of Suffering" by P Mellor (Lecturer in Theology at Liverpool Institute of Higher Education).

Monday 19th March - "The Death of Jesus" by A Bebb (Head of Theology Dept at LIHE).

Monday 26th March - "Risen in Us - The Resurrection Today" by Paul Murrey (Dept of Pastoral Formation).

The evenings begin at 8 pm at Upholland College, tea and coffee from 7.45 and there is a charge of £1 per evening. Each talk is repeated on the following evening at Christ's and Notre Dame College, Woolton Road, Liverpool.

Interchurch Families

Interchurch Families is the newsletter of the Association of Interchurch Families, which aims to provide a focus for all involved in, or concerned with, marriages between Christians of different church allegiances (usually a Roman Catholic and a Christian of another communion).

The newsletter appears twice a year and is addressed to interchurch couples and families: also to clergy, relatives, godparents and all involved in their pastoral welfare. The annual subscription for the newsletter is £1.

The Association is a charity and Interchurch couples belong as a couple. Membership is also open to all interested individuals who wish to further the work of the Association. The minimum annual membership subscription is £2 but all activities of the Association are open to any interchurch couples and families, whether they are members or not.

Presidents are: Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Revd Dr Kenneth Greet and Bishop Alastair Haggart.

Contact: A I F Secretary,
The Old Bakery, Danehill,
Haywards Heath,
Sussex HR17 7ET

Tel: (0825) 790296

Catholic Women's League

I would have liked to have started my Spring report in good spirits but I'm afraid I cannot. Since December I have been asking for nominations for Vice Chairman and for a Don Orione representative. Now we also need a Secretary - Mrs Thorpe has had a heart attack and is unable to carry this responsible job any more. Mrs Thorpe has worked very hard for us and we offer her our grateful thanks. It is vital however that we find a replacement; I cannot take all the responsibility on my own. If have no nominations by March 5th then we will arrange at the AGM in March for the League in Wigan to close at the end of our commitments in September. Surely three members out of our 90 won't let this happen to us!! Pray that God will help us to find the three.

On Wednesday 13th December we held our Christmas Lunch at the Wigan Technical College. We all had a beautiful meal. A raffle was organized for the SPUC which raised £25.30 We received a beautiful letter thanking us for the donation.

On Wednesday 17th December we had our monthly Mass at Sacred Heart when Father Heneghan presided. Only 60 members supported our New Year's Party. I felt that this was a poor turn out coming back after Christmas.

I was very pleased with Mrs Hall's report in the Wigan Reporter asking for more support. Thank you Mrs Hall for all the work you do for the CWL.

FUTURE EVENTS

Wednesday 21st March
Mass at 7.30 pm at St Mary's then the Annual General Meeting in St Mary's Parish Centre. Monica Swift Relief & Refugee will speak.

Saturday 28th April
Our retreat at Notre Dame Convent which is now fully booked.

Monday 14th to Friday 18th May.
Briery Retreat Centre, Ilkley.
£16 / day plus coach. Deposit £15.

Tuesday 22nd May
Mass for WUCWO at Springfield House 7.30 pm, Father Angelo presiding. Gifts will be needed for the Don Orione Garden Party at this Mass. Father Angelo will speak.

Monday 28th May (Bank Holiday)
Don Orione Garden Party.
Help needed please.

BRANCH NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will take place at Christ College Liverpool on Saturday the 7th April. Father Malone will preside at Mass. Nora Mansell, the National President, will speak as will David Alton MP. Tickets are £8.20. This includes lunch but there is a small charge for the coach.

Mrs Siney asks if members would like to be in the 200 Club for a further year.

My report ends on a sad note. Miss Nellie Barrett, our oldest member, passed away in December. She would have been 100 years old in January. Nellie was a very loyal League member. Cards and gifts were sent to her during the years she was unable to attend our meetings. May she rest in peace.

Jean Crabtree, Chairman
Tel: 323339

CURTAIN MATERIALS

FLAX MILL

WOOLLENS - COTTONS - FURNISHINGS
All types of Furnishing Fabrics and Dress Materials

DRESS FABRICS

Select for yourself from our huge display.

Thousands of yards on two floors.

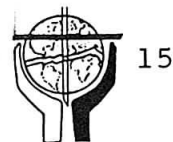
Extensive range of Bridal Fabrics,

Printed Polyesters, Art Silks and Poly-cottons;

Also

unbelievable choice of curtain fabrics and ready made.

BRETHERTON ROW, WALLGATE, WIGAN Tel: 42102 (opposite GPO)



Standing for the Truth

FORWARD TO FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Britain has a special responsibility for apartheid in South Africa. In 1910 the British government effectively granted independence to South Africa in a way which perpetuated racist white majority rule.

In spite of minor reforms, the release of Mandela and some other political prisoners, the main system of apartheid is still in force. By the Group Areas Act millions of blacks were forcibly removed to live in overcrowded 'homelands' in conditions of great poverty and deprivation. Housing, health, education and employment are all vastly inferior for 85% of the population of South Africa, one of the richest countries in the world. The army and police enforce this draconian policy with great violence. The tension is reinforced by restrictions of the state of emergency, which ban organizations and non-violent opposition, foreign funding bills (this particularly affect churches) and curbs on media reporting.

Many Christians, both clergy and lay, have been harassed, detained and even tortured for proclaiming the Bible teaching on justice. The KALKUS Document (a Christian biblical and theological comment on the political crisis in South Africa) has been followed by the national campaign "Standing for Truth" This mobilises all Christians and all South Africans committed to the cause of justice and peace to engage in mass non-violent action against apartheid to establish a new order. This is supported by all church leaders and the South African Council of Churches.

What can WE do? - Pray. Inform ourselves of the facts.
Contact MPs and the government, calling for bans on imports (fruit, coal, steel, gold) and bans on exports and tourism.
Boycott South African goods when shopping.
Contact Bank chairmen (Barclays, Natwest, Standard Chartered) and Bank managers urging an end to investment in loans to South Africa.
Support demands for sanctions against South Africa. This will most affect those who profit from and exploit the present system. (All the churches support the call for sanctions)

Christian Aid recently organised a meeting and 24 hour vigil for South Africa in the Queen's Hall (23rd/24th February). The speakers were Christian ANC workers who gave us an inside view of the crisis in SA. We must do what we can to relieve the desperate situation there.

ACTON GARAGE

(Proprietor: A. McIntyre)

MOTOR ENGINEER

New Premises opposite St Mary's

Telephone 46086

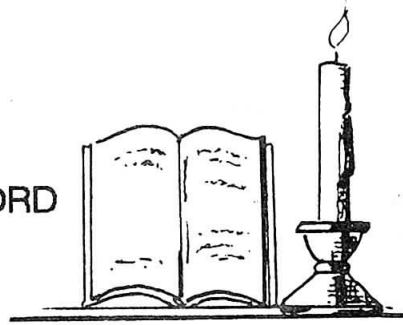


Crypton Tuning

Petrol Injection a Speciality

THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

1 The Growth of the Gospels



Sister Stella SND

Jesus was born in the reign of Herod, Tetrarch of Judaea, probably a few years before what we call AD1, so he must have begun his public ministry somewhere around 26 AD of our era. During the two or three years of his public life, he chose disciples and with them proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom. He wrote no books, no account of the way of life he taught. He founded no Church: he himself was "the Way, the Truth and the Life". He was crucified by the Romans almost certainly on 7 April 30 AD.

After the Resurrection and the coming of the Spirit the disciples, practising Jews themselves, began to discover more and more about the mystery of Jesus, and as his witnesses they began to form a new group within Judaism. In the light of the Resurrection they began to spread their knowledge of him and of the "good news" he had brought, and they did this in three ways: by proclamation, in the liturgy (especially the Eucharist), and by teaching.

Soon they were joined by others: converts from Judaism, inspired by the love these first Christians had for one another, and Gentile converts later. Saul, or Paul, was one of these. About the year 36, the risen Christ seized hold of this Jewish rabbi and made of him a Christian theologian who having reflected deeply on the life and teaching of Jesus preached and founded Christian communities. He wrote many letters to the Churches of Asia Minor, Greece - even as far as Rome where he was taken prisoner and later executed for his faith.

In the year 50 it was decided at Jerusalem that anybody could join these Christians without first becoming Jews, and so the final break with Judaism was made.

Thirty years after the Crucifixion of Jesus, Paul was writing his letters to the various Christian communities, and between about 70 - 100 AD four other theologians bore witness to Jesus and his Resurrection by collecting and writing down the traditions which the disciples had been spreading by word of mouth. Mark wrote his gospel about 70 AD. The gospel according to St Luke was written between 80 and 90 for communities of Gentile converts; then he wrote a second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, to show how the good news was beginning to spread all over the known world. Matthew's gospel, written for a community of Jews who had adopted Christianity, appeared about 80 or 90 AD. And the gospel according to John is a later theological meditation on Jesus the Word of God, showing that the crucified

Jesus, risen and alive today, still shares his life with us and gives us his Spirit. Finally, in the book of Revelation (or the Apocalypse) John, the same as the Evangelist or someone else, writes for Christians now being persecuted for their faith, and presents Jesus as the goal and supreme reward of all history.

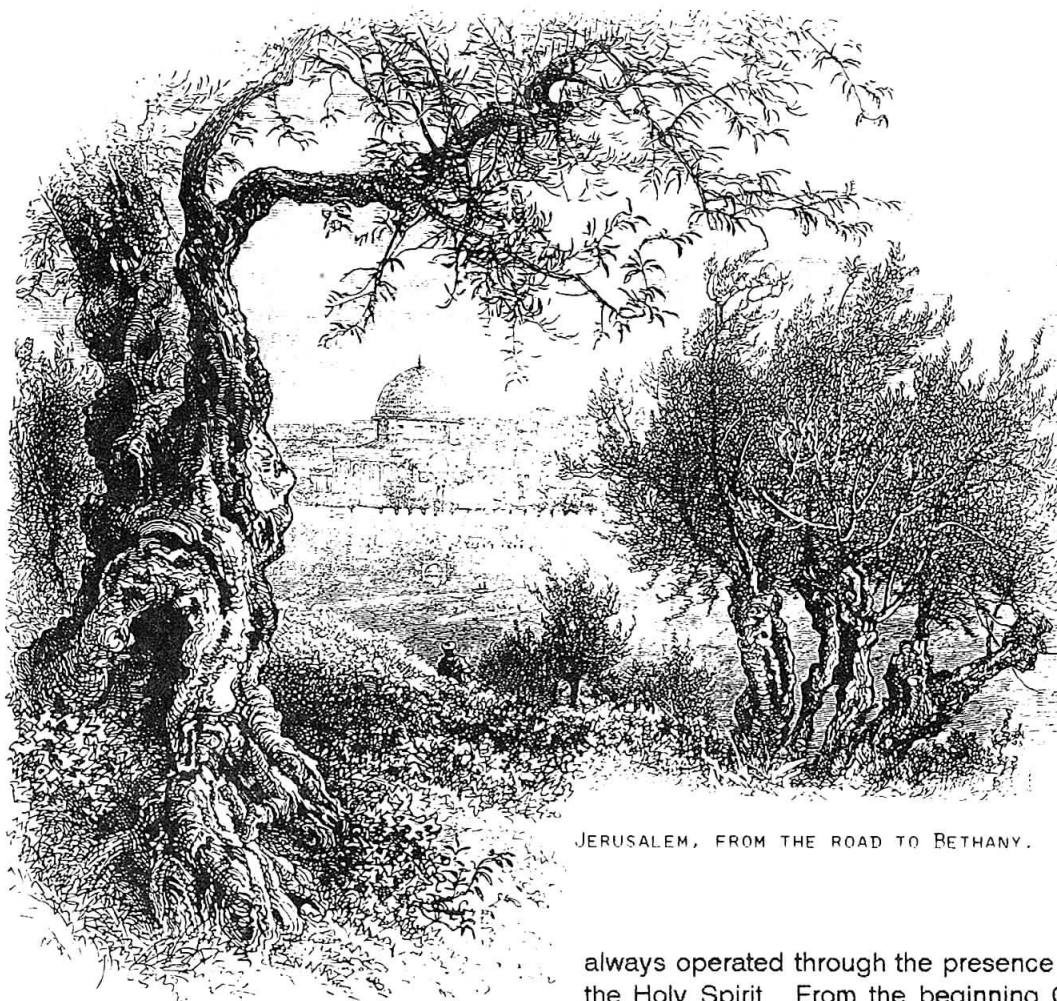
And so it is possible to trace three stages in the formation of the New Testament. First, there was the life and teaching of Jesus himself. Second, the oral proclamation of the first disciples about Jesus and his Resurrection. And finally there was the writing of the New Testament books when, owing to the passage of time and the deaths of those who had had first-hand knowledge of Jesus, it was felt necessary to perpetuate the Master's teaching in a more permanent form.

From the beginning, the disciples proclaimed their faith in their risen Lord. The Greek word Kerygma is used to describe this preaching, a word which has reference to the proclamation of a herald. People remembered the sayings of Jesus, his parables, the miracles which showed his victory over evil in all its forms. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, these stories and accounts would be repeated from master to disciple, handed down from one to another and faithfully kept in mind with the help of the proverbially retentive memory which people of that time are known to have possessed.

In the liturgy, the disciples celebrated the Last Supper which, following the command of Jesus, re-presented and explained the significance of his death on the cross. New converts to the faith needed instruction about Jesus' life and teaching and passion and the passages from the Jewish scriptures which had reference to him, so that in this liturgical context of readings, sacraments, sacred meal and memory of the passion, people were led to understand more what Jesus wanted his life, teaching and death to mean for each one.

Those who had been newly baptised had to learn to live as followers of Christ. To solve the many problems that arose in their lives as Christians they had to look again and again at the person and teaching of Jesus, his words, his miracles, his parables, so that wherever new Christian communities came into being, images of Jesus and teachings about him were developed and preserved in the disciples' memory, through the on-going teaching or catechesis which they had to follow.

Kerygma, liturgy, catechesis: these are the roots of the gospels as we know them today. Is it possible



JERUSALEM, FROM THE ROAD TO BETHANY.

that, in this oral tradition or handing down from master to disciple and later from parent to child through the passing of two generations or more, some of this precious teaching was distorted or even lost? Variations, discrepancies and omissions in the gospel accounts show that this may sometimes have been the case. But it is important to remember that the magisterium or teaching body in the Church has

always operated through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. From the beginning God was with his Church, guiding the apostles in their teaching, inspiring the evangelists, present always with those learning the faith, instructing the minds of the popes and Fathers of the Church so that their work and their teaching truly reflects the mind of God himself, expressed however in the thought-patterns of their own time: a fact which does not exclude what we call the "development of doctrine". In the four gospels, then, we can be sure that the Holy Spirit of God speaks to us, and that in those writers we truly possess an authentic account of the life and teaching of Jesus himself.

**NEW WORLD
WASHING MACHINE
ENGINEERS**

48 WIGAN LANE, WIGAN

Telephone : 46205

*Prompt
& Efficient Repairs
Spare Parts for All Makes*

**St Patrick's Pipe Band
Newton le Willows**

R. TULLY (Sec.) Telephone 09252 - 6426

Garden Fetes Weddings Walking Days

Telephone 09252-223333 or Marshalls Cross 814345

Co-Workers of Mother Teresa

"In reality there is no great difference between one country and another because it is always people you meet everywhere. They may look different or be dressed differently; they may have a different education or position but they are all the same. They are all people to be loved. They are all hungry for love."

Mother Teresa

Brother George, a Missionary Brother of Charity from St Malachy House in Manchester, tells us how the members of his community are giving this LOVE:

"Our house in Manchester is a formation house, where the novices go for two years intensive training before they take their vows and begin their life as a Professed Missionary Brother of Charity. So every morning the Brothers have class and study time and their studies are given great emphasis at this stage so there is no evening or night work undertaken. This type of work is done in other houses.

But each afternoon we go out for work among the poor. The main part of this work is visiting the elderly who live alone without any family of their own. They suffer terribly from loneliness and depression and finding no meaning to life have turned alcohol to numb their pain and have become alcoholics. We simply try to be the family they haven't got, letting them know that someone cares for them by performing simple acts of love like cleaning their flats and doing their washing. But most of the time simply being there is enough to make them feel wanted and loved. Feeling unloved is the worst kind of poverty.

There is no better way of making a person feel wanted than by sharing a meal with him; so for meal-times our house is open for these people. We all eat together as one family preferring, however, to keep as a small family rather than catering for large numbers every day. We have tried to make our house an oasis of peace where they can come and relax and feel completely at home; where they can lose themselves in an atmosphere of peace and love. If they are homeless or are experiencing severe housing problems we

welcome them completely into our home to sleep also, while we sort out their housing problems. We have a few rooms set aside for hospitality of this sort.

We also visit a local mental hospital going to a ward of retarded men who, again, are without any family of their own. They have spent many years here and for most of them the only chance of leaving the ward is when we come and take them out. These men are complete 'outcasts' of society but it is 'little' people like these, forgotten in the eyes of men, who are the greatest in the eyes of Jesus. We take them out, have some tea and spend the afternoon together in a very simple but loving way.

Members of another group which have become 'outcasts' of society are the gypsies. Every week end we visit a nearby camp of gypsies and have taken time to get to know them, letting them know that though society may reject them, our loving God never will. We have built up a very good relationship over the years. Their children have become especially dear to us and every Saturday and Sunday afternoon they come to our house where they have a 'play-scheme' which is lots of fun.

Strangeways Prison is less than a mile from our house. It forms a very important part of our work. Jesus, in His day, was a friend to everyone, even the most terrible of sinners: the prisoners know that we are their friends. We have the chance of going in once a week when we sing some hymns together and pray a little. There is plenty of time for talking and letting Jesus work through us to touch their hearts.

We want to become a true friend and brother to all those who have been rejected by society for one reason or another. With Jesus the Good Shepherd as our model we go out in search of these lost sheep, whether they be in their homes, in the poorer parts of the area or whether they be the alcoholics or street people always to be found in the city centre. Their greatest need is love and friendship."

Our local Co-Worker group tries also

in small ways to answer Mother Teresa's call. We pray together, we support the Brothers in Manchester and the Sisters in Liverpool financially. The clothing collection at St Mary's Church continues. A group meets every Friday to make up blankets from 6" squares. 150 blankets so far! - well done. Could we ask for more knitted or crocheted 6 inch squares please - they can be left in the boxes at the back of the two churches. Thank you.

Another supporting group 'The Old Convent Girls' used to meet in Chorley Road to knit blankets but unfortunately they can't do the work any longer. A big thank you to them. Our gifts of blankets and clothing are sent to India.

Let us continue to do 'Beautiful Things for God'.

Maria Schickhoff

Parish Care Association

The first task of the Group in this Spring issue of our Parish Magazine is to thank parishioners of both churches for their generosity at the Offertory collections in November. The money will now be used to provide outings for our housebound parishioners in the coming months.

The first treat taken from these funds was of course the Christmas dinner which took place in the Parish Centre on the afternoon of December 20th when some thirty disabled and housebound parishioners were entertained to a delicious traditional Christmas dinner of turkey, Christmas pudding, mince pies, wine and coffee etc. There were crackers and each guest received a gift. After the meal our friends were entertained with music and singing freely given by Mrs Anne Cottrill and her group to whom

we are deeply grateful. In all a very happy afternoon was enjoyed by our friends and helpers. Our gratitude and thanks go out to the volunteer drivers who brought our friends and afterwards saw them safely home. Thanks are due also to the four strong youths who carried our wheelchaired patients down the stairs and, at the close, back up again to the waiting cars. "Thank you" to all who helped to make this such a happy one.

On a sad note, during December we lost two of our old friends, Mrs Antoinette Dawber of Regency Court and Mrs Margaret Hurst of Crompton House. RIP.

If you know of any of our old parishioners living alone and not being visited by our Group please inform our clergy.



J.D. ENGLAND M R Pharm S
Pharmaceutical Chemist



Baby Foods & Supplies

Cosmetics

Developing & Printing

Medicated Wines

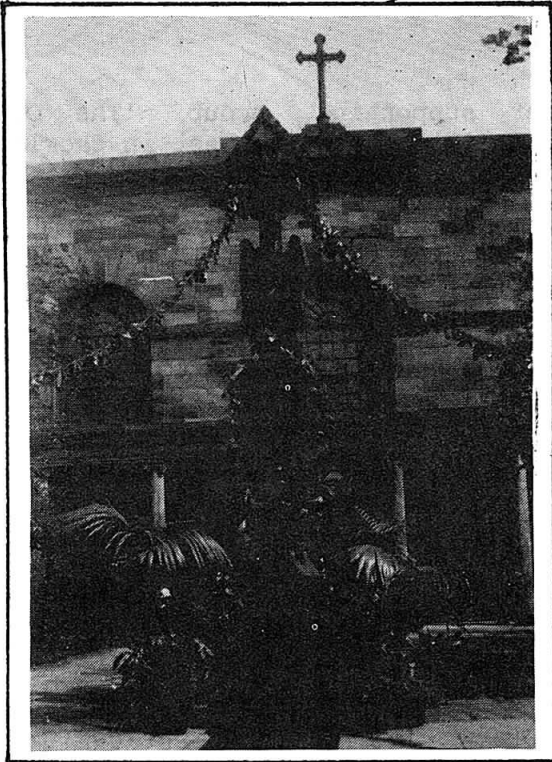
15 BEECH HALL ST., BEECH HILL,
WIGAN.

Tel: Wigan 42895

and also

THE PHARMACY, HINDLEY HEALTH CENTRE,
LIVERPOOL ROAD, HINDLEY.

Tel: Wigan 55304



St John's

192?

This rare picture of St John's was kindly supplied by Mr John Shannon of Rivington Avenue. Taken in the early 1920s it shows the Walmseley Cross bedecked in preparation for Corpus Christi celebrations. In those days the memorial still had its canopied crucifix, and the church front had its stone cross on top and its large ornamental lamp. The event did take place within living memory so perhaps someone can remember what kind of celebration it was.

Why not join your CATHOLIC CLUB

We need your support now

not later - later might be too late

You can enjoy a nice quiet drink
in friendly surroundings
with snooker, cards, dominoes,
table tennis and cricket available

Why not use your brain and come to our
next QUIZ NIGHT - Wednesday at 8.30 pm
21st March - and every fortnight

Sisters of Charity

It is almost twelve months since the Sisters of Charity moved on from their centre in Spencer Road. Their new addresses in Birmingham and Devon were given in last Summer's issue. We now hear that Sister Mary Carroll has left Birmingham to take up new duties in her native Ireland after over 50 years spent working in this country. For those wishing to keep in touch she is at: St Mary's Convent, South Hill, Devlin, Co Westmeath, Ireland.

Those who met Sister Dominic at Spencer Road will be sad to hear that she passed away quite recently. May she rest in peace.

Your Catholic Repository

(Proprietors: J. C. & S. A. AUSTIN)

30 STATION ROAD, WIGAN

opposite Ritz Cinema

Tel. Wigan 826086 223660 (After Hours)

ST PATRICK'S DAY CARDS & EMBLEMS

MOTHER'S DAY & EASTER CARDS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION
CARDS, GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

FULL RANGE OF DEVOTIONAL ITEMS
IN MEMORIUM CARDS



Noticeboard



Prominent figures in the 1989 Rosary Walk.
With acknowledgement to the Catholic Pictorial

PILGRIMAGE
TO
WALSINGHAM
SAT 5TH MAY 1990

CMS CONFERENCE 1990
AT
ST MARTIN'S COLLEGE
LANCASTER
SAT/SUN 8TH/9TH SEPT
£38

ANNUAL
ROSARY SUNDAY
DEMONSTRATION
7TH OCT AT ST PATRICK'S

The week end conference this year is at Lancaster and the charge will be about £38. Arrangements will be made for those wishing to stay overnight on Friday. The charge would be £13 plus £7 for dinner on Friday evening if it is required. Bookings should be made through Mary Jackson, the CMS Office Secretary, at the Metropolitan Buildings, 152 Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L3 5RQ. If you wish to book by phone please do so between 1pm and 3pm on Thursdays. The number is 051-709-5078.

Please use this same Liverpool number for any details you may need concerning the Walsingham Pilgrimage on the 5th May.

At the February meeting our President Bro V G Egan suggested to the CMS Council that we should organize occasional 'Rosary' visits to local churches starting in May and building up to the annual Rosary Sunday walk in October. This suggestion is to be discussed with the Deanery Committee of the Wigan churches. The formation of the October walk is another matter under discussion. It has been suggested that we could walk as 'parish families', the men of a parish in one group and ladies in another.

Our National Chaplain Fr Francis Carr, in his address at the CMS Executive Council meeting in October at the new Diocese of Menevis, Swansea asked us all to pray constantly for vocations to the priesthood and especially that our own members will recognize God's call to them and respond to it.

We ask your prayers for the repose of the soul of Joseph Leyland of Barnsley St he was a member of the CMS and served some 40 years as a Secretary for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Easter blessings to all brothers and sisters
Gerard Dowd
District Secretary
CMS Wigan

Letters

BELLS

Further to your article 'Bells' which appeared in a recent issue of your magazine: your contributor may or may not know that Wigan at one time was a famous bell ringing centre and in fact was the only town in Lancashire where bells were produced.

The late Canon Portens, historian and antiquarian, formerly of Standish, wrote a poem on Wigan bells 'Sweet Ring the Bells' which enshrines the sweetness of the bells as well as the skill of their makers.

GTW (Mr)

FIRST COMMUNION

What a delight it was to see the First Communion photograph of St John's. It brought back quite a lot of happy memories. I was number 14 on the photograph and my name was then Janey Ashcroft and I seem to think one some of the missing names were Joan Blackburn, Muriel Gibson, Eva Barrett, Marie Bootle and Jean Cullen. I seem to remember we all made our first communion together.

I have seen one or two who are on the photograph and spoken of the happy times at St John's. Recently I was in Cyprus and whilst sheltering from a rainstorm my husband and I chatted with a couple from Kent about the weather and the storm damage to their home a couple of years ago. Deeper conversation revealed that the gentleman came from Wigan and went to St John's

school. I said "I bet you know my brothers." He didn't but he said that his sister from Ellis Street, who attended St Mary's school, rang him up to say that he was on a group photograph in a parish magazine. To which I replied "Its a First Communion photograph and I am on it."

Then he told me his name was Jackie Scanlon (no 1 on the photograph). So we talked of Whit Mondays, being in the Morris Dancing troupe and of teachers in the boys' school: Mr Baron, Mr Clark, Miss Murphy and Miss Prior. He spoke of those days with a sense of pride, joy and honour.

We were all staying at the same hotel and each time we met we spoke of good old Wigan and St John's. As the holiday came to an end he received a copy of the magazine. His sister had sent it on with a friend who was coming on holiday to Cyprus. So he managed to see the photograph and of course he remembered quite a number of the boys. It was lovely to reminisce.

So, to the person who sent in the photograph, many, many thanks for all the joy and memories. For those sheltering strangers it turned their rainy afternoon into one of sunshine and joy.

Also it brought lovely memories of happy times with our parents and brothers and sisters altogether at home which no money can buy.

Three cheers for St John's,
Yours sincerely,
Janey Harte (Janey Ashcroft)

NOEL CHADWICK

FAMILY BUTCHER
for choice English Meats

Wigan Market Hall

Tel Wigan 42940

Car had a bump ?

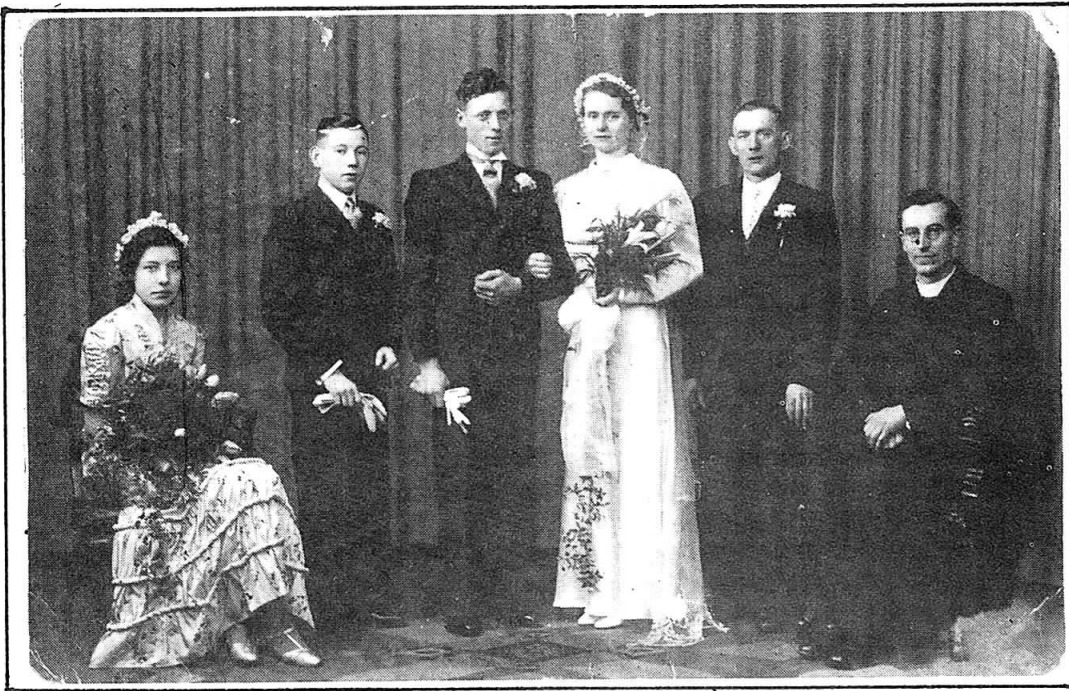
Contact us

J Sherrington

WELL STREET GARAGE
Birkett Bank Tel: 44591

All types of welding

Specialists in
Insurance Accident Repairs



Mr and Mrs Lawrence Sharkey of Hodges Street celebrated their Golden Wedding on Saturday January 13th. Both well known parishioners, Mr Sharkey is a Minister of the Eucharist at St Mary's. Father Gerard Rimmer officiated at the marriage of Lawrence and Rose (nee Halliwell) at St Joseph's, Caroline Street in 1940 and the same Father Rimmer travelled from Manchester to celebrate their Golden Wedding Mass at St Mary's.

Father Rimmer and Lawrence were pioneers in introducing the Young Christian Workers movement to this country in 1937 and were of course present at its Reunion at St Joseph's Hall in 1987. The movement was started in Belgium by Canon Cardyne following his experiences in the 1914/18 war.

From 13 children, Mr and Mrs Sharkey have 10 surviving children, 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Lawrence and Rose celebrated their Golden day with a reception for family and friends at Wigan Infirmary social centre.



The wedding took place at St John's in October between Ann Matthews eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs B Matthews of Balcaries Avenue, Whelley and Andrew Oates eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Oates of Exeter, Devon.

The couple met whilst studying at Sheffield University and have now set up home in the beautiful city of York.





Rest in Peace

Mr Harry Atherton

Harry Atherton, St John's senior parishioner, died on Saturday 24th February aged 86 years. His lifelong association with St John's ended with his requiem Mass celebrated on 1st March by Fr F Tillotson, Fr John Fairhurst SJ and Mgr James J Rigby with his friends and relations.

People may remember his musical talent when he played the piano in the band at the Empress Hall, in his younger days.

He was always interested in St John's parish and even when he could no longer get to church regularly would enjoy a visit from friends who would chat about the 'comings and goings' in the parish.

A very generous man; we owe him a 'thank you' for many gifts to the Church in past years, though he preferred to keep his gifts private.

A man of simple, strong faith who loved his Church, his prayers and not least his friends.

May he rest in peace.

Mrs Lucy Birchall

Mrs Birchall died in October at her home in Springfield Street. One of a family of nine she was a lifelong and loved member of St Mary's congregation. As Lucy Halliwell she was at St Mary's school and a member of the Children of Mary. Since her marriage in 1944 she was an active member of St Joseph's Sodality.

With her happy and pleasant disposition she was well known and respected in the Wigan Lane area, where before her retirement she had been an Auxiliary Nurse for 26 years at the Christopher Home.

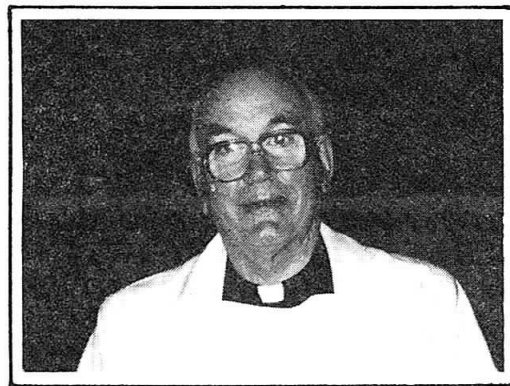
A person who dearly loved her religion, even to the extent that in 30 years holidaying in Europe she always made sure that there would be a Church where she stayed. For that reason Vienna was her favourite city and Ireland for the religious attractions it offered.

Mrs Birchall leaves husband Cyril, sons Anthony and Bernard, and daughter Maria. At her Requiem celebrated by Fr Cummins members of St Joseph's Sodality stood in line as the cortege entered the church. Interment was at Gidlow Cemetery following cremation at Ince Crematorium.

May she rest in peace.

Fr Joseph Burns

On February 1st 1990 a very popular Irish priest, Fr Joseph Alphonsus Burns died in Widnes at the age of 73 having served the parish Our Lady of Perpetual Succour for four years. Before that he spent 13 years at the Wigan parish of St Patrick. Many of us remember the jovial Father Burns



walking round the Scholes area on his constant visits to the sick and housebound. There was a smile and a cheerful word for everyone he met.

Fr Burns was born at Balinsloe, County Galway in 1917. Here he was baptised and went to school close to the shrine of Knock. Could this be the reason for the strong devotion to Our Blessed Lady which remained throughout his life and for his vigorous support for the Legion of Mary?

Ordained at the age of 27 he joined the Cistercian Community at Nun Raw in Scotland where he remained for 20 years before moving to the Brentwood Diocese. In 1973 he came to St Patrick's and became a close friend and colleague of its PP the late Fr James Lapin. Those who knew him well are aware of his great affection for the people of Wigan. Though buried in Balinsloe he will long be remembered in Wigan.

May he rest in peace.

Miss Florrie Higham

Miss Higham of 12 Bridgeman Terrace died in the Spinney Nursing Home on 27th December 1989 at the age of 83.

She was the eldest daughter of Florence and Harry Higham who founded the well known firm of Fruiterers and Florists. She only recently retired from the business.

She will be remembered by many for the lovely way she served you with flowers and for her generosity.

Requiem Mass was offered at St Mary's on 5th January 1990.

May she rest in peace.

Mr John Higham

Mr John Higham of Balcaries Avenue, Whelley, died in hospital on 10th December.



A well known and respected parishioner, Mr Higham's death is a sad loss to St Mary's parish. A tireless church worker he was for the past 25 years a collector at the 8.00 am Mass each Sunday, for many years a helper on the piety stall, taking charge after the death of Mr John Baldwin two years ago and for the past eight years he has been a covenant organiser.

A former St Mary's schoolboy, Mr Higham was a keen follower of Wigan Rugby League. He retired from M/s Ross Slipper works a few years ago. He leaves wife Edna, a son two daughters and five grandchildren. Requiem Mass was celebrated by Fr Cummins on Friday December 15th with Fr Gagie at the interment at Wigan Cemetery.

May he rest in peace.

Mr Cyril Maxwell

Mr Maxwell of Mesnes Avenue, Worsley Mesnes, died in hospital on Dec 21st.

Formerly of the Greenough Street area he was then a well known St Mary's

parishioner, a member of the old CYMS and team player of billiards and snooker.

At one time a sales assistant in the Greenough Street area, Mr Maxwell will be especially remembered by older residents of that area.

He leaves wife Marjorie, two sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Requiem Mass was at St Jude's on Dec 29th. Interment was at Wigan Cemetery.

May he rest in peace.

Mrs Mary Linda Robinson

Mrs Mary Linda Robinson died at her home, Wigan Road, Standish on Tuesday February 13th.

Well known in local Catholic circles she was a long time member and past president of the St Joseph's Association and a popular member of the Catholic Womens League.

The CWL was well represented at the Requiem held at St John's on Feb 19th when Fr Tillotson and Rev Holmes officiated.

Mrs Robinson leaves two daughters and four grandchildren.

May she rest in peace.

Middleton & Wood

FUNERAL SERVICE

WEDDING CAR HIRE

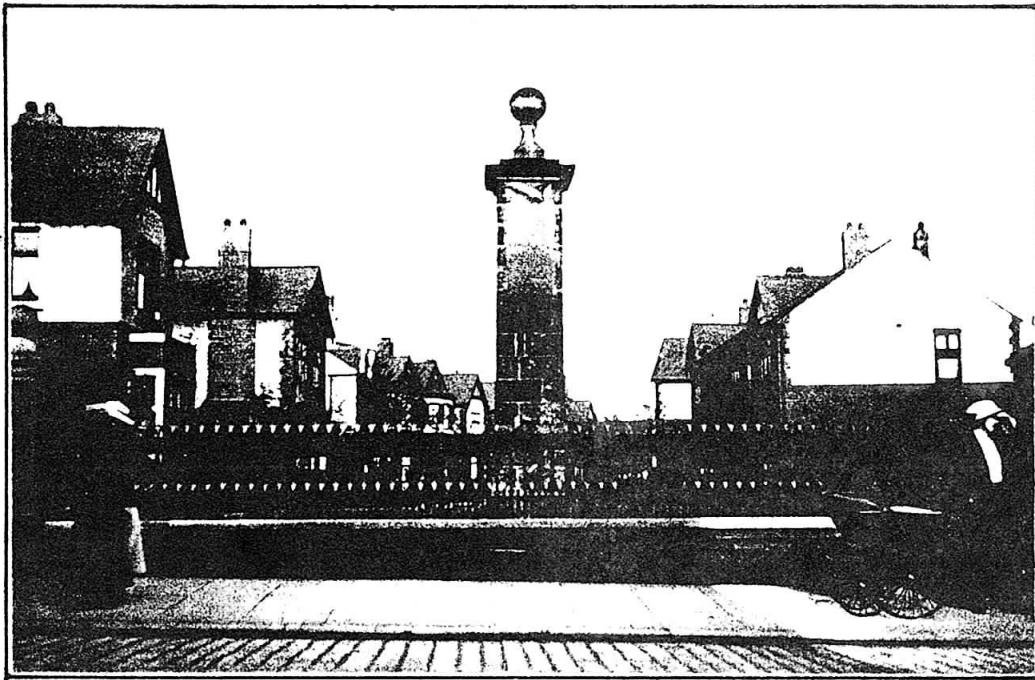
MEMORIALS

Head Office: EGERTON HOUSE, LOWER WALLGATE.
Telephone: Wigan 42876 (24 hours)

Branches at

ASHTON, GOLBORNE, HINDLEY & HAYDOCK

Renovation



The famous Monument in Wigan Lane stands between our two parishes. It was erected in 1697 by the High Sheriff of Lancashire as an 'act of gratitude' to his old commander Sir Thomas Tyldesley who fell in the Battle of Wigan Lane. (See the article by J A Hilton in the Spring 1984 issue)

It was renovated by the Corporation in 1886 and the photograph published in 1914 gives some idea of its appearance at that time. Since then the rails and side columns have disappeared and the stonework has weathered somewhat.

Now, inspired by the approaching Environment Week (27th April- 7th May) the Wigan Civic Trust is planning further restoration work. With the co-operation of local businesses and Wigan Metro the Trust aims to clean it up, replace the missing items and provide an information plaque.

Trip to Israel

Last November the pilgrimage to the Holy Land (mentioned in the Summer issue) took place. We stayed in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

The weather was warm and sunny, the company great and the accommodation very comfortable.

As travellers we visited the Holy Places in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and the areas around the sea of Galilee. As pilgrims we carried people and intentions in our hearts, and prayed together for them and each other in the places where Jesus walked and lived. So - you were there! We asked for your prayers for a safe journey. Thank you. We returned the compliment by praying for you and your intentions, hoping you will perhaps join us on the return visit - perhaps in 1991?

Anyone interested contact Betty Lloyd or Joan Sayer.

Well Done

Through these pages a number of parishioners wish to thank Miss Mamie Dickinson for her longstanding dedication to the APF. She was collecting from St Mary's Mission Boxes in Fr Whitely's time and used to help him in dealing with the cash. For some fifty years now she has been the Treasurer and finally hands over to Mr John Beaver of Eskdale Avenue.

St Mary's & St John's PTA

As another year of fund raising activities gets under way, we have just received the final cash total raised from Mr Tickle's marathon piano play and sing-along. Altogether £812.00 was collected from the many sponsors. Grateful thanks go out to all who gave so generously and especially to Ronnie and the children for providing such a wonderful afternoon's entertainment. The proceeds from this event will be used to provide new reading books and science equipment.

Our quiz nights continue to be popular but not as well attended as we had hoped. Mr Sweeney organised and compered the recent quiz held at the end of January. We are most grateful for his help. Would one of our parents or parishioners like to volunteer to run the next quiz? It would be nice to see a few more people involved especially some more of our parents.

At the time of writing the Gleeson Family have kindly offered to appear in a concert at St John's Club on 25th February. Considering the demands made on this very talented and busy family, we really appreciate the work they do for us.

Shortly before Easter another Disco will be arranged for the Junior children and a special party afternoon with 'Kevin the Clown' is planned for the Infants. Details will be sent out through school.



The marathon piano play

On 31st March the Scout and Guide Group Committee and PTA are to hold a joint Spring Fair in the Parish Centre. Anyone who wishes to help in any way or who could donate gifts for selling on stalls should contact Mrs Hutchings or Mrs Grady. Further details will be available shortly.

Finally we would like to remind our '200 Club' members that their subscriptions are now due. New members are always welcome and details may be had in school from Mr Hampson or Mrs Grady (tel: 31999).

Margaret Davies
Secretary

norman & philip

Ladies & Gents Hairdressers

Head Office:— (Perfumery Shop)
21 Wallgate, Tel. 42303/30401

Unit 2 B
126 Whelley,
Tel: 495895

46 Carr Lane,
Hawkey Hall,
Tel: 41445

4 Wigan Road,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Tel: 719148.

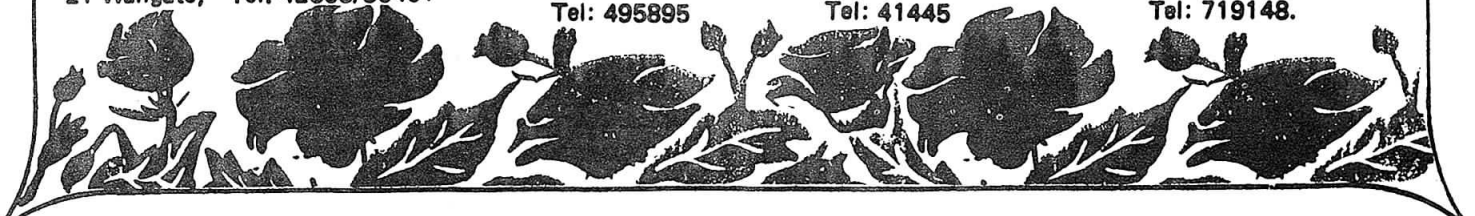
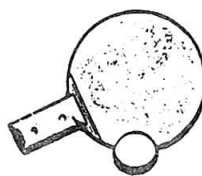


Table Tennis



In the first division our team of TERRY CHADWICK, JIM FOSTER, DAVID BENNETT and STEVE STRINGER have had one or two setbacks recently and as a result have made it rather difficult to win that first division trophy. The surprising home loss against OUR LADY'S by 6-4 and the away defeat by the same score at BILLINGE ST MARY'S means that we can forget the top place for this season. However, in spite of the defeats our "WAKEFIELD WONDER" STEVE STRINGER remains undefeated in the league. He has also taken WIGAN TOWN TEAM to first place in their division.

Our second division team of STEVE POWELL, ANN KERSHAW, CHRIS DUFFY with TOMMY DEARDEN in charge has so far won seven, drawn two, and lost five and is - I say it again - in its usual mid table spot. There was a very bad lapse of 'team communication' recently when arriving at a cup match they found themselves a player short. Worse still, the extra player who had 'stood down' for the game was at home and could have played - even worse that player was team captain TOMMY DEARDEN. There was steam coming from his ears when he got to know!!!

In the third division DENIS WHISTLE-CROFT and his team KEN WALKER, RICHARD READING and myself are at the moment in third place in their bid to 'get at' TOMMY DEARDEN's team in the second division. They have so far won 10 and lost 3. The recent

defeat at VICTORIA PLATT BRIDGE was, I hear, a rather eventful affair with mid-game chats - CAMAY - commercials and even a red card. Never a dull moment with the players - and fans of Denis's team. Indeed one of the team - our disabled player RICHARD READING, had the privilege of playing the world ranked number 4 CHEN-ZIN-HUA recently. This happened when the Chinaman went along to give some help at a coaching weekend for disabled players at Preston. CHEN is a fine player with a great sense of humour and RICHARD managed to get the first four points before his opponent "cottoned on" to his anti-spin play - after that it was "all chinese" to Richard. During the weekend RICHARD also managed a couple of games with the 1980 champion JOHN HILTON. All in all a weekend our player will never forget.

Although PAUL SINEY's D TEAM, also in the third division, has done better than was thought in its first season, he has been struggling to get a full team more times than should be necessary - a rethink regarding new players and match night is a must. Young JOHN FAHEY their twelve year old player did very well recently. When asked by TOM DEARDEN to help out and play for the second division team he not only played but won the match for them by winning two of his three sets - Well done JOHN.

TAS



FRANK RYDING



NEWSAGENT

TEL: 47132

MARKET HALL

AN IDEAL GIFT FOR

Mother's Day - 25th March -

CATHERINE COOKSON'S LATEST PAPERBACK
"THE HARROGATE SECRET" £3.99



POVERTY AND FAMILY LIFE

"Poor people in Britain are not, of course, as poor as those in the Third World. But their poverty is real enough nonetheless. For poverty is a relative as well as an absolute concept. It exists, even in a relatively rich Western society if people are denied access to what is generally regarded as a reasonable standard and quality of life in that society."

Faith in the City 1985

How we eat, clothe and house ourselves has changed dramatically over the years, as have people's expectations, so that a reasonable standard of living depends on the way society as a whole behaves and spends its money. The findings of a recent opinion poll suggested that there is general agreement about what constitutes a minimum standard of living - they include the following necessities:

- * Self contained, damp free accommodation with an indoor toilet and bath.
- * Two pairs of all-weather shoes and a warm waterproof coat.
- * Heating and carpeting.
- * A refrigerator and a washing machine.
- * A weekly roast joint for the family and three daily meals for each child.
- * Enough money for special occasions such as Christmas.

However poverty filters into every aspect of life since it curtails the freedom of choice; the freedom to eat as you wish, to go where and when you like, to seek the leisure pursuits or political activities which others accept - all are denied to those without resources.

It is unemployed, low paid, sick and disabled people and pensioners who make up the main groups of people living in poverty or on its margins. Among non-pensioners, families with children face particular hardship. These are the people who are living in the high density housing built during the 1960s when the government

was desperate to create as many homes as possible as cheaply as possible. Since then housing and environmental health departments have identified serious design and construction faults. These faults resulted in dangerous and severely limiting conditions for the tenants, including lack of privacy and play facilities, noise, lack of clothes drying facilities, dependence on lifts and inadequate refuse disposal. Although there has been much government funding to improve the substandard housing in the public sector it is at the expense of the construction of new dwellings and severe restrictions on the awarding of home improvement grants. This failure to maintain housing levels has resulted in over 145,000 households being homeless in 1987 with 11,300 households living in bed and breakfast accommodation. Over 80% of these multi-occupied dwellings lack adequate washing, cooking and fire safety facilities.

The stress of caring for a family on a low income often involves a juggling act of keeping within a very limited budget while at the same time seeing that the children are well and relatively contented. This often leads to parents going against medical advice; meals may be missed, sweets used to keep the children quiet, breast feeding may be abandoned to allow more time for other members of the family and the mother herself may smoke to ease the tension. These actions may be described as irresponsible by some but it may be the only way in which mothers can stay sane and act responsibly towards their family.

Attitudes to poverty are changing - now the majority of people think that it is the government's responsibility to reduce income differences between rich and poor. It is on this change of attitude that we, the general public, the members of pressure groups and, above all, the politicians, have to build.