



St Mary &
St John

Parish Magazine
&
Deanery Digest

Winter⁸⁵⁻⁸⁶

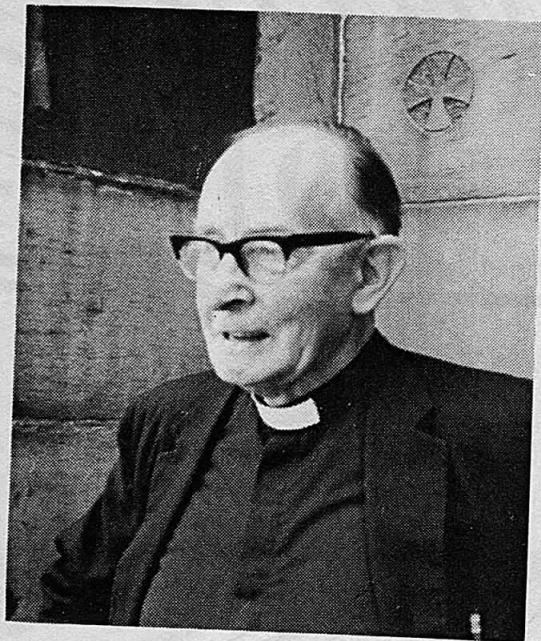
25 p

THE PARISHES OF ST. MARY AND ST. JOHN,

WIGAN

DECEMBER 1985 JANUARY &

FEBRUARY 1986



Dear Parishioners,

You will have seen over the past few weeks in both our Churches both in the porches and at the side of the altar, rather large artistically drawn posters in red and black. Each week a different question. Each concerns a Parish Pastoral Council. There may be a certain element of mystery about them. What do they signify? Who is putting them up? (and who is putting them up to putting them up?). Well this is how it came to come about. The Archdiocese of Liverpool is divided into local Churches which we call the parish (as if you did not know!).

What is perhaps less known is that a larger unit is the Deanery - in the case of Wigan made up of eight parishes - St Cuthbert's (wherein resides the Dean, Fr Naughton) St John's, St Mary's (in order of age), St Patrick's, Sacred Heart, St Edward's, St Jude's and St Aidan's. There is already in existence an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council which met for the first time last May. There every aspect of parish life was discussed and the involvement of lay people stressed. The Deanery Pastoral Council with representatives (four and a priest) from each parish has met a number of times. So far we in St Mary's and St John's have no Pastoral Council or team. How do we form one? Well, about fifteen or so of our people attended the Deanery Meetings so I thought the best way of starting would be to form them into a "working party" (for want of a better word) to think, discuss and plan a method of forming a Parish Pastoral Council. Hence the posters and the information on the back of the bulletin to make as many parishioners as possible aware of the move towards such a council, already in existence in very many parishes. We are aiming at a Parish Day - a general meeting of all parishioners to discuss things in the light of information supplied.

Meantime the magazine will tell you of the activities already going in the Parishes. The Novena to Our Lady for both parishes held in St John's has been a great fillip to devotion to Our Lady - some 140 people have attended on average.

I should like to thank all the people who week after week keep the Churches going - cleaners, collectors, organists, choirs and the various societies which are helping the work of Our Lord in Wigan and district.

God bless and keep you all in His peace

Thomas Cummins

1

Moving towards a PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr P Bristow

Will speak prior to
general discussion

Sunday 26th January

2.00pm to 5.30pm

in the School Hall [behind St Mary's Church]

All parishioners are invited

MAGAZINE MATTERS

At our magazine meeting on 14th November there was a vote of thanks to the Competitions Secretary Mrs Margaret Connolly for her work over the last two years. Unfortunately Margaret has had to relinquish the job and we wish to acknowledge her work and thank her on behalf of our readers. Mrs Eileen Hutchings kindly takes over the task for the time being.

In the last issue we mentioned that 25p per copy does not cover the production costs and said that the introduction of paid advertisements was being assessed. In fact there has been little response from potential advertisers but the main problem would be one of finding sufficient space. There seems to be a steadily increasing demand for it. You will see that in this issue we have dropped the times of services from the front cover and the calendar of forthcoming events from the last two sheets. Couldn't we increase the size of the magazine? - not easily - it would increase production problems, particularly in collating and the addition of a further sheet would put up our costs by £13.

On behalf of readers we offer condolence to the family of Mr J F Moore who died in November. Mr Moore wrote the very popular series on Haigh Brewery.

The Spring issue is scheduled for sale at both churches on Sunday 9th March. This means that the latest date on which material can be accepted will be Sun 23rd February.

All associated with the production and distribution of the magazine wish you a happy and a peaceful Christmas.

CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 22nd December

6.30pm

St Mary's Church

presented by

St Mary's Guides

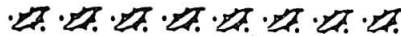
Tea & Biscuits follow
in the School Hall



ST JOHN'S BROWNIES

Since the summer holidays we have had two new Brownies make their promise: Helen Byrne and Caroline Riley. We welcome them both. They bring our number up to 24. Eight Interest Badges have been gained and meetings at 6pm each Thursday are well attended. We are at present practicing for a Christmas play, making decorations, cards and presents. Just now we are looking forward to our visit to the Pantomime at Southport.

Any girl aged 7 after Christmas who would like to join please contact Mrs E Hutchings.



ST JOHN'S CLUB

The fire at the Club on the 25 November was reported in the local press. We are pleased to note that there were no casualties and that the Club was back in operation two days later.

The Club has numerous facilities including darts, dominoes, table tennis, snooker (two tables), bowling etc. We have Bingo Sessions on Monday and Friday evenings at 8.30pm and there is a licensed bar and two gaming machines.

New members of both sexes aged 16 upwards would be welcome and the procedure in applying for membership is as follows:

The applicants's name and address should be written on the list provided on the Club Notice Board, being proposed and seconded by two existing members. Names then go forward to the next Committee Meeting for consideration and the person concerned is notified accordingly.

Subscription rates are:

Junior Members (16 to 18 years) £1.00 per annum

Senior Members (over 18 years) £2.50 per annum

Subscriptions are due in January each year or when accepted as a Member.

The bar prices are low compared with other clubs or pubs.

WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?

ST JOHN'S CLUB COMMITTEE

Senior Citizens' Party
provisionally planned for
Wednesday 5th February

Christmas Bingo
Friday 20th Dec
&
Monday 23rd Dec



Mrs A Flatley Margaret Green Jane Sime Cathy Gallear Mrs K Green
Katharine Keating Gillian Latham Eileen Flatley Martina Davis

VENTURE SCOUTS

Since the unit started in June the Ventures have been very busy. The summer months were spent abseiling and canoeing; then September brought the raft race - one of the most hilarious days we have had.

The whole unit was invested into the Scout Movement at a Mass in October during which we were presented with a Venture flag by the Group Scout Committee.

Since our investiture we have taken part in a debate on moral and social issues a weekend camp and ten pin bowling but only Eileen is brave enough to go caving. In between these activities the Ventures are also working towards the Venture Award and thoroughly enjoying scouting.



CRICKET

Although both our teams had a far from successful season, we at least didn't come away empty-handed from the league presentation evening held at St James' Club, Orrell on November 8th. The trophy for leading batsman in Division Two was won by our first team Captain GRAHAM COOPER with an average of 28. The presentation this year was made by the ex-Lancashire and England fast bowler PETER LEVER.

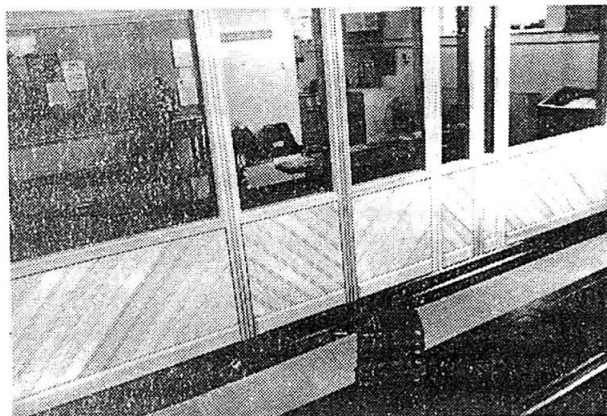
Our second team, although not winning any 'pots' did finish in a higher place in the fourth division than last season. The young players we brought in - fifteen years old PATRICK FOSTER, CHRIS O'HALLERON, MARK BLACKBURN and MARK PEARSON all played well and showed promise. Seventeen years old MARK CHADWICK showed great improvement as the season progressed.

As for our own Club presentation and buffet, this is being held in the Club on Saturday 7th December.

Tom Siney

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The restoration of the church reaches the end of a chapter. We have paid our Contractor. Details remain, important in their way. So far, we have not had to borrow, except for some interest-free loans from our own members. The exterior opened to the public gaze by the ring road, is another book.



The beautiful woodwork is a prominent feature of the interior.

Pleasant news: we came second in the 1985 Carpenters Award. There were 62 entries for this biennial award. This was the eighth time it has been given - and no church ever came higher than Saint George's! The award is a tribute to the high standard of craftsmanship and design achieved by the joiners of Kearsley & Gee Ltd and our architect, Anthony Grimshaw. I joined them, as makeweight to receive it from Lord Elton in the Banqueting Hall of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. Rather grand!

Meanwhile another restoration project is in full swing here - my study. I decorated it when I came, fourteen years ago, and tidied it every now and then for several years, but it has never had a good springclean since then, and has not been cleaned at all for about five years.

Papers, along with dust and dirt, have accumulated in an alarming way, and rearranging them could well have been grounds for divorce if not worse. Heaped on every horizontal surface, except the ceiling, with a narrow track from the door to my desk, gently composting, the chaotic squalor is Dickensian and the sheer quantity of paper almost beyond belief.

My radical solution has been to clear the lot out, partly to the tip and partly to the rest of the house, redecorate, and start again. The decorating is a pleasant interlude in the grimy grind of sorting through all the papers.

There is a moral here, about procrastination, but it seems too obvious to spell out. I fear I am not a good example.

Bernard Harrison



BOWLING

As expected the 'B' team completed their season in a firm mid-table position. A steady improvement in their away form will see them challenging for honours next season. Congratulations are due to BARRY COX who went through the season undefeated in league and cup games.

It is also pleasing to note that 'B' team captain STEVE RYDING in partnership with FRANK ROBINSON of the 'A' team were finalists in the league Chairman's cup competition.

Unfortunately TONY ALLARD and STEVE RYDING were unable to maintain their challenge in the league merit table and their hopes were dashed as the pressure became too much.

Roy Terrs

Crossword

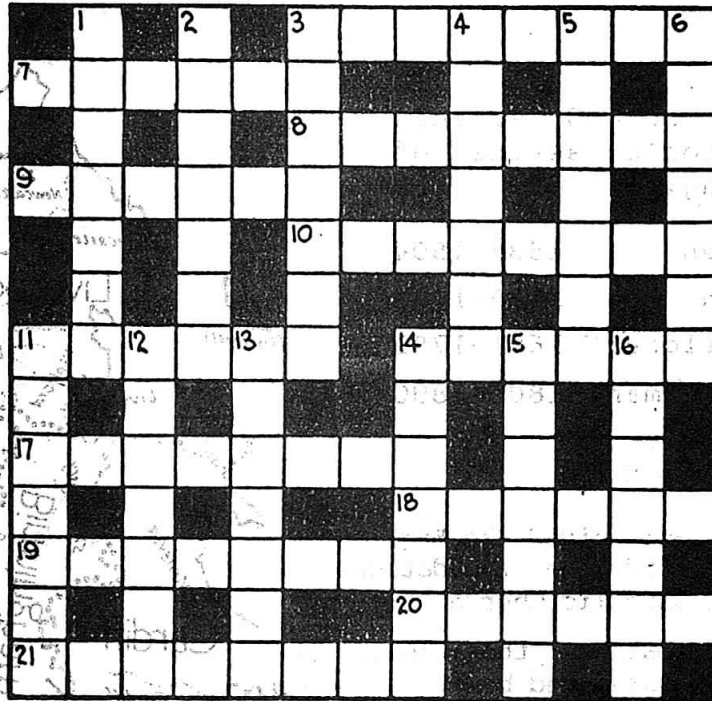
No 12

5

MAKERS OF ENGLISH CATHOLICISM

ACROSS

3. Ant-eaters hid in broken canes (8)
7. Very wordy in favor of 59 (6)
8. Pine for a kind of Gilbertian ship? (8)
9. Decorative tuft - might be made from slates (6)
10. He was almost immortal - shall ice recreate him? (8)
11. Qantas managed to conceal this stretch of sea (6)
14. 11 with offspring for salt or summer (6)
17. Take us out of 12 and mix with ice for an idiot (8)
18. A Queen who wrote 'Whodunnits' (6)
19. Dilly-daffled making tree-idol (8)
20. Place of business not on the cold stuff (6)
21. Radio parts made from wet trees (8)



DOWN

1. Operatic solo about low fellow in rustic paradise (7)
2. Ship in bloom - quite a flower (7)
3. Account for former level country (7)
4. Pretend I precede the wise men to the North-East (7)
5. Point to lots of these simpletons - often in the soup (7)
6. Walks all over relation by marriage (7)
11. TTT (7)
12. Awe-inspiring beneath the citrus fruit (7)
13. I get into kind of tin can of advanced years (7)
14. Rate indicators, commonly come up deep in distress signal (7)
15. Make louder if surrounded more than sufficiently (7)
16. Ham it up above Canberra (7)

Name

Address

The first correct solution opened on Saturday 18th January wins £3.

Sealed entries marked "CROSSWORD" should be sent to:

Mrs E Hutchings, 13 Ashland Avenue

There were nine entries for Crossword number 11 and the winner was

Mr F Myers of Seascale Crescent

The solution was:

ACROSS

- 1 Adonis 8 Tribunal 9 Gaggle 10 Nitrates 11 Mastic 13 Innuendo 16 Chain Saw 19 Stolid 22 Beatific 24 Akimbo 25 Teachers 26 Theses

DOWN

- 2 Drama 3 Night 4 Stencils 5 Mint 6 Lunate 7 Fag End 12 Skua 14 Newscast 15 Nail 17 Heeled 18 Intact 20 Olive 21 Imbue 23 Feet

SIXTEEN PLUS

We are a group of young people - as the title implies from 16 yrs upwards. We come together, sometimes just to chat, Other times with a specific aim. We meet each Friday in St John's School (Brick Kiln Lane) from 8pm onwards.

Bored? - At a loose end? - Why not come and join us?

.....

MAKERS OF ENGLISH CATHOLICISM

Here is the second article in Tony Hilton's series of four covering:

William Allen	1533-1594
John Leyburn	1620-1702
Richard Challoner	1691-1781
John Henry Newman	1801-1890

JOHN LEYBURN

John Leyburn re-organised the English Mission and re-laid the foundations of the English Catholic Church.

Before the Reformation, the English Catholic Church, governed by its own hierarchy, held the allegiance of the entire nation. After the Reformation Catholicism became the religion of a persecuted minority. Cardinal William Allen had launched the English Mission, but the Church remained devoid of a hierarchy and the Mission remained disorganised. In 1623 an attempt was made to remedy the situation by the appointment of a missionary bishop or Vicar Apostolic but the attempt failed because of persecution by the government and disagreements amongst Catholics. However a Chapter was established to organise the Clergy.

In 1685 the succession of the Catholic King James II provided the political pre-conditions for the restoration of the Catholic Church and John Leyburn was appointed Vicar Apostolic.

Leyburn was born in Westmorland in 1620 and educated at Douai and Paris. His career suited him perfectly for his new position. He had been secretary to Bishop Smith the last Vicar Apostolic, secretary to the Chapter, President of Douai and secretary to the Cardinal Protector of the English Mission.

He wrote to his clergy that he hoped 'Your hearts, being inflamed with a holy zeal, may kindle the like in the laity under your direction in order to a propagation of the Catholic Faith'. He immediately set off on a visitation of the North, confirming over 20,000 Catholics - including 1,333 in Wigan, the largest concentration in the country.

His permanent contribution to his Missionary Church was to organise it (1688) into four districts - London, the Midlands, the West and the North - each with its own bishop. Meanwhile James II was overthrown and Leyburn was temporarily imprisoned. Soon after, in 1702, he died but the organisation which he had set up survived. When, in 1850, the English Hierarchy was eventually restored, it was raised on the foundations laid by Leyburn.

English Catholics still form only a minority but they constitute a Church and Mission committed, in Leyburn's words, to 'propagation of the Catholic Faith.'

Further reading: B Hemphill, THE EARLY VICARS APOSTOLIC OF ENGLAND (London 1954)

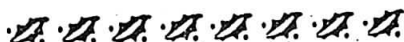


THE 'DISTRICTS' TODAY

SNOOKER

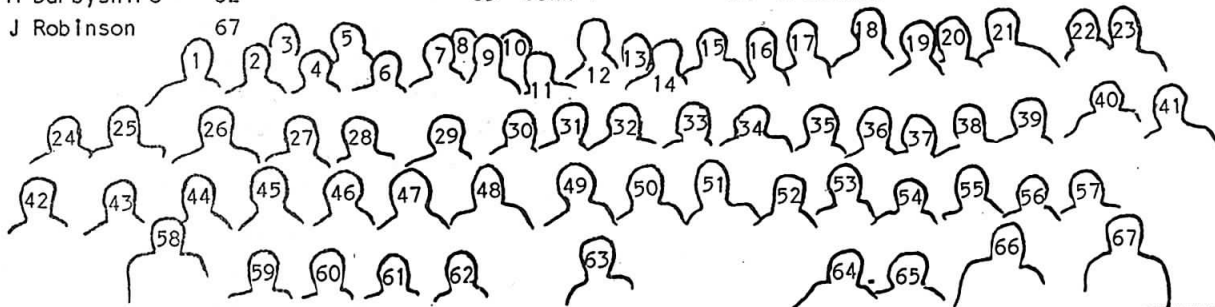
In the CMS snooker league both St John's 'A' and 'B' are in a mid-table position. In the darts league St John's 'A' are fourth and the 'B' team bottom. In the dominoes league St John's 'A' is joint second and the 'B' bottom. In the Premier section the 'A' team is fifth and the 'B' team - yes, you've guessed it - bottom.

Tom Siney



OLD PHOTOGRAPH FROM ST MARY'S

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 H Mawdsley(Snr) | 2 Bert - | 3 F Foster | 4 F Collins | 5 J Heaton |
| 6 J Mar+Indale | 7 J Mawdsley | 8 R Halliwell | 9 J Burns | 10 H Mawdsley(Jr) |
| 11 W Dowd | 12 G Maxwell | 13 J Morris | 14 J Boylan | 15 J Brookwell |
| 16 G Johnson(Jr) | 17 T Almond | 18 A Almond | 19 R Swift | 20 W Lowe |
| 21 H Foster | 22 J Denman | 23 J Westhead | 24 S McArdle | 25 G Johnson(Snr) |
| 26 T Cheetham | 27 C Nolan | 28 | 29 W Jennings | 30 J Crook |
| 31 A Crook | 32 T Maxwell | 33 J Ashurst | 34 E Walsh | 35 A Westhead |
| 36 W Stephens | 37 T Ashurst | 38 R Bowery | 39 C Rafferty | 40 |
| 41 | 42 J Dowd | 43 T Cumberbatch | 44 R Collins | 45 S Henry |
| 46 T Fitzhenry | 47 J Fitzhenry | 48 Rev Fr Sharkey | 49 Rev Fr Whiteley | 50 R Culshaw |
| 51 E Arrowsmith | 52 W Critchley | 53 J Robinson | 54 A Critchley | 55 |
| 56 | 57 G Crook? | 58 R Worthington | 59 E Cox | 60 F Ford |
| 61 M Darbyshire | 62 | 63 John ? | 64 M Denman | 65 T Hilton |
| 66 J Robinson | 67 | | | |



St Mary's Church to the left - the Hall/Club to the right

Photo and names kindly supplied by Mr E Cox

T H E H A L L S

With regret we learned that they were to be demolished. We found ourselves asking do you remember this, that - and them. The older generation recalled events of sixty years ago and the even earlier ones of their parents, yes and their grandparents; activities well organized and strongly supported with values that enriched the spiritual and social lives of successive generations - activities in those buildings that they and we knew and loved.

St Mary's Hall was built in 1824 as a Catholic Sunday School. Here children received their first lessons long before the days of compulsory education. St John's Hall opened as a school in 1844 with 250 pupils. The Sisters of Notre Dame came to teach there in 1854 when the pupils numbered almost 800. Some months later they started a night school, presumably for workers with no education, and in 1891 opened a new private school which we fondly recall as the Convent. The beneficent usage of the Halls in those distant years may be recorded in the archives - we know that the CYMS was formed in 1858. A group of St Mary's ladies in large hats, bonnets and high collars, their chaplain in the midst, would be one of the earliest women's guilds.

To more recent times, when the school desks were gone and the stage set, the social scene was brightened by the dazzling shows of the Operatic Society and the popular whist drive and dance. The price of admission for whist drive and dance was 1/6 [7½p] including the programmed ticket and a small pencil to record your partners for the veleta and cotillions. A later generation joined the successful Youth Club. And after the Spring and Autumn Fayres came the happy, crowded New Year's Eve celebrations.

In St Mary's Hall the ground floor was used by the CYMS until the late 1920s, when the stage area was a separate room. There was dancing to a three piece band with Frank Ford on piano,

Dick Thomas, violin. Since admission was 3d [1½p] these events were known as 'Threepenny Hops' - 'Little Matt' at the door.

Moving upstairs in the late twenties the men erected a bar greatly assisted by one Cuthbert Rafferty, joiner. In the thirties modern dancing [admission 6d] was a huge success, again with Little Matt at the door. There were guild meetings, social evenings, tea parties, wedding receptions and the concerts by Mrs Smithson's 'Melody Makers' with standing room only. How many remember when as schoolgirls they sat in the sunshine on the steps of the stage door, breathless by skipping to 'Call in my very best friend'?

Fleeing from the Liverpool blitz in 1940 hundreds found refuge sleeping on stage and floor in makeshift beds. In St John's Hall evacuee children had lessons from their own teachers. 'Old Julia' Cassidy and her husband stayed on, thankful for the peace of Wigan Lane and the homely comfort of the Snug at Matt McLoughlin's Fox & Goose.

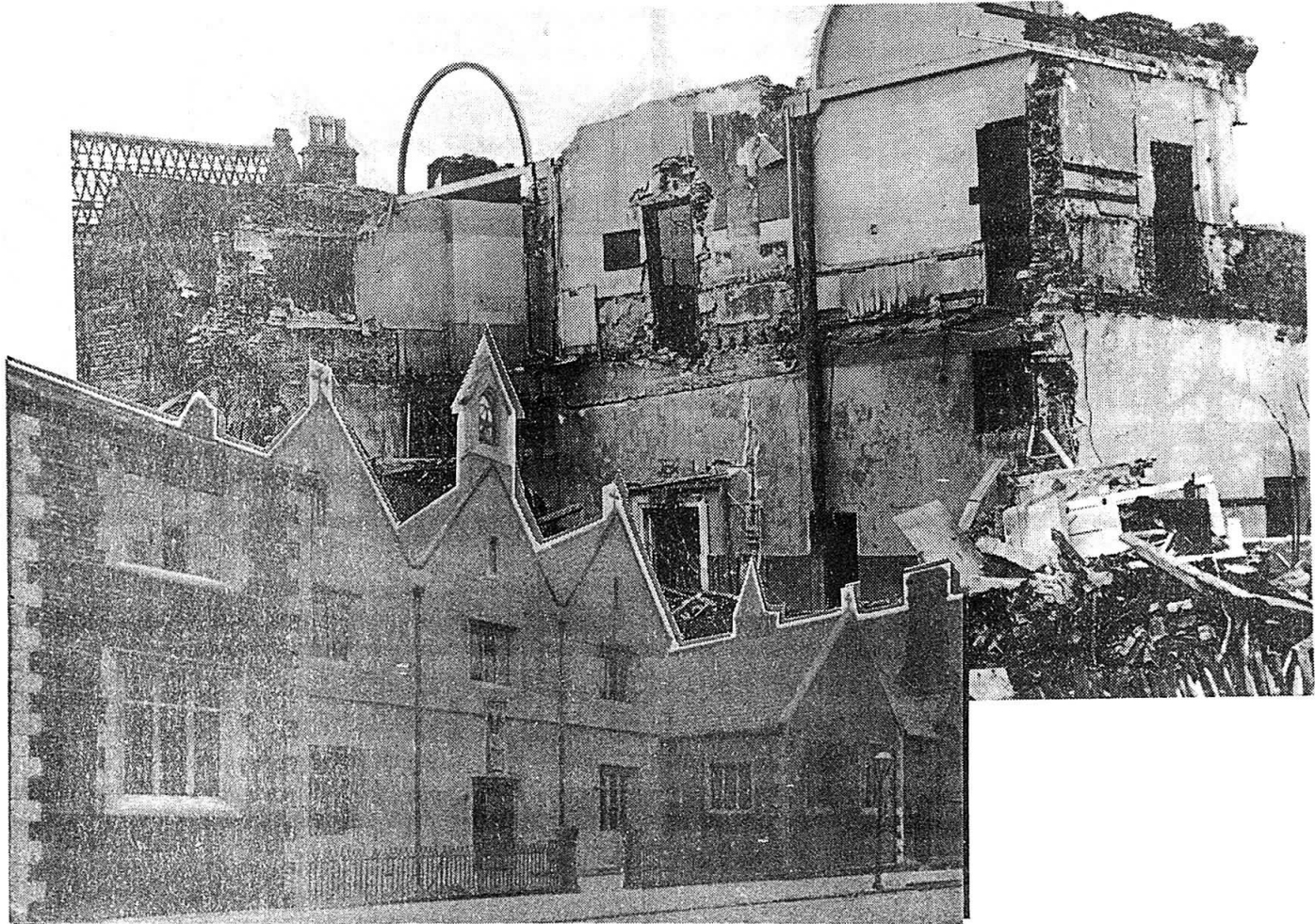
An atmosphere can cling to a building just like cobwebs to its walls and people are atmosphere. The club flourished, there were teams and trophies, friendships and good works, three, four and even seven brothers members. There was 'Big Bert' Almond the gentle giant Old Joe Westhead, dapper Johnny Hegarty pianist and singer of no mean talent in the cabaret style, the magnificent voice of George Healey. 'Gentleman' Bob Collins and his two brothers. There was 'Ivvy' (Worthington) of the incomprehensible dialect, steward of St John's Club, his telling of trying to communicate with two Asian students next door to him was an hilarious one act comedy - over sixty years in the CYMS and not one dull day. 'Little Matt' Derbyshire, still willing to help though bent with age, donated to the Club an inscribed crucifix in memory of his son killed in action; 'In peace sons bury their fathers, in war fathers

bury their sons' and Little Matt grieved.

9

Though these buildings are demolished, the survivors of the great societies can look back with satisfaction on their striving together without reward for the good of the Church they did not question. They found glory.

Nellie Murphy

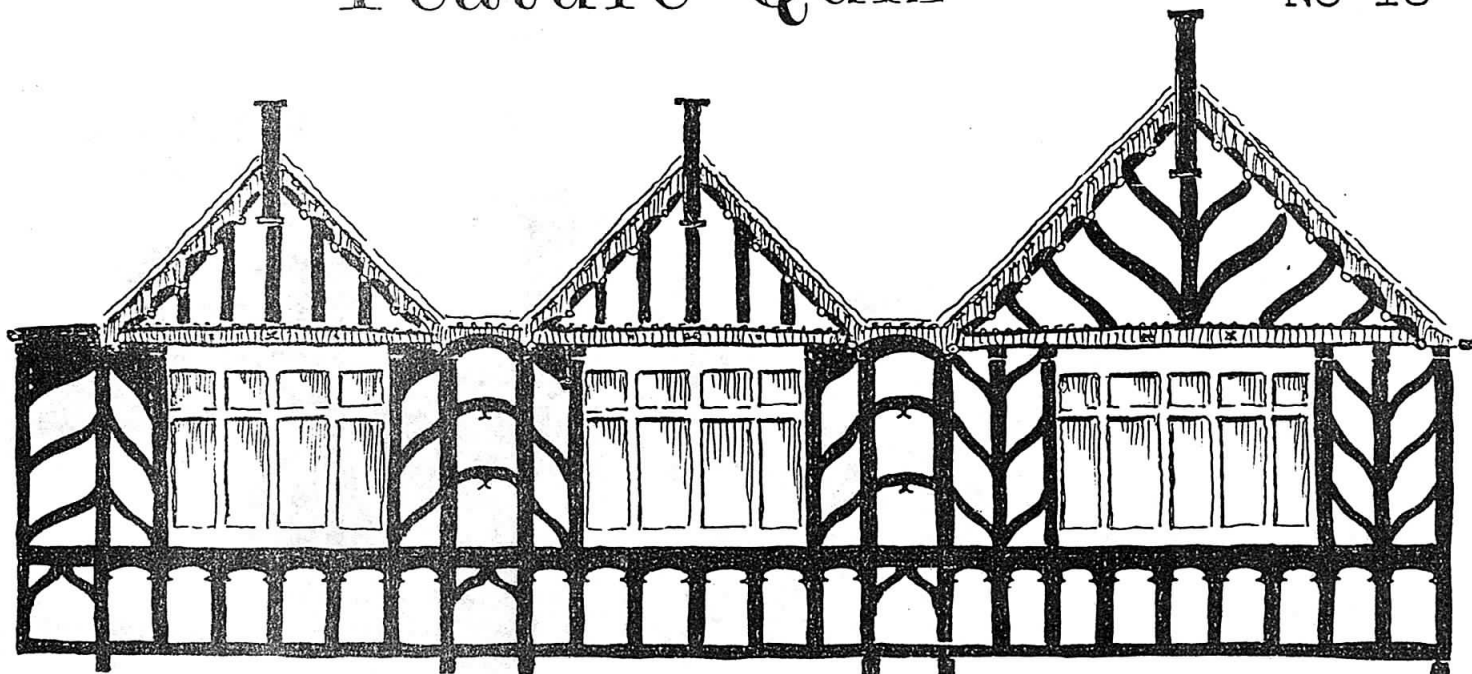


THE TOP PHOTOGRAPH taken a few weeks ago by Mr G Davies shows St John's Hall from the rear in process of demolition.

- 1 Whispers from dear St John's, far away in my schooldays
Back floats the day of my earliest prize.
O the wild dream of pictures, the mad chest of treasure,
As I walked passed the lines of envying eyes.
- 2 Whispers from dear St John's, sad thoughts come stealing
Into my mind as I pause at your gate.
Where are they now, those friends of my boyhood?
What is their story? What was their fate?
- 3 Whispers from dear St John's, oh how I've lived with you
The Murphy's the Gleesons, those teachers of old.
Hurst, Leyland and Siney, Brogan and Fleming,
Some of my schoolmates, more precious than gold.
- 4 Whispers from dear St John's, soon to be torn down
Our children's voices will be heard there no more.
No 'Faith of Our Fathers' again will be sung there
Raising the rafters as in days of yore.
- 5 Whispers from dear St John's, life turns her pages
Sometimes I read what the next day would bring.
Long lines of faces darken the dull page
But, look, in the corner, - Alladin's ring!
- 6 Whispers from dear St John's, never forsake me,
In weakness and weariness, in hunger and cold
Still be my comforter and stay close beside me
Now I am weary and lonely and old.
- 7 Whispers from dear St John's, when the last terror,
Flesh from the spirit cuts - 'to be' from 'to seem',
Still be my strengthener, one last gentle presence
One last dying prayer - Please let me dream.

THE LOWER PHOTOGRAPH was kindly loaned by Mrs Ben Spooner and shows the building from the front in its original state as St John's School.

THE POEM entitled "Whispers From Dear St John's" was written by Mr Norman Jump (now in Manchester) on hearing the old school was coming down.



In spite of its Tudor style it seems that this building isn't much more than 80 years old. Again it is within half a mile of Market Place; but where?

Answers please to Mrs E Hutchings, 13 Ashfield Avenue. Envelopes should be sealed and marked "FEATURE QUIZ". They will be opened on Saturday 18th January.

The first correct one opened will win £3.

The answer to Feature Quiz No 17 is a building in Mesnes Street on the north side. There were eight entries and the winner was

Mrs R Reyes of Douglas Road

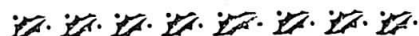


TABLE TENNIS

The first team led by BRIAN McCracken are cruising along nicely so far in the First Division. It is in second place behind LEIGH MINERS 'A' having won six, drawn one and lost one. In the same division our 'B' team led by DAVE BENNETT after losing the first two games improved into a mid table place with five wins and four losses.

In the Second Division our somewhat under strength squad of ANN KERSHAW, CHRIS DUFFY and DENIS WHISTLECROFT are finding it tough going due to illness etc. So far they have won three and lost five.

Our Third Division team CLIVE MAULE, KEN WALKER and BARBARA HAYTON have found fresh inspiration and spirit in the arrival of their new player, TERRY CHADWICK from our 'C' team. At the moment they are on top with six wins and two drawn.

Tom Siney

justice and peace group



11

The Justice & Peace group continues its active programme - there are more issues than we can cope with but it is important that we should be seen to be involved. Our efforts to inform ourselves and others on fundamental social justice would be sterile if no action followed. We always hope that more people will join and / or support us. Perhaps it needs to be stressed that while we all share a concern about the issues involved, our opinions on them may be - and often are - diametrically opposed. The important thing is that the concern should affect our lives and actions.

The Wigan J & P Area Meeting on 14th October was addressed by Sandra Price SND who has been working in Nicaragua since 1981 and has witnessed the effects of the Contra War on the communities near the Nicaraguan / Honduran border. She is very realistic in her appraisal of the situation and is no starry-eyed naive propagandist for anyone. Her message was that the Sandinista government has the support of the vast majority of the Nicaraguan people and that despite its early abuses of Mesquito Indians, it has done great things for the health, literacy and security of the nation. All these advances are threatened by the war which bleeds the country of resources. She is very critical of the US government and its policies in the region and gave a depressing analysis of its brutal interference in Central America for over 100 years. Without the US support war would be over tomorrow. She spoke of her government's hypocrisy in condemning the terrorism of the PLO when it kills one US citizen, while at the same time arming, training and feeding the Contras who have killed thousands of Nicaraguan civilians.

The meeting was well attended (few were from Wigan) and question time was lively. First hand information makes the situation more immediate and helps one to judge news reports. One appeal Sister Sandra made was for treadle sewing machines for the people she works with. There must be many unused ones around; please let us know if you can give one to help the Nicaraguan women to produce garments.

One World Week opened with an ecumenical Service in St Francis, Kitt Green. Joe Candlin (J & P Diocesan Chairman) gave an address on the Justice & Peace organisation and there was a sale of Traldcraft produce with refreshments.

In October we helped members of the World Development Movement on the Market Square to get signatures for a Petition to lobby MPs against cuts being made in the Overseas Aid Budget when millions are dying of hunger. This Petition

was taken to London for the national Mass Lobby on 22nd October and received by Roger Stott MP.

On 26th October we were represented at the Protest March in London against Britain's continued and escalating expenditure on nuclear arms - £10 billion on Trident alone plus the uncounted cost in deaths of those who die for lack of aid. At the 'Recipes for Justice' event in Scarisbrick Street, which closed One World Week, two of our members gave a talk on the Arms Trade and saner alternatives - using our taxes for employment instead of death. One of these speakers later had a meeting with Roger Stott to discuss and express our concern at the Arms Trade, particularly the evil effect on third world countries. To quote 'Pacem in Terris' - "Justice, then right reason and humanity demand that the arms race should cease".

Prisoners' Week was 11th - 17th November this year and it was marked by inclusion in the Bidding Prayers. We still have the highest proportion of the population in prison in Europe. Desperate over-crowding, lack of appropriate care, facilities and after-care are still a scandal by humanitarian and Christian standards. Many parishioners are now better informed about prison conditions and prayers may have struck a special chord. If anyone feels called to do more for prisoners, we would welcome him / her in our group.

FUTURE ACTION

This year our campaign for sending Greetings Cards to Prisoners of Conscience at Christmas will take the form of selling a card (including name and address of prisoner and correct stamp) for 50p. Please buy one, write a short message of good will, sign, address and send it.

The Summit Conference at Geneva has started the next round of disarmament talks. There will be an Advent HOLY HOUR for PEACE at 7pm on Tuesday 17th December in St Mary's Church. The perennial message of Our Lady being repeated now at Medjugorje is clear - pray and fast to avert world calamity (nuclear war?). In Liverpool on Thursday 12th December there will be a torchlit procession starting at the two Cathedrals, calling for the removal of Cruise missiles and nuclear weapons from Europe.

Continuing our ecumenical activities, we hope to join a Family Service at 10.45am one Sunday in the near future in Whitley Methodist Church Spencer Road. The date will be given on the Parish Bulletin and we hope other parishioners will join our members there.

Thalia Hamilton

READERS'



REORDERING

Following the 7th October meeting in St John's Church concerning its possible 'reordering' a parishioner draws our attention to the changes going on in the 50 year old Preston church of St Gregory, Deepdale. Its ambitious Golden Jubilee renovation plans include:

Transferring the stone altar near the congregation, moving the pulpit to the new sanctuary, installing a modern heating system, electrical rewiring, redecoration of the church, providing facilities for the handicapped and the creation of a Blessed Sacrament chapel at the end of the main altar.

The work is to be carried out between Christmas 1985 and Easter 1986. During this time the services will be held in the school hall. The hall was the parish's original church prior to 1936.

The parish priest, Fr Gerald Muir, explains: "The reason for moving the altar forward is to bring the church into line with Vatican II changes. In the past congregations were mere spectators at a Mass but now the liturgy is different.

"I am keen to maintain the present character of the church and my committee is anxious to involve the whole parish in this great event."

Built in 1818/19, St John's church is over three times as old as St Gregory's. Does it follow that we shall find it three times as hard to accept the necessary changes?

Christmas

Christmas is the time of year
When Jesus comes and brings good cheer.
He comes to us from heaven above
To Mary who gave him lots of love.
He lay deep in a bed of straw
And all of a sudden began to snore.
All the animals crowded round
Listening to this strange, strange sound.
All wrapped up in ragged clothes
Just in view his little nose.
In came shepherds, in came kings,
Bearing gifts and a bell that rings.
That's what happened on Christmas morn
Ending with a great big yawn.

Philip Smith
Age 10

Rest
In Peace

MRS MARY JOHNSON

Many old friends attended the Requiem at St Mary's on September 23rd for Mrs Johnson of Crompton House and formerly of Shaw Street. Mrs Johnson's association with St Mary's began with her work at Wigan Infirmary after leaving St Paul of the Cross parish at Burtonwood where she was educated. From joining the Children of Mary and, after her marriage, the St Joseph's Sodality she and her late husband were active church workers. In later years Mrs Johnson assisted in the presbytery. Mr George Johnson and his father are pictured in the photograph on page 7 (Nos 16 and 25).

Mrs Johnson leaves two daughters and a son, Kevin, a former altar boy as were his father and grandfather. The family's close association with St Mary's ends with the death of Mrs Johnson.

MISS DORIS GORMALLY

The sudden death of Miss Gormally of Kenyon Rd was a great shock to all who knew her.

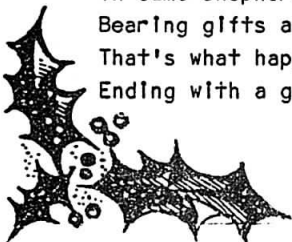
A life long parishioner of St John's, where she was educated, Miss Gormally was a respected and well known business woman having worked and traded in the Market Hall for over 40 years. Two weeks before her death Miss Gormally went on pilgrimage to Walsingham with St Joseph's parish (Wrightington). Miss Gormally leaves a brother and sister. Her nephew Mr Michael Gormally was at the organ for the Requiem in St Mary's on the 25th September.

MRS WINIFRID FLYNN

The Requiem Mass at St John's was attended by large numbers of both clergy and laity. The address at this celebrated Mass was by Mgr James Rigby, a schoolboy friend at St John's of Mrs Flynn's son, Father Bill.

Mrs Flynn, formerly of Clifton Street, had been poorly for some time at St Joseph's Convent, Liverpool where she died in her 93rd year on 13th November. She was a daily communicant at St John's so long as she could physically manage to get there. A supporter of the APF mission boxes, she looked forward to the annual APF reunion each year at Freshfield.

Her husband, Joe, died 20 years ago. She leaves a son Fr Bill and two daughters Tess and Marie.



ST JOHN'S GUIDES

During the last few months our Company has taken part in both the Division and the District 75 years celebrations. In the District celebration we showed life between the war and the Coronation of our Queen. We had great fun dressing up as refugees and royalty. We really enjoyed it when we went to the baths a few weeks ago and we can't wait to go again. We also enjoy the outdoor activities we do. On the 31st October we held an open night for our parents and friends and we had a fancy dress

party; there were costumes from a ghost to a flapper!

Two of our guides were enrolled, Jane Deakin and Elizabeth Gaskell. Others received Interest Badges. We are all looking forward to a Midnight Hike on the 29th November and a visit to Wigan Little Theatre in January. We meet from 7 - 9pm on Thursdays in St John's school so if you are looking for something to do on a Thursday night then come and join us.

Victoria Jones, Rebeca Jones,
Elizabeth Gaskell, Jane Deakin, Sarah Hilton.



LAY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

"Lay men and women are now given an opportunity to share very closely in the ministry of the eucharist. Besides taking communion and viaticum to the sick and leading if necessary eucharistic ceremonies such as exposition, the special minister of the eucharist has a role to perform in the celebration of the Mass: to assist the president and any other ordained ministers in the distribution of communion.

This is a way in which the laity can be of practical service, which springs from, and also expresses, the nature of the Church as a 'priestly body'.

Special ministers are of great help when large numbers of communicants are present, and also facilitate the giving of communion under both kinds when not enough priests are available."

[The Parish Mass. Page 34]

In response to the permission which the Bishops of England and Wales received from Rome last July, allowing the faithful to receive communion under both kinds at every Mass, there have been several days devoted to commissioning eucharistic ministers for all parts of the archdiocese. It is expected that over 800 will be commissioned before Christmas. These include the following commissioned to serve in St John's:

Margaret Brown	Anne Casey	Rose Hall
Thalia Hamilton	Ken Hurst	Maria Schickhoff
Frank Tickle	Ted Vose	Arthur Winstanley

The following already serving as eucharistic ministers have had their former commissions renewed for St John's:

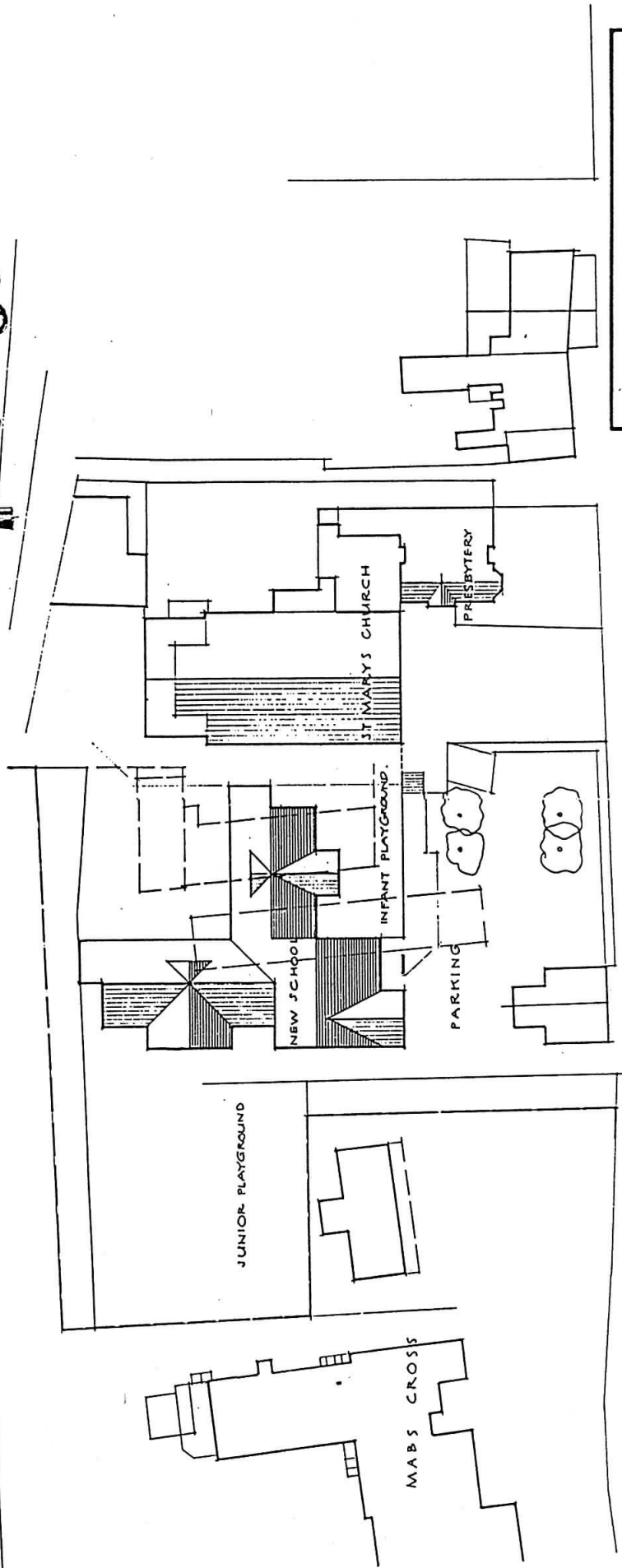
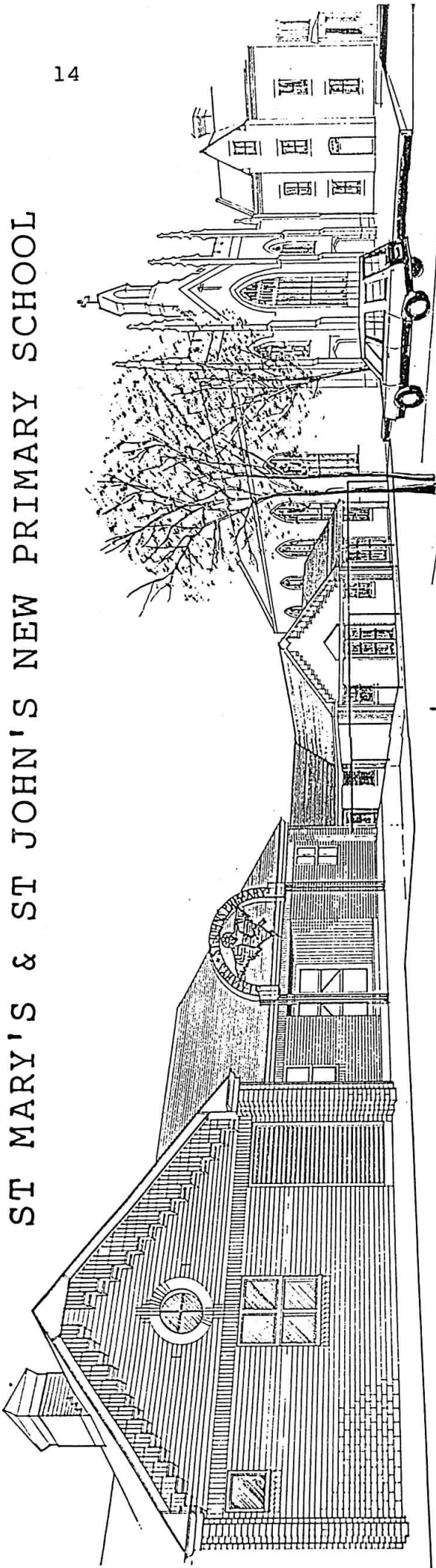
Sister Mary	Sister Columba	David Farley
Geoff Leyland	Betty Lloyd	Paul Siney

"May God bless them in their service as he blesses the community they serve."

Further reading available from Catholic Truth Society:
The Parish Mass [A resource book for Clergy and Laity]
Study book for Special Ministers of Holy Communion. [1980]
Communion Under Both Kinds. Its Significance. [H Winstone]

ST MARY'S & ST JOHN'S NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

14



Anthony Grimshaw Associates
Chartered Architects & Planning Consultants

STANDISH GATE

Father Cummins introduces some notes on the proposed school which have been prepared for this issue:

In almost every issue of the magazine, mention has been made of the new school. Progress has been very slow and perhaps it is not understood why this is so. We have been trying since '81 to get things moving. This means dealing with the Department of Education and Science, the Local Education Authority and the Archdiocese. As you can see in the drawings the idea is to have our school built on the upper site next to St Mary's Church, where St Mary's Hall and the Horsa Hut now stand.

Owing to Government restrictions, only a limited amount of cash is allocated each year to the Wigan authority for schools in the area and of this only a part is for voluntary schools. I have already mentioned that we were due for our allocation in 1983-4 but the Local Authority hearing that the Archdiocese had frozen all school building for lack of funds, diverted our allocation to Leigh Bedford C of E school. A year lost. We got the allocation in April 1985. The Governors have met on several occasions and a variety of amended plans have been produced. After months of negotiating and delay the approval of the Dept of Education and Science has been secured.

Let me hand over to the architect for a few details on the site and the school -

The most convenient site for the long-awaited new primary school for the joint St Mary's and St John's parishes is the land adjoining St Mary's Church. This is at present occupied by the old Hall and by a 'Horsa' prefabricated concrete classroom block.

The sloping site, which follows the level of Standishgate, has been subject to mining in common with the rest of the Town Centre area. This means that extensive site drilling has been necessary to discover as far as possible the extent and depth of the voids and the kind of soil conditions which exist.

Much of the ground has been filled in the past and is not at its original level. This has determined the most economical floor levels for the new building.

The internal layout of the school is based on a series of twenty foot square classrooms overlooking multi use spaces incorporating library, art and craft fittings and low screens. There is a changing room with showers serving playgrounds and the upper level main hall.

The main entrance facing Standishgate gives access to staff rooms and the kitchen is to one side with the teaching staff room at balcony level overlooking the hall.

Materials are red brick with sloping blue slate roofs to match the present and there are several traditional brick details in contrasting colours. The existing car park will remain and be altered to provide school parking.

Tenders from selected building contractors will be invited at the start of 1986 and it is hoped to commence site work in the Spring with a long but necessary period of grouting, demolition and site preparation.

Anthony Grimshaw
Architect



YOUTH CAROL CONCERT

Arranged by
Miss Marie Taylor

Cardinal Heenan House
Upholland

3 pm
Sun 15th Dec

Tickets £1.50
For CAFOD



ST MARY'S REPOSITORY STALL

The stall at the back of the church
has been stocked for Christmas-

Advent Calendars
Crib Figures
Diaries

and a good selection of Christmas Cards



SCOUTS

Early In November a large group of Scouts spent a day out In the Rivington area.

The day began with a hike from the car park at Rivington Barn, up past the Chinese Gardens and on to the summit of the Pike at 1,190 ft above sea level. The weather was cold but dry and apart from a little low cloud, conditions were ideal for walking. The party continued across the moor to the TV transmitter station about a mile away on Winter Hill. There is no recognised path across the moor so the boys soon found that the 'going' was rough and wet. There was ample opportunity for practising map setting and compass navigation - both essential when the rain or mist closes in on the hills.

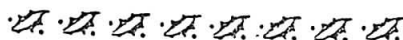
On their return to the Chinese Gardens the boys spent a long time exploring the tangled gardens and ruined follies and pathways. The site once contained the Bungalow - a large mansion built

by the first Lord Leverhulme - the soap-maker extraordinary, the son of a Bolton grocer.

As the afternoon drew on it became time to move on to the ruins of 'Rivington' Castle for a quick look around. The castle, now a ruin, is another of Lord Leverhulme's follies. Built in the 1920's, it is a replica of the medieval castle which once stood in the centre of Liverpool. The boys were fascinated with the ruined battlements and passage ways but all too soon it was time to return to the cars for the journey back home.

We are still urgently looking for an assistant Scout Leader; male or female. Is anyone interested in helping the young boys in the parish? If you think you can help contact G Davies on Wigan 34535.

Many thanks to all who supported our recent Autumn Fair.



NORTH WEST CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

We remind readers of the items published by the NWCHS. The current issue of the Journal (free to members) contains the following articles: 1 The Catholic Revival in Thurnham by J A Hilton 2 Bishop Goss and the Gentry (The Control of Private Chapels) by P H Doyle 3 Fr T Martin and His 'Mission of Charity' at Haslingden by J Dunleavy 4 The English Seminary, Bruges; Contribution to the North-West by S Foster 5 Stonyhurst Archives by F J Turner SJ 6 The Jesuits in the North-West by L Warren 7 Approaching Sources by J A Hilton.

Other publications include: 'Catholic Lancashire', 'The Lancastrian Catholic Heritage', 'Thomas West's Guide to the Lakes' and Catholic Englishmen'.

Publications and membership may be obtained from the Treasurer, Mr B Farrimond, 23 Swinley Lane, Wigan WN1 2EB



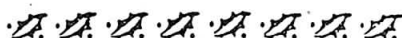
RETIREMENT

Miss Marie Sattersfield retired recently from the headship of Holy Family School, New Springs. The post has been filled by another of our parishioners, Miss P Spooner. The retirement was marked, amongst other things with a humorous poem by Mrs Ann Dickinson:

ODE TO MISS SATTERSFIELD

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Now that she's retired,
Its farewell to dear old "Sattie"
We think another 20 years
Would surely drive her batty.</p> <p>2 When she first came to Holy Family,
Top juniors could not figure,
That if she was one of the teachers,
Why were they all bigger?</p> <p>3 But they soon found out, if they did not work,
That they were in for a fright,
As she proved she was not so much little,
As sheer concentrated might.</p> <p>4 She taught the children English,
Grammar, verbs and brackets,
And left them in no doubt,
That there's good stuff in little packets.</p> <p>5 She liked to teach good manners,
Especially Q's and P's,
And if they did not use them,
She'd sting like a swarm of bees.</p> <p>6 Her favourite threat was a wallop,
When wise children did not linger,
For they knew that they were guaranteed,
A well aimed right hand swinger.</p> | <p>7 When pupils settled down to work,
They dare'nt get up and rove,
Or they got another well known threat,
"You'll get it done - BY JOVE".</p> <p>8 When the children made a noise,
Which was sometimes more of a riot,
She would say in a voice that carried a mile,
"Now children, please be quiet".</p> <p>9 She's had a few difficult pupils,
One in particular nearly made her curse,
When she confronted him about his behaviour,
He said "Its you - you make me worse".</p> <p>10 She moulded her children in her own way,
She even produced some winners,
But one thing the children could not understand,
Was that she actually enjoyed school dinners.</p> <p>11 In all her 20 years,
She was rarely heard to groan,
As she happily taught children,
Who now have children of their own.</p> <p>12 We wish you well Miss Sattersfield,
We know you wont be glum,
But happy with the leisure hours,
Of many years to come.</p> |
|---|--|

Best wishes Miss Sattersfield for a long and very happy retirement.



ST MARY'S RANGER GUIDE UNIT (14 to 18 years)

There is still a vacancy for a Ranger Guide Leader. Any adult interested in this work can get more details from Miss M Rowe (Commissioner for Wigan Central District) Telephone: Wigan 47403.

Deanery Digest

CATHOLIC MEN'S SOCIETY

The Wigan and District Catholic Men's Society welcomes Father Peter Hannah who takes over the Chaplaincy from Father Thomas Lathom.

The Council Officials for 1986 are:

Chaplain	Reverend Peter Hannah	Sacred Heart
President	Brother Vincent Egan JP	St William's
Vice President	Brother Alfred Smith	St Benedict's
Treasurer	Brother Peter Whittle	St Patrick's
Secretary	Brother Gerard Dowd	Sacred Heart

They wish to thank men of the district who turned out in good numbers to the special Mass for deceased members at St Patrick's on Tuesday 12th November.

Plans for 1986 include a Day of Recollection sometime in February at the UNI (St Joseph's College, Upholland). It will be a chance to enjoy again the peace and tranquillity of this beauty spot so near at hand.

In the Sacred Heart parish the CMS is planning discussions to take place in January at Gidlow House. They will be thrown open to the parishioners and groups of the parish and are in response to preparation for the international meeting of Bishops in 1986/87. The discussions will be centred on the leaflets "Call to Serve" which have been prepared by the Bishops Conferences of England, Wales and of Scotland. There are six of them entitled 1 Living With Change, 2 Belonging to the Church, 3 Belonging to the World, 4 Working Together, 5 Working for Change and 6 Shaping the Future.

Every conference of bishops throughout the world has been asked to consult lay people to hear their views and learn their hopes and aspirations, their fears and doubts. As a leading lay society for men in Great Britain, the CMS considers it a duty to respond to this consultation process so that its voices of experience can be heard. Results of the discussions will be sent to the CMS Diocesan Secretary in January and from there to CMS Head Office and to the Bishops concerned.

Gerard Dowd



iec

Information Exchange Centre for
Parishes and Voluntary Groups

The Manpower Services Commission has authorised yet another year for the IEC scheme in St John's presbytery. The new staff for this third run started on 11th November. They are:

Full time co-ordinator - Gwyneth Hughes from Highfield, part time layout artist - Samantha Birkett from Hindley Green and part time typist/receptionists Janice Grace from Wigan and Christine Goulbourne from Appley Bridge.

If your voluntary organisation needs their help with posters, tickets etc call in at the presbytery or give Gwyneth a ring on 42325.

DON ORIONE

Telephone: Upholland (0695) 622885 & 622516

Congratulations to Wendy Mc Grail and John Wood. Wendy is a Care Assistant at Cardinal Heenan House and their marriage at St Peter's, Bryn was attended by a Don Orione Group including Father Malcolm.

We hear that the residents are to be treated to Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs staged by the versatile Staff. There is no truth in the rumour that the residents are running a book on the casting.

The death is sadly reported of Mary Morris, one of the long standing friends of Don Orione also of John Parkinson who lived at the home.

A YOUTH CAROL CONCERT arranged by Marie Taylor will be presented at Cardinal Heenan House on Sunday 15th December - 3pm. Tickets are £1.50 and can be obtained from Upholland.

He still served

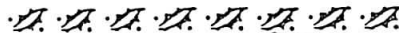
WIGAN and Great Britain Rugby League utility back Shaun Edwards missed the game at Featherstone last week because of appendicitis. But he had served Mass as usual that Sunday morning at St Mary's, Wigan.

'He was ill during the night and early Sunday morning', his mother Mrs Phyllis Edwards told the Pictorial, 'and he was in pain even when he went to serve Mass.

'When he came home after Mass I took him to Wigan Infirmary and from there he was taken to Leigh and operated on for appendicitis'.

Shaun, an outstanding Rugby League player, is very popular with the Wigan fans. He had played for Great Britain in their drawn game with New Zealand in the final Test Match the previous Saturday. He is a regular altar server.

Acknowledgement to the Catholic Pictorial.



HCPT

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S
PILGRIMAGE TRUST



Plans are still going ahead to form a Wigan Group of the Trust. It may take two or three years before we become established; Rome wasn't built in a day. In the mean time events are still being held to raise funds. We have had generous donations from the St Joseph's Society of the St Mary's/St John's parishes and from many individuals - our thanks to you all.

Many thanks also to those who gave and helped at the Jumble Sale; many items we were able to sell individually. Eileen held a coffee evening and a lady from Coppull had an "All Sorts Sale" for us.

Through your generosity we are able to sponsor three children to go to Lourdes with the Trust next Easter, two from our own parishes (St Mary's and St John's) and one from Leigh.

If anyone has, or knows of, a child that is handicapped or constantly sick, including children with chest problems, eczema, hearing or eye problems (they do not have to go to a special school) and they would like to go then please let us know. Any child with any problem big or small is considered by the Trust.

If you would like to come to our social please give me a ring on 45323 or ring Eileen Hutchings on 39340. Thanks once again to all our supporters.

Anne Keating

ST JOHN FISHER HIGH SCHOOL

I think all parents are aware of the difficulties which are facing schools at the present time. I am also sure that both parents and teachers look forward to the day when these difficulties will be resolved. Let us hope that it is soon.

Some positive news of what is happening in school will, I think, be welcome to you. Parents of older pupils, and older pupils themselves, are anxious about the effects of the present situation upon the results of their final examinations. I am very happy to be able to reassure you on this point. In 1984 the school results were the best we had ever had. The results in 1985 were better again. The usual way of making such a comparison is to work out the percentage of pupils in the fifth year who achieved five or more passes in 'O' Level at Grade C or above. Our results this year were fifty percent better than the national average. Equally pleasing was the fact that two out of every three pupils in the fifth year achieved some passes at Grade C or above. You may also have noticed in the newspaper that forty of our fourth year pupils have already passed Mathematics as a start for next year.

Not all examinations are 'O' Level examinations. CSE results were equally good and quite outstanding were the RSA Typewriting results where forty-eight candidates passed and of these twenty-five achieved Distinctions.

Amongst these results were several outstanding individual performances, and special mention must be made of Gerard Dugdill and Susan Hurst who

both achieved ten Grade A passes. We were also delighted to hear of outstanding achievements by former pupils in generation year. Anthony Andrews and Helen Smith were both awarded First Class Honours Degrees in Mathematics. Congratulations to all of them. These are all excellent results and they are, to a very great extent, due to the high level of commitment of the teachers of this school.

We were very sorry to lose the services of some teachers who had been on the staff for many years. Mrs Millington, Mrs Kendrick and Mr Cunningham all retired. We wish them a long and happy retirement. Father Dale, our chaplain also left to become a parish priest in Liverpool.

We have welcomed to the staff Mrs Gregory and Miss Hagan in the Art Department, Mrs Grimshaw to the RE Department and Mr Cairns to the History Department. We are also fortunate to have Father Hannah as our new chaplain.

New to the school also are elected parent governors. A very high level of interest was shown in the election with the percentage of votes cast equalling that of a general election. In the end Mr David Blundell and Mrs Eileen Gleeson were declared duly elected.

Mr Blundell is also Chairman of the PTA and you will be pleased to hear that PTA activities are continuing and that the next function will be the Christmas Fair which will be held at the school on Sunday, December 8th, at 2pm.

J R Vallely



SUMMITRY THOUGHTS

When I agreed to write a J & P piece for the magazine, I did not, at the time, have any particular theme in mind. I have assumed that our efforts in various quarters have been suitably chronicled elsewhere - our thanks for the publicity on the weekly bulletin.

It does, however, seem topical to at least comment on the Reagan - Gorbachev Summit; 15 x 3 minute rounds and may the best (?) man win? If my style appears a little cynical it is perhaps because I am suffering from pre Summit over exposure from a surfeit of statistics on the arms when my own day is already full of reports and

figures, albeit of a different nature. After a day at the ranch I am more inclined, at this time of year, to scan the rugby column in the paper and to see if there is anything 'good' on the telly - don't knock it, there's more to the BBC than the weather forecast and Channel 4 has some little gems. But, being a man of integrity and not wishing to put you completely to sleep with my own unstructured ramblings, it is time to get a grip on this piece and exercise some self-discipline - but not too much, breast beating gets boring.

Did you know that there have been ten Summits since 1955? It's a fact - one my addled brain can absorb. This will be number eleven. One outcome of that particular meeting was a further meeting to propose effective means for disarmament and East-West contact. At the last one,

the main purpose was to sign the Salt 2 Treaty (whatever that was). The outcome was a joint communique - no prizes - a promise of regular Summits and negotiations for a comprehensive test ban etc etc. Salt 2 was never ratified by the Senate and strategic arms continue to proliferate. I refuse to fall into the statistics morass. Not got far have they?

It may be that when (if) you read this, the Summit will be over and that we will all be filled with hope, the antidote to cynicism, from the guaranteed communique. Still, as Winston once said, "Jaw Jaw is better than war war".

Should you need some reassurance that my cynicism is not total, let me say that I am hopeful a younger Russian leadership will be more prepared and have the courage to make real changes and that President Reagan will have the vision to respond equitably. The Russians are now on public record as saying they wish to come out of Afghanistan; will the US withdraw their support from the Contras in Nicaragua? We endeavour to be even handed in J & P.

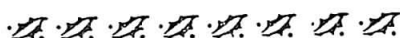
To digress slightly, I do not think the major powers have designs on each other's territory - the risk of war is more likely by accident; the bigger the pile the bigger the accident potential. I have a sneaky feeling the Russians are starting to get a bit bothered about the steady march of Islamic Fundamentalism which seems to leave the Christian(?) West as yet unperturbed. There are plenty nuts in that area.

In conclusion it may be pertinent to close with a quotation from Archbishop Worlock who on Peace Sunday in 1983 said

"Peace is not just the disposal of nuclear stock piles, though that would help if the danger of destabilizing the balance of nuclear power was taken into consideration. Peace is also the restoration of justice, the acknowledgement of the equality of human dignity of men and women the world over".

There's more to the Summit than the arms race. God guide them both.

JFT J & P Group



Wigan District Council of Churches

Members were very pleased recently to receive support from churches not previously associated with the Council. For the benefit of newcomers and others who may be interested, it has set down an answer to the question "What is our purpose and function?" It reads like this:

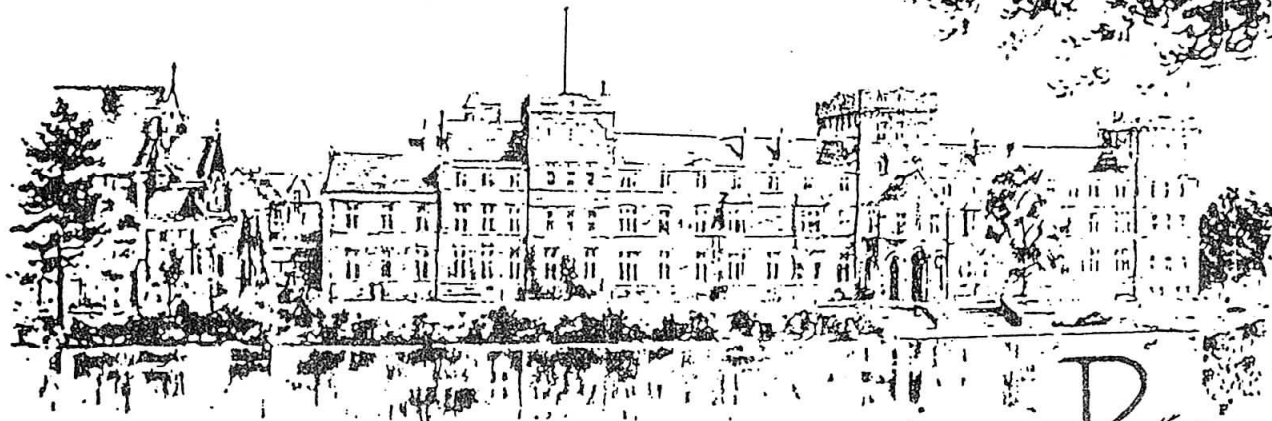
- * To bring together the ideas, concerns, feelings of the various Churches in Wigan by an adequate representation of every Church whenever the Council meets in full.
- * To support each Church affiliated to the Council in every way possible.
- * To explore every avenue of co-operation; to plan every opportunity of united witness; to make common ground upon which we can meet as often as possible for prayer, fellowship, education and worship.
- * To express concern about the community, the way it lives, the way it is governed and to stand together in expression of our faith and concern.
- * To eliminate as far as possible the areas where we remain separate.
- * To impress the Wigan community with the power, persuasion and relevance of the Christian Gospel.
- * To speak clearly and in a united voice so that the Christian position in any matter is understood.
- * To work together for the good of the community at every level of life; to find ways of demonstration of the wide spectrum of Christian involvement in the world as well as at local level.
- * To exercise Pastoral Concern for each other within the Council.
- * To worship together; to pray together where ever possible.
- * To lead our people in the daily, weekly ... on going Celebration of Life as we believe Our Lord has blessed and Redeemed life.
- * To recite the Creeds together - not only in the privacy of our Church Worship but where the Early Church did among the people and to do it not only in words but in activity.

Joint Services
for
Week of Prayer

Conversion of
St Paul

} Mon 20th Jan - Standish Parish Church
Tue 21st Jan - St Cuthbert's
Wed 22nd Jan - Whelley Methodist Church

Sat 25th Jan - Wigan Parish Church



UPHOLLAND NORTHERN INSTITUTE

Telephone: Upholland (0695) 625255

TOWARDS THE RESURRECTION

Well, Christmastide once again which means a quieter time at the Institute in terms of courses but the Team is out and about as much if not more than ever - and this year there is a parish mission in Keighley. The autumn has been a very busy time as usual with a full range of courses and Evening Talks keeping us on our toes since September. And there have been fewer of us to do the work with Sister Ellen going to Sheffield and Father Sands to California. But Dympna Magee has been with us since October and is certainly making an impact. We're delighted to have her.

In the New Year Dympna and Fr Gerry Fitzpatrick (who we share with Glasgow Archdiocese for music and liturgy) will be in great demand. January is largely a time of preparation and planning for the rest of the year but courses do begin at the end of the month. We start gently with a weekend course on the Living Church Project (January 24-26) - the parish based project providing a process which can be used for Communion and Confirmation preparation. This weekend will examine the principles involved, answer and allay fears, and enable those less experienced to pick the brains of some who are well used to the approach.

It is followed by an overnight study session on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) (January 28-29) which offers an opportunity for those parishes thinking about it to find out more.

February is a busy month when we offer five different courses. We begin preparation for Easter with a week's course on the scripture and music entitled Lent & Holy Week : Lectionary & Music (February 3-7). It will see Fr Joseph O'Hanlon & Miss Dympna Magee joining forces with Fr Gerry Fitzpatrick to provide an excellent opportunity to study the forthcoming readings and choice of music.

On the Saturday, February 8th, Father Fitzpatrick offers choirs, cantors and musicians generally a chance to see what is available for Lent and Easter in the second of his MUSIC DAYS.

Later in the month there is a weekend for three parishes to see how they can use videos to improve parish life. Make Your Own Video (February 21-23) is being offered by Hatchend as an opportunity to use their equipment in the making of a video. Expert guidance will be given and the weekend will be a mid-point to assess how things are going and to iron out problems. The real work will have begun earlier in the year. Would one of the parishes in the deanery like to participate? If so please contact me soon - only 3 teams of six people can be accommodated.

This weekend is followed by a short course which will examine Contemporary Issues in Society (February 25-28). In particular the arms race and nuclear debate will be examined. But also it will begin to reflect on the Christian response to the Northern Ireland situ-

ation, a matter much prayed about but seldom discussed.

We finish the month with Dympna and Fr Joe just as we began it with them, but this time it is the very important subject Women in the Church (Feb 28-Mar 2). This weekend will provide an opportunity to learn about and discuss developments in this aspect of the Church's mission.

March sees the now traditional lenten series of Evening Talks beginning on Tuesday March 4th and ending with the equally traditional celebration of the Passover on Tuesday March 25th. The subjects have not been finalised so keep an eye open for further details.

In addition, there is another opportunity for those as yet unable to avail of the previous sessions to study the new Code of Canon Law with Fr Peter Bristow in Assorted Canonical Matters (March 5-7). The course will include some reference to the role of the law today, the parish and lay ministry, ecumenism and issues connected with sacramental law.

Then very suitably Fr O'Hanlan offers a study day on March 22nd - a Saturday - entitled Resurrection Stories. Three key areas will be examined: what would a contemporary of Jesus and the first disciples understand by the word "resurrection"? - how do (some of) the New Testament writers use stories concerning the Resurrection? - what does the Resurrection of Jesus mean for the Church and the World? It promises to

be a very interesting day ; excellent preparation for Easter the following weekend.

We will look forward to a short break and time for recuperation before our month's course for priests Consider Your Calling on April 14th.

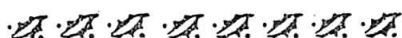
I hope you will have a very happy Easter too but before that we all at UNI sincerely wish you every joy and blessing for the Nativity.

Michael Brooks

U N I



This Christmas Card design was commissioned for the UNI. The cards with envelopes are available there at 10p each.



Wigan Lourdes Sick Fund Association

Prayers are invited for Mrs Caulfield who died suddenly in October. She had been one of our sponsored pilgrims and was in the midst of planning a fund raising event for us at the time of her death. Her daughter took over and raised £108.

Thanks to the usual co-operation from St Mary's, the Jumble Sale in the Hall there on 5th October made £107.

On the 7th November our Annual Draw took place at St Mary's with the following result:

- 1st prize of £45 - ticket number 6161
S McEvoy, Woodland Hall, Whelley
- 2nd prize of £25 - ticket number 1118
K Heyes, St John Fisher School
- 3rd prize of £15 - ticket number 2314
D Whelan, Almond Brook Rd, Standish
- 4th prize of £10 - ticket number 14325
S Simm, Dean Crescent, Kitt Green
- 5th prize of £5 - ticket number 3226
D Caralan, St Aidan's, Winstanley

John Leigh

Save the Unborn Child



The greatest gift of God
I would think,
Is the gift of life.

The greatest sin of humans
It would seem,
Would be to return that gift
Ungratefully and unopened.

John Donne

With all the problems in the world today it is perhaps too easy to forget the small, the unseen and the unheard. Without a voice their plight could all too easily pass unnoticed.

Most politicians, the media and the leaders remain silent. We at 'Life' and SPUC try to give a voice to the unheard. We need to educate people to their plight. People need to know that in this country there is about one abortion every three minutes. I am sure that if more people were aware of the methods, the numbers, the guilt and the after effects then they might possibly think twice.

Abortion is a tragedy but so is the guilt which remains with some of the women. Abortion is unnatural, since unlike childbirth, the body is not prepared for the exodus of the baby and the mind in many cases not prepared for the emotional disturbances caused by it. The possible physical problems following abortion are fairly well known. They include haemorrhage, pelvic infection, premature subsequent babies, perforation of the uterus and sterility. Emotional problems are less well known.

Many women find they cannot forget the expected birth date of their aborted child, or subsequent birthdays. Others find themselves looking longingly at babies in prams or wandering around nursery shops. Many women cannot understand why they feel bereaved after abortion and since abortion for most women is a secret affair, the misery bottled up grows deeper. Post abortion counselling is slowly being accepted as necessary.

Malcolm Muggeridge has called abortion 'the slippery slope'. His image is clear - Once we start down that hill it is so slippery that we will be pushed along by the logic of the first accepted premise and there will be no stopping - embryo abuse - embryo experimentation - genetic manipulation. The voice speaking for the unborn needs to be louder.

It all seemed so wrong, I said to myself,
"Somebody ought to do something about this!"
Then I realised that I am somebody. [Anonymous]

As a nation we are being desensitised to the horrific things which are happening around us. By remaining silent the slide will continue.

To me the nations with legalised abortion
are the poorest nations. The great destroyer
of peace today is the crime against
the innocent, unborn child ...
In destroying the child,
we are destroying love, [Mother Teresa
destroying the image of God in the world. of Calcutta]

In 'Life' we like to offer help, hope and love to the people who come to us. We apply no pressure; we simply want them to be aware that there is an alternative

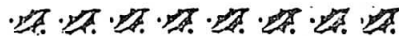
Do you believe in love? I don't mean simple lip service to love. I am talking about Life service. Do you really believe that we are here to love one another? If you do then you don't say "I will love you because you have your mental faculties and you because you are healthy, but not you because you have only one arm". True love does not discriminate in this way. If we really believe

in love and find that a baby will be born without arms, we would say:
 "Baby we are going to love you. We will make arms for you. We have many new skills now for doing this. And, baby, if these arms don't work we will be your arms. We will take care of you. You can be sure of that. You are one of us, a member of our human family and we will always love you".

Dr Rosenblum has a retarded child and the last quotation is a paraphrased version of his answer to the question - "Would you permit an abortion if it were medically established that the baby was defective or would be retarded?"

If you would like to help us, or join our 200 Club please contact us at
 1 Parsons Walk

S Gribbon
 Chairman

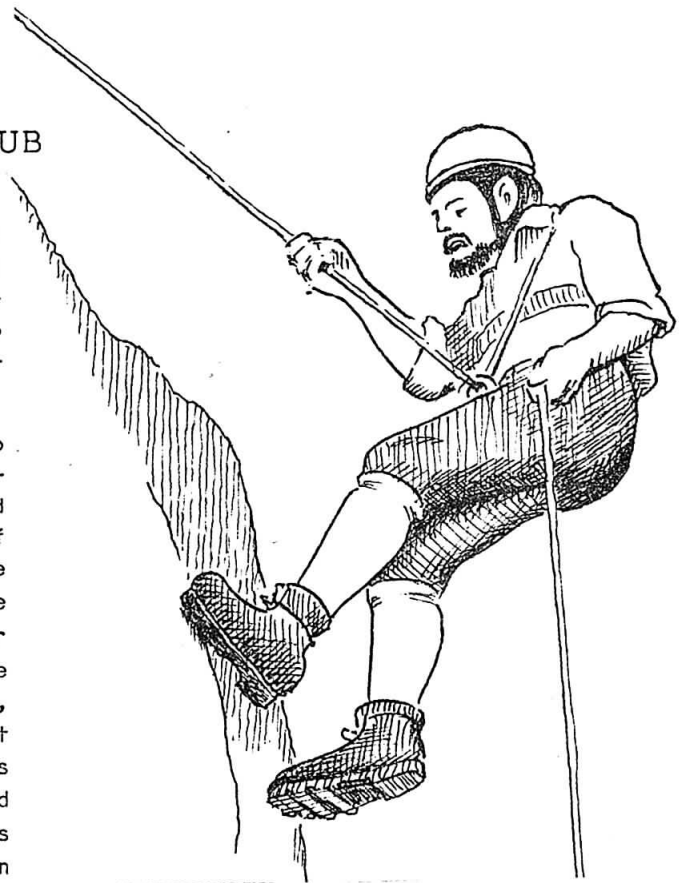


ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

The Achille Ratti Climbing Club is a Catholic organisation founded in Blackpool in 1940 by Bishop Pearson. It is named after Mgr Achille Ratti, a parish priest from North Italy, who was an accomplished Alpine climber and who subsequently became Pope Pius XI.

From humble beginnings the club has grown to accommodate a national membership of mountaineers of all ages and abilities, both male and female. It is run by a management committee of members who maintain four climbing huts. The huts are well equipped, offering hostel style accommodation, everything is provided except for sheets, sleeping bags and food. There are three huts in the Lake District situated at Langdale, Wasdale and Dunmole Rise. The fourth is at Bethesda in North Wales. The Langdale hut is the largest and the most popular. It is called 'Bishop's Scale' and has its own chapel. It has been transformed by members from a small barn into one of the country's most beautifully situated churches and called Our Lady of the Snow. The first Mass of Sunday is celebrated every Saturday in Summer at 7.30pm; 6.30pm in Winter. All visitors to the district are welcome.

In addition to maintaining and improving the facilities within the huts the management committee organise numerous events throughout the year and members are kept well informed of club news by a regular news letter. Members are united by their love of mountains but have many varied specialist interests such as rock climbing, fell walking, skiing and fell running. In the main members plan their own days and are free to use the huts 365 days of the year; pre-booking is not necessary. If however a member goes to the huts alone companionship is assured.



Application for membership is welcome from all age groups upwards of 18 years, the main requirement being 'a love of the hills'. The beginner would find the club an ideal way to form friendships with mountaineers and gain experience - the more accomplished find new companions, whatever their standard or interest. Transport need not be a problem since there are members in this area who are only too happy to offer a lift. The annual subscription is £12 - the overnight fee for the hut is 60p including electricity.

Further details from
 Dave Parker (Tel: 47295)
 6 Ludovic Terrace
 Greenhill Wigan WN1 2QZ

