St Mary & St John

MAGAZINE

Winter

20p

CLERGY	Rev Thomas Cummins STL
	Rev J Frederick Houghton
	Rev Francis W Tillotson
	Deacon: Rev J Gerard Holmes

ST JOHN'S 13 Powell Street Wigan WN1 1XD Tel: 42325

MASSES	Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am & 6.30 pm
	Holyday	10.00 am 12.00 am 6.00 pm & 8.00 pm
	Weekday	10.00 am
ROSARY & BENEDICTION	Saturday	7.30 pm
NOVENA & BENEDICTION	Thursday	7.30 pm
CONFESSIONS	Saturday	6.00 to 7.15 pm
	Eves of Holydays	6.00 to 6.45 pm
	Eves of First Fridays	6.00 to 6.45 pm

ST MARY'S Standishgate Wigan WN1 1XL Tel: 42066

MASSES	Sunday	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am & 4.30 pm
	Holyday	7.30 am 9.30 am 12.05 pm & 5.30 pm
	Weekday	8.30 am 12.05 pm & on Thurs 7.30 pm
ROSARY & BENEDICTION	Sunday	6.30 pm & Tuesday 7.30 pm
CONFESSIONS	Saturday	11.00 to 11.45 am & 4.00 to 5.30 pm

THE PARISHES OF ST. MARY AND ST. JOHN, WIGAN

December 1983, January & February 1984

Dear Parishioners,

Only twenty shopping days to Christmas. And not much longer to the much publicised Orwellian 1984. Will it be such a fateful year or will it just be another like 1974 or 1964? There are those who can gloomily point to the "signs" - the never ending wars and violence, the oppression of peoples, the seeming proximity of nuclear war, the turning of crime into virtue by legalising and making easier abortion, divorce, experimentation on human beings and the growing tolerance of pornography and obscenity - yes and blasphemy. I turned on the television one night and quickly turned off. Incredibly there was what appeared to be a skit on Christ on the Cross. 1984, here we come! Even the Word of God at Mass is talking of the end of the world and some pretty horrific signs that will herald it.

But the gospels and a wider view of events give us a more cheerful prospect. On the world scene there is still so much good will, so much heroic action to help the poor, the afflicted and the suffering. On the parish front - a few stray thoughts. This year the Wigan Hospice opened for the care of the terminally ill. A few - perhaps too few - of our parishioners are helping voluntarily there - making the breakfasts, manning the switchboard. Any other volunteers?

Perhaps you did not know of the existence of our "own nuns" in the Parish. There is a little piece about them in this magazine. We suggested to the Diocese that a Nuns' presence would be good for the area. Eventually some eighteen months ago the Order of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary bought Bishop Gray's House and a Community of Five was established there. Sister Helen is a Staff Nurse in the Infirmary and the others are doing sterling work visiting the sick of our two parishes as well as conducting prayer meetings and the occasional instruction of children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. They are very happy here and I would like to pay tribute to the invaluable work they are doing unobtrusively but effectively in the Parishes.

I was informed the other day that someone complained that St John's Presbytery was being turned into Offices. What happened is this. The Archdiocesan Pastoral Formation Service asked if we in Wigan could help out in a scheme to give jobs to the unemployed. The idea was that four or five young people could be employed by offering an information service for charities and voluntary bodies. With the whole-hearted support of Fr Tillotson, two rooms were offered for their use and so you can see on the Presbytery window "Information Exchange Centre". They are funded by Manpower Services Commission and their aim is to further local communications by creating new work. They do not take on work which is already being done.

We are now half way through Holy Year and there are a few special services planned for Advent. But the big effort will be made in Lent when St Mary's, as one of the fifteen Station Churches throughout the Diocese should be hosting a number of events for all the parishes and groups in the Deanery. More of this later. Meanwhile - a very happy and (in spite of those twenty shopping days) prosperous Christmas and New Year, even if it is 1984.
Please pray for Fr Houghton, Fr Tillotson and myself.

Thomas Cummins

MAGAZINE MATTERS

This copy could be worth £2 to you if you bought it on the first day of issue. On the back you will find your number and the Lucky Number will be drawn after 8.30 am Mass on Monday 28th Nov. The Competition Secretary, Margaret Connolly (2 Acton St) will pay the lucky reader. The Committee regret having to raise the price - the hard fact is that 15p just would not cover the cost of production.

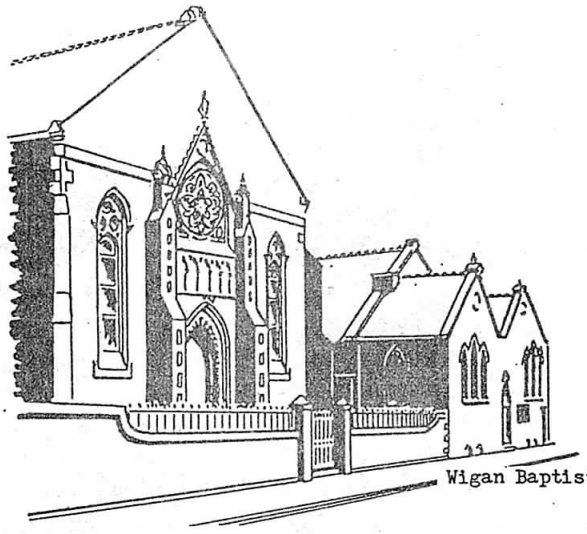
It has been suggested that readers might like to announce births, engagements, marriages or deaths, not only of family members living in the parish but of those who have moved away. We are happy to oblige and to include photographs if parishioners will send in full details by the closing date.

The Spring issue will be on sale on Sunday 26th February so that the closing date for material will be Sunday 12th February.

The Magazine Committee wish all parishioners peace and happiness at this feastive time.

what's on each week

Sun	Youth Club(15 & over)	7.30 pm	Brick Kiln Lane Annex
Mon	St Mary's Brownies	4.00 to 5.30 pm	St Mary's Hall
	Beaver Colony(boys 6 & 7)	6.00 to 7.15 pm	St Mary's Hall
	Bingo	8.30 pm	St John's Club
Tues	Youth Club(11 to 15 yrs)	7.00 pm	Brick Kiln Lane Annex
	St Joseph's Sodality	7.30 pm	St Mary's Church & Hall
Wed	Margaret Clitheroe Club	1.15 to 3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall
	Cub Scouts	6.45 pm	St Mary's Junior School Hall
Thurs	St John's Brownies	5.30 pm	Acton Street Hut
	St John's Guides	7.30 pm	Acton Street Hut
Fri	Scouts	7.00 pm	Acton Street Hut
	St Mary's Guides	7.00 pm	St Mary's Hall
	Bingo	8.30 pm	St John's Club



Wigan Baptist Church, Scarisbrick Street

Wigan and District Council of Churches

The regular meeting place for the Council is the Queen's Hall; it has been for the last 10 years. Not only is the Hall distinguished architecturally but it serves the community continuously in a variety of ways. And yet it is under threat from the process of 'development'. A recent postponement in deciding a date for its partial demolition comes as a blow to the Mission which runs it. Revenue from users has stopped and yet the place has to be maintained and heated for an indefinite period. If you value the immense work of charity done unquestioningly by the Mission (and what informed Wiganner doesn't ?) then look for an opportunity to give your support.

Wigan is to have its illuminated Christmas tree again this year and the Council is planning a Carol Service around the tree at the time of switching on. The date will be announced shortly.

For the New Year there will be a number of Services for Christian Unity. The main one will be on -

Tuesday 24th January in the Wigan Baptist Church, Scarisbrick Street

In preparation for this there will be three further joint services -

Wednesday 18th January at St Mark's, Newtown
Thursday 19th January at Trinity United Reform Church, Wigan Lane
Friday 20th Salvation Army Citadel, Millgate

All Services start at 8.00 pm.

WIELDING SPADES AND BRUSHES

A work force funded by the Manpower Services Commission is now located near to St James Church at Poolstock. The force is there to help the aged and infirm in the area by taking on such jobs as gardening and interior decorating. The labour is free but not the materials. Enquiries should be directed initially to the Rev A Carruthers at St James' Vicarage, Tel: Wigan 43896.

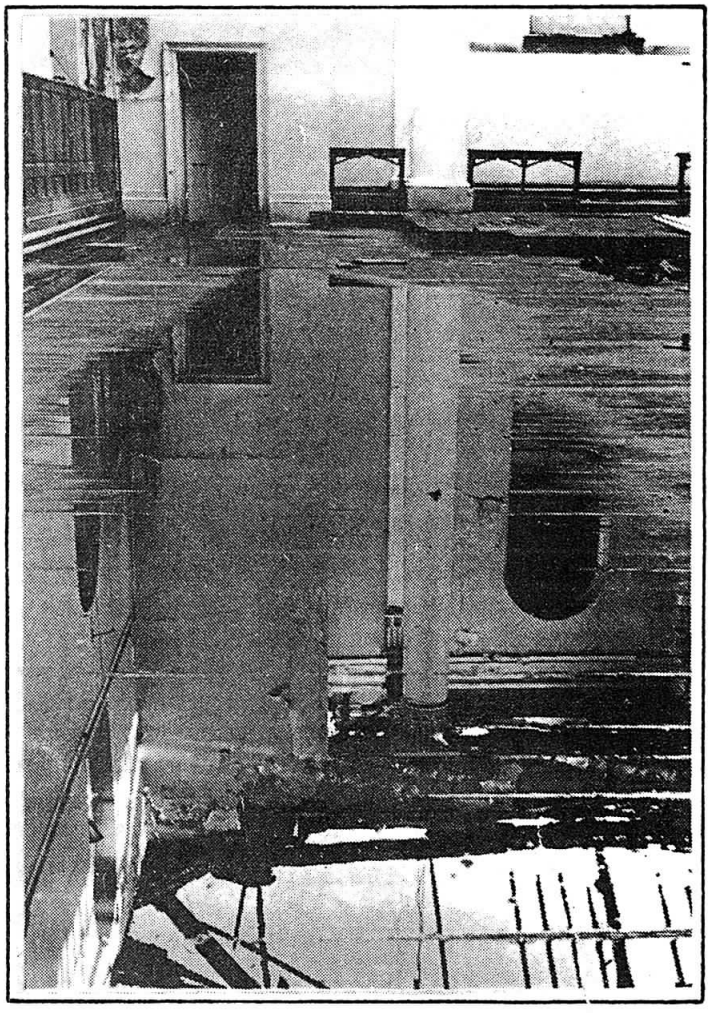
LOCAL RADIO

BBC has now opened an office in Hope Street in preparation for "Radio Wigan" going on the air about July 1984. Dick Hatch is usually in the office - he can tell you more about it and would like to hear from you.

The local DIY venture "Douglas Valley Radio" is already broadcasting on VHF 102.5 MHz each Sunday evening between 7pm and midnight. It carries some very interesting local items - try it - it makes a change from viewing.

ST GEORGE'S

NEWS FROM THE OTHER SIDE



REFLECTIONS This was the soggy wooden floor at the beginning of 1981

The church is not finished. We make giant strides, but the horizon remains as far ahead as ever. Plasterer, electrician, plumber, decorator, joiner - all have been at work. So have the architect and quantity surveyor, and plenty more. The altar has arrived, and so has the cross.

The cross is about eight foot high and big enough to use, but it is eight foot of polished ash and very beautiful. It stands against the east wall, under the east window. Your tradition would put the tabernacle there. Our tradition prefers to see the tabernacle to one side. Such is the gulf that divides us!

We must surely finish in 1984! Despite the novel by George Orwell, 1984 must be a year of hope for us. Maybe you could share our hope? The faithful loving kindness of our merciful Father is ever true, and every year is Anno Domini - the Lord's.

We still use the school. We now share this with the probation service. The fiture of the building is not yet clear. I expect it to pass to the diocese for them to let or sell. I have heard the theory that it will revert to those who originally gave the land. There were eight of them, at the end of the last century, and I should think that it would take another century to trace their descendants. Meanwhile, five letters to our diocesan authorities, asking who is to mend our fifty broken window-panes, have brought no answer. Your Parish Priest will find no great gulf here.

Our former staff are all employed in suitable positions. Our headmaster, Fred Griffiths, is now head of Bedford Butts Methodist Primary School in Leigh.

Your school (our school from my point of view) strides into the future. Good-and-new is to be added to the good-and-old. Please support!

Wigan Hospice goes swimmingly. Please read our leaflet, pray our prayer, use our car sticker (with its invisible gum), visit the hospice, invite us to speak, get involved! Speak to Marie Hall or Dorothy Taylor. Phone me (44500) or the hospice (496092).

Bernard Harrison.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting was held in Walsingham on the 12th and 13th November and although Wigan could not be represented this year, a report on our progress was sent to the meeting.

As reported in the previous issue, our pilgrimage in August was a wonderful experience and we gained ten new members as a result.

In the past twelve months, the Wigan Branch has raised the magnificent total of £1,000 which is being directed to the necessary repairs on the Slipper Chapel. These repairs will be completed during the coming year in time for the Golden Jubilee of the Chapel being declared the 'National Shrine of Our Lady'.

The £1,000 was made up as follows:

John Ryan's Sponsored Walk	£ 343
Christmas Stall (Helen Strange)	175
St John's Club Concert with Raffle and other small efforts	382
Anonymous Donation	100
Total	£1000

The November Meeting will have been held by the time this is published but may we give a gentle reminder that we have a "Christmas" Social Evening on Thursday 8th Dec which is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It will be at 8pm in St Mary's Hall and preceded by Holy Mass at 7.30pm in the Church.

Annual Subscriptions are due in January.

1984 PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM June 16/17th

Book early to avoid disappointment.

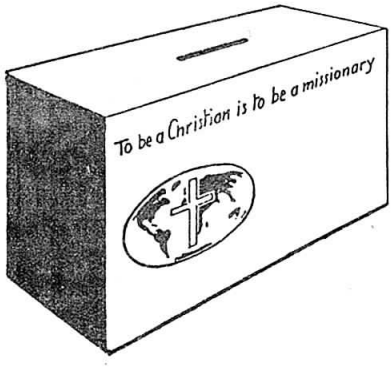
Tel: 34650

The Committee

Missions and Missionaries

Since our last issue there has been an appeal for support at St John's by Fr Wrenn of Freshfield. This resulted in 25 new boxholders and 6 new zelators. St John's now has 200 mission supporters on its books and zelators will be visiting their boxholders each quarter starting this month (December).

Parishioners from either parish who want to lend their support or need more information should have a word with their APF contact. (See back page).



Asmara

Our project to fund the construction of a reservoir in Asmara and wells in nearby villages got off to a flying start in October. Fr Cummins touched the hearts of parishioners with his descriptions of the plight of Eritreans, suffering from years of drought and twenty years of savage civil war. Hopeless refugees trek in search of food and peace, victims of natural and man-made disasters. Parishioners are responding with magnificent generosity.

An immediate offer of help came from organist John Benson, the Lydian Singers and their conductor John Naylor - incidentally this was the last of their concerts for charities before the group splits up. The feast of music in St John's on 18th October will be remembered with a glow of pleasure. The concert was followed on the same evening by a Bring and Buy sale, refreshments and a raffle. We were able to open a bank account with a first deposit of about £400.

Abba Mehary is being informed of this. Meanwhile parishioners may be interested to read extracts from his letters.

MARCH 1982 - "It it almost impossible to make a plan of work, one has to live from day to day - - - Surely the good Lord won't abandon his people - - - We firmly believe in him, love, peace and justice will prevail."

MARCH 1983 - "We now have a new Bishop, a nice active person open to dialogue - - we must do our best to assist spiritually and materially our faithfuls, especially those in the countryside, the peasants who are bearing the brunt of the present crisis - - -"

APRIL 1983 - "I am very thankful to the Justice and Peace group and the Rev Parish Priest, who keep on writing me for your kindness, concern and solidarity. It is encouraging to hear that you are closely following the situation and are willing and ready to assist us in any way you can to alleviate our sufferings and meet our needs."

MAY 1983 - (from Abune Zekarias Yohannes) "I am particularly glad of your solidarity and sympathy at this crucial moment of our distress and need. The Lord may certainly use any means to show his love to us, and happily, in your ecclesial group He has found such a faithful and generous tool. - - - As the new Apostolic Administrator I luckily made my very first pastoral visit almost to all of the diocese for the past three months often travelling on muleback and on foot in serious conditions. Nearly everywhere I was appalled by the desolate and pitiable conditions I have personally witnessed. The spiritual and material needs of our faithfuls are greater than our solicitude for their welfare - - - "

SEPTEMBER 1983 - "I am glad to know of your readiness to assist in the projects proposed in my last letter. - - - In all our development projects our main policy is to involve the local people as fully as possible so that they may really feel responsible and care for it themselves. - - - all our country people are small one family farmers, simple peasants living on subsistence level from hand to mouth - - - many families compelled to abandon their village and emigrate selling their cattle - - - the provision of clean drinking water would certainly give them a chance to stay in their homeland close to their parish church, their only hope of survival."

We can easily imagine the delight of these good priests when they hear of the enthusiastic support for our Asmara project. Please also remember them in your prayers. The latest report we have had from CAFOD is that the area has recently been subjected to heavy bombing; yet another addition to their great burden.

We sincerely thank everyone who has assisted with the project. The amount so far accumulated stands at about £4,000.

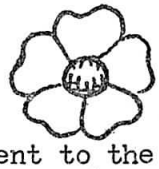
Thalia Hamilton

SPUC

Some members of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child have not yet renewed their subscription to the Society.

HAVE YOU ? Please Please Please.

The Wigan Committee, owing to depleted numbers, is incapable of covering the necessary ACTION in the local parishes. An appeal is made for VOLUNTEERS to represent their parish in covering necessary efforts.



ANNUAL SALE of WHITE FLOWER EMBLEMS
on
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 1984

Subsequent to the approval of your Parish Priest, volunteers are asked for to cover this event. For enquiries please ring Wigan 36380 or 831147 or 45581

Comment by Fr Cummins:

The Wigan Branch of SPUC needs members desperately. Anyone willing to join this once very healthy society please contact Mrs Cusani, The Mount, Whelley Tel: 45581. Don't be put off by propaganda of risk to mother.
Listen to this - the testimony of Mr John Murphy, Consultant Obstetrician in the Rotunda Maternity Hospital, Dublin:
"Over the ten year period from 1970 - 1980 there were 74,000 births at the Hospital. There were only 21 deaths of mothers and in only 3 (yes three) cases was there a possible case for abortion because of danger to Mother's life."

Are we helpless against the great weight of public opinion and heavy medical pressure on the individual patient. Only recently I heard from a Welfare Worker in a big Liverpool hospital of this case. The father of a family had a heart condition; the mother who was pregnant was threatened with blindness from an eye disease. A prenatal scan indicated the child would be born spina bifida. Heavy pressure was brought on the mother to have an abortion. Our welfare worker sat in on the committee of Consultants, doctors, nurses etc who unanimously recommended abortion. She (at the risk of scorn) opposed them and asked if they had ever heard of prayer. She recommended the mother to go ahead with the birth - and a perfect baby was born, to the delight of its afflicted parents. No, not a miracle, just another case where the medicos were too anxious to recommend abortion - and were wrong.

WIGAN LOURDES SICK FUND ASSOCIATION

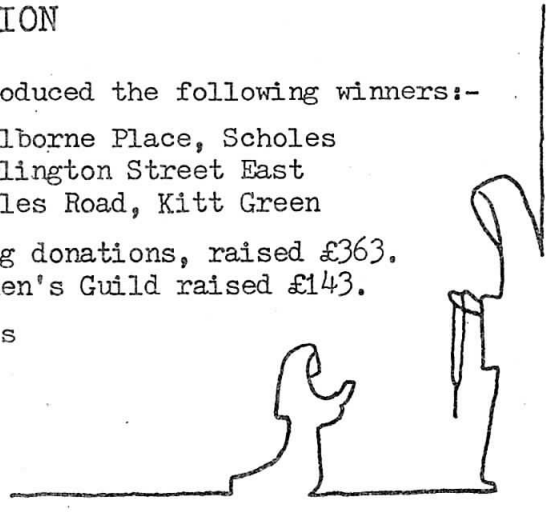
The draw held at St Mary's in November produced the following winners:-

1st prize of £45 A Layland of Golborne Place, Scholes
2nd prize of £25 E Foster of Darlington Street East
3rd prize of £15 C Baxter of Eccles Road, Kitt Green

St Patrick's Concert in October, including donations, raised £363.
The Nearly New Sale held by St Jude's Women's Guild raised £143.

There will be Christmas Bingo at St Mary's
on Thursday 1st December at 8 pm.

J Leigh



ABROAD ON TWO BIKES

Last year our young parishioners Paul Siney and Paul Minton cycled to Cornwall and back for the fun of it but as it turned out that was just a trial run. This year they took their bikes to the Continent. But let them tell the story:

We arrived in Cologne early on the morning of August 5th. It was cold and raining. Twenty hours of train and ferry, sleeping in the luggage compartment wasn't the best start to a holiday.

We had planned our route before hand. It took us south along the Rhine Valley going through some beautiful countryside. The weather wasn't very good and eventually we reached Frankfurt after three confusing days. Neither of us spoke a word of German, which didn't help when it came to understanding some of the road signs. We ended up on the Autobahn quite a few times, as well as going round in circles trying to get out of Bonn and Koblenz.

After six hours waiting on the number three platform in Frankfurt station, we boarded the train for Vienna arriving there ten hours later, early on Monday morning. At first Vienna was just like any other city; large and crowded but when we cycled round in the evening the crowds had gone and we saw most of the large museums and St Stephan's Cathedral. The whole city was beautiful, the streets were lined with interesting places to see and were cobbled in places which didn't help us cycle.

Heading out of Vienna, west towards Salzburg, Paul broke his back wheel. By this time it was late and our luck seemed to be out. Luckily! a family in the house nearby let us camp in their garden and gave us some food and beer. Paul bought a new wheel in the morning, we said thanks and headed on towards the Austrian Lakes near Salzburg. We stopped at St Wolfgang a small town on the edge of a clear blue lake surrounded by mountains. The next day was spent relaxing, we both agreed it was well deserved.

After passing through Salzburg on the first rainy day since we were in Germany, we cycled on towards Innsbruck deciding to take another day off to walk to the top of the Ski Jump. It was near to the 90's if not over so we spent some of the time lying sunbathing. We met a lad from Australia who had been on the Continent for nearly a year; he hadn't had a hot meal for over a month.

As we left Innsbruck we knew the next few days would be hard. The first day we reached St Anton in the foothills of the Alps, only to find no camp site so we pitched our tent near a river. The following day we cycled over the Arlberg Pass, some 1800 metres high, and into Liechtenstein. It was hard getting to the top but the descent made up for all the hard work as we freewheeled ten miles. That night we slept at the Youth Hostel in Vaduz the capital which is smaller than Wigan.

As we entered Switzerland the next day, we spent another night on a spare piece of land near a lake, again unable to find a campsite. The farmer agreed to let us camp and we headed for Luzern the next day. It was crowded when we reached the centre so we decided to go straight to the camp site where we went for a swim in the nearby lake.

Our course was now taking us towards Geneva, taking detours to visit Interlaken, Bern and Lausanne. We spent a rest day in Interlaken and cycled up to Wengen to see the Eiger. Paul decided to hitch up to the top. The snow capped mountains were magnificent and the weather very hot. Bern was full of interesting places, the city itself is very small. Unfortunately the bears were not out in the bear pit when we looked around. Lausanne was too busy as we cycled through, so we decided to head on towards Geneva. As we signed in at the Youth Hostel, the Warden asked about Wigan Pier and "was it still standing?"!

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The next day was spent looking around the city. The museums, especially the Natural History were interesting. The United Nations building was closed but the huge fountain in the harbour was well worth seeing.

The next week was spent cycling through France to Paris. Dijon was our next stop, and then we set our sights on Paris. These last few days were the hardest. The weather was hot and the roads undulated up, down and up again.

When we reached Paris it was the rush hour, Traffic coming at us from all sides. We had to cycle along the Champs Elysees.

We decided to get off and walk round the Arc de Triomphe, otherwise we might still be there. After looking round the sights the next day we both agreed to catch the train to Calais. The weather was coming in on us and we had seen enough, so after spending a few hours in Calais we took the ferry to Dover, then back home, arriving at one in the morning, exactly a month after we had left.

The holiday altogether was superb. We had covered about one thousand two hundred miles, not the flattest journey we have cycled but the most enjoyable.

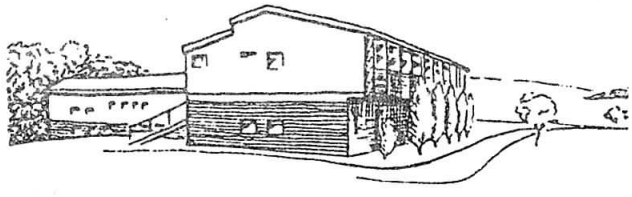
WIGAN Hospice

The first of a series of Hospice Concerts presented by Marie Taylor is arranged for 2.00 pm on Sunday 18th December in St Marie's School, Standish.

This concert features the Junior Group. Further performances by both Senior and Junior Groups will be announced shortly. The target is £1,000.

Further information from Miss Marie Taylor at 50 Upper Dicconson Street. Tel: 44161.

DON ORIONE CENTRE UPHOLLAND



Again this year the Wigan Friends are staging a Fancy Dress Social and Buffet at the AUEW Hall in Chapel Lane. It is on Saturday 10th December and there are still some tickets available - ring Upholland (962) 622516 for details.

Visitors to Cardinal Heenan House will be sorry to learn that Fr Roy Elikowski is leaving the Upholland Centre and moving to the London Headquarters. He came to Upholland twelve months ago after being ordained by the Pope at Heaton Park. The parishes and Wigan Friends wish Fr Roy well in his new duties.

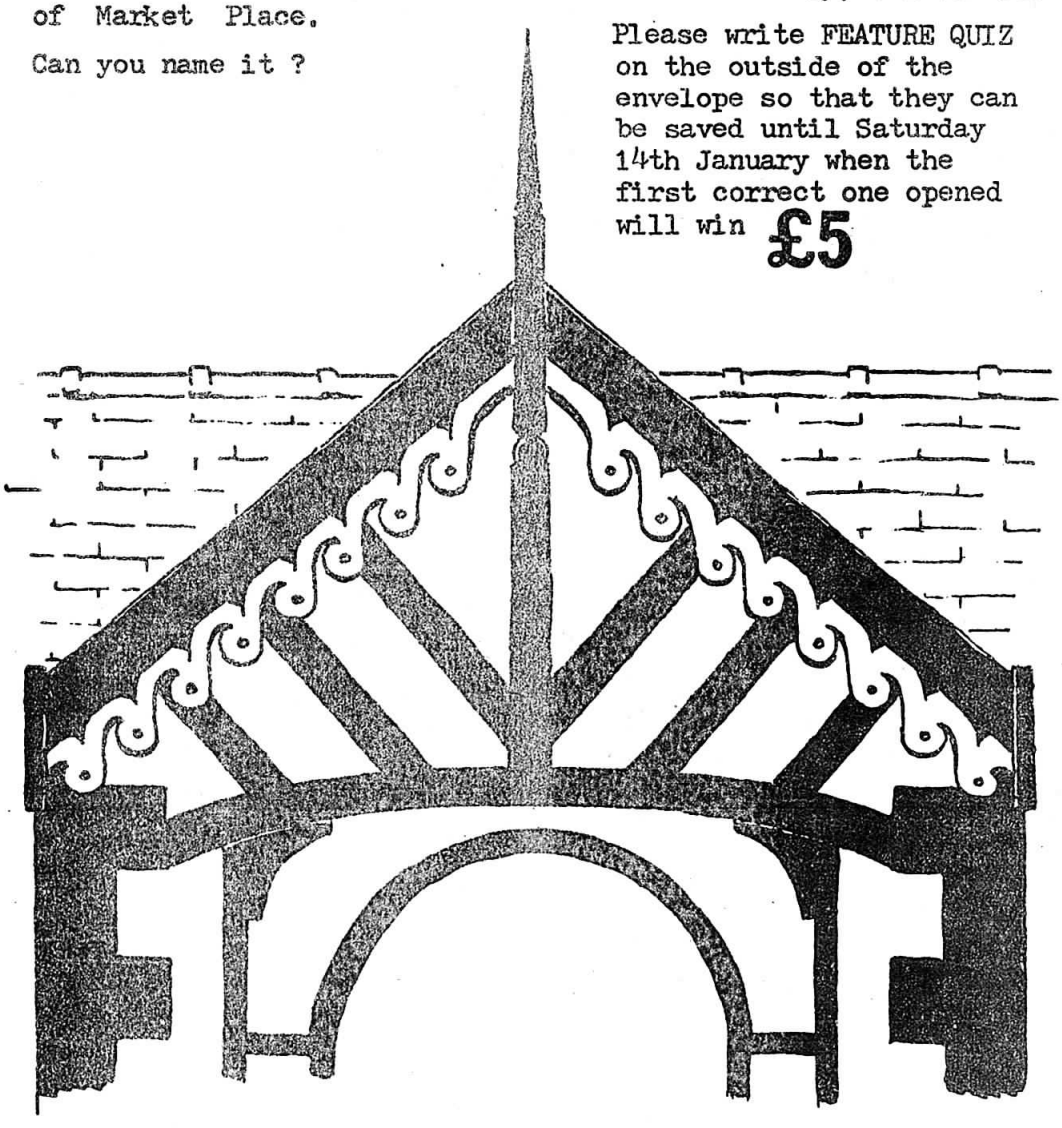
FEATURE QUIZ No 10

This roof line is within half a mile of Market Place.

Can you name it ?

Answers please to Mrs M Connolly, 2 Acton St.

Please write FEATURE QUIZ on the outside of the envelope so that they can be saved until Saturday 14th January when the first correct one opened will win **£5**



Feature Quiz No 9 was the Gate House in Mesnes Park.

There were ten entries and the winner was Miss M Fleming of Mabs Cross House.

CAN YOU PLEASE ADVISE ?

The Citizens Advice Bureau in Wigan is now dealing with seventeen and a half thousand enquires per year !!! It finds itself hard-pressed and in urgent need of volunteers to maintain this valuable and friendly community service. The work is stimulating and sometimes challenging - if you can spare 6 hours per week and think you might help then please have a word with Mrs Enid Jones on Wigan 34292.

POLISH MEDICAL AID RELIEF FUND

On behalf of the above Fund may we thank all the people in the parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's for their wonderful support. In March we held the Ball at Haigh Hall which raised £1,408. Thank you to all those who attended or donated prizes or money. The Wigan Little Theatre held a Bar Night which was most enjoyable and raised £410, our grateful thanks to all their members who worked so hard and gave their time to help our Fund. In July Rev. McGowan of Christian Aid left Southport with Drugs and Medical Equipment worth Approx. £30,000. Some of this was paid for with the proceeds of the above events other equipment was given. One Pharmaceutical Firm donated £12,000 worth of antibiotics. A Maternity hospital had requested resusitators and we are thrilled to say we were able to send five.

The children of St. John's and St. Mary's and other schools collected soap which was distributed to the children in hospitals in Poland. Blankets and Baby clothes kindly sent to us were very welcome and much appreciated by the people in Poland.

The work goes on and recently a Jumble Sale was held in St. Mary's Hall. We keep in touch with the Doctors in Poland and where we can we are trying to send the items they request. Rev. McGowan makes two or three trips a year.

May God Bless and reward you all for your generosity.

St Mary's

Repository Stall

The stall at the back of the church has been stocked up for Christmas. Stocks include Advent Calendars, Crib figures, Musical Cribs and a good selection of Christmas Cards.

Table Tennis

This season we have signed four new players three from the SQUIRREL club and one from SPRINGFIELD. BRIAN McCRACKEN is playing for our first team with TED GILMORE, RON DICKINSON and JIM FOSTER. CARL FEATHERSTONE is in the second, joining DAVE BENNETT, MICK WALFORD and DAVE BRADLEY. DENIS WHISTLECROFT teams up with our second division team of ANN KERSHAW, CHRIS DUFFY and MIKE DEANE. BARBARA HATTON'S third division team of GORDON CUNLIFFE and CLIVE MAULE are joined by the ex Springfield player BILL ANDERTON.

At the moment our first team have played four and won four - Leigh St Josephs 10-0, St John's B 7-3, Leigh Miners 8-2 and NALGO 8-2.

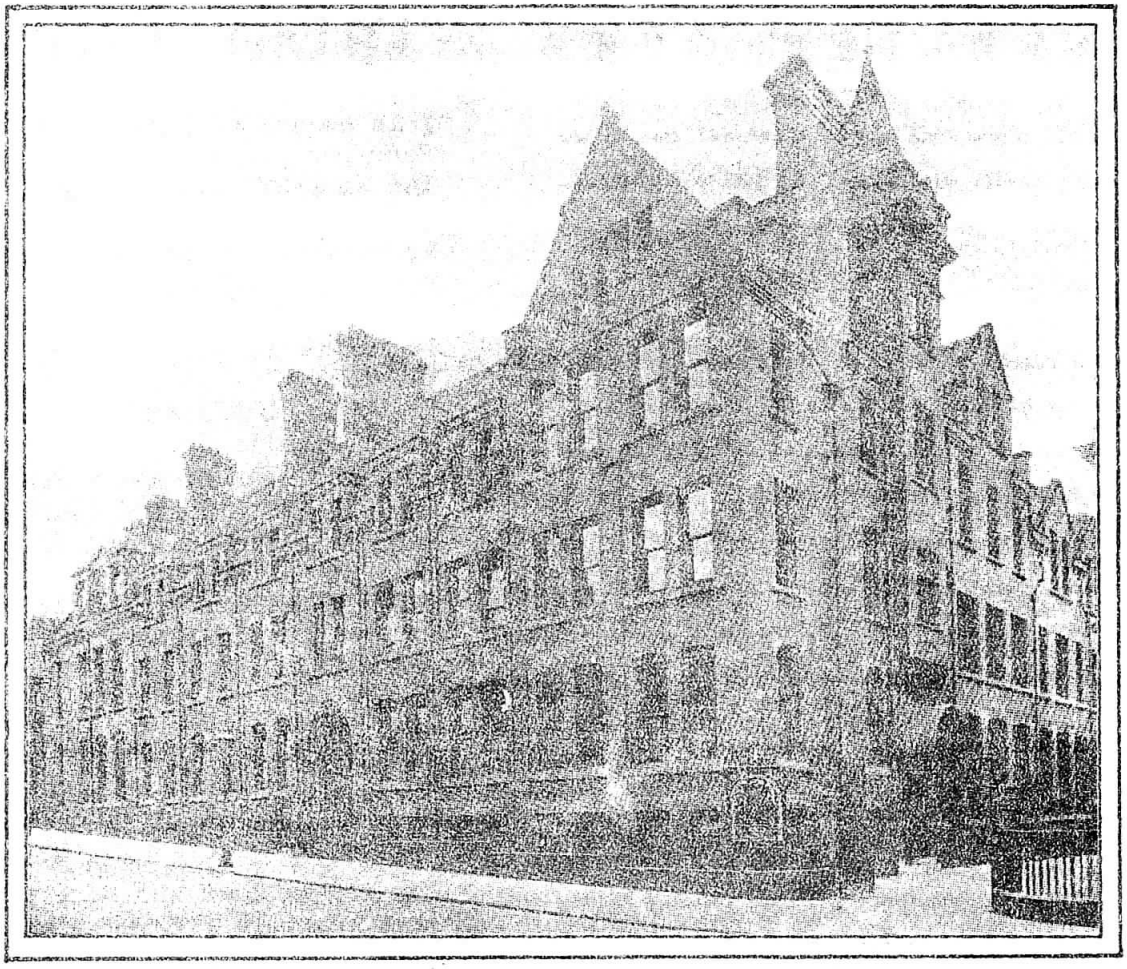
The second team who were promoted last year are finding it hard going in the first division. Their results are - ICI 5-5, St John's A 3-7, Leigh Miners 3-7 and Heinz 5-5.

Our second division side are having their best start for years with wins over ICI 7-3, British Rail 7-3, NALGO 6-4 and a loss at Bethel 4-6.

The third division team started with a defeat at ICI 3-7 but have since won against Whitley 8-2 and J J Hayes Leigh 6-4.

Last but not least all the players send best wishes for a speedy recovery to TERRY CHADWICK and hope to see him at the club soon.

Tom Siney



Convent of Notre Dame, Wigan

Catholic education in Wigan is largely the creation of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The parish schools of St John's St Joseph's, St Patrick's and St Mary's were under their supervision and until recently they provided the Catholic girl's grammar school.

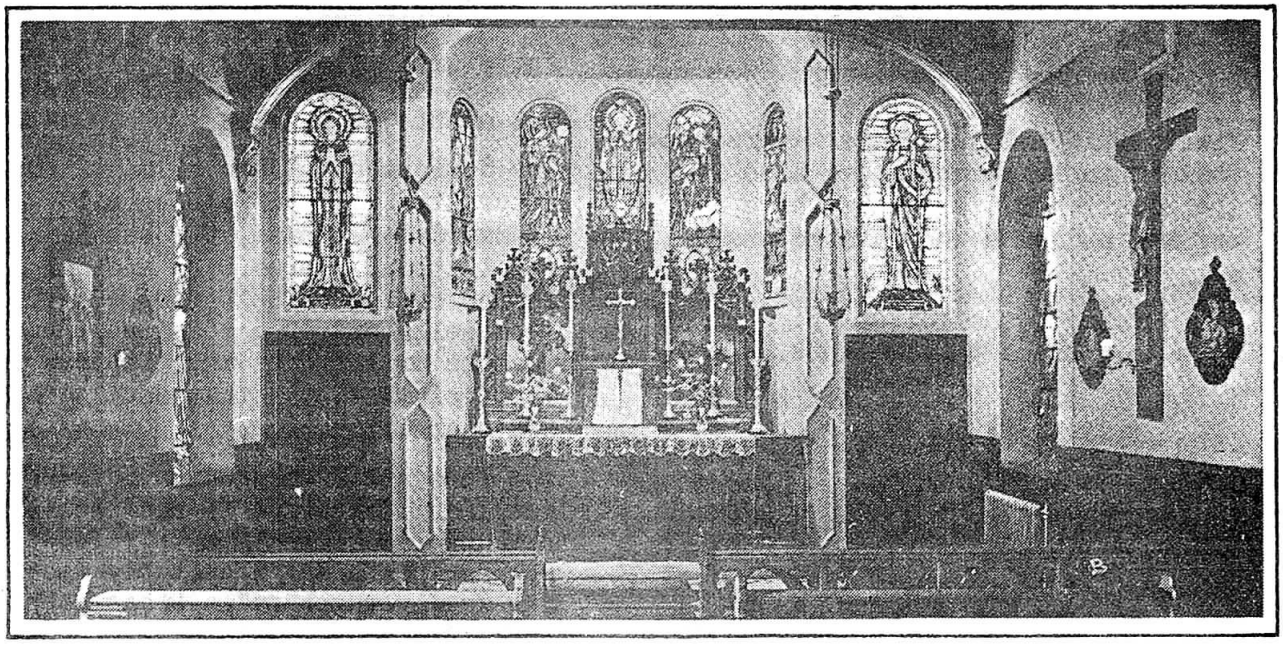
The first four nuns - Sisters Mary, Catherine, Louise and Placide - were invited to St John's in 1845. They took over the elementary school and the Sunday school, set up a night school for working-girls and began to take private pupils. In 1856 they took over St Joseph's school, in 1860 St Patrick's and in 1875 St Mary's. In 1892 they built the convent in Standishgate, now sadly demolished.

They came in response to the increase of Catholics in Wigan. In 1800 there were 1,000 Catholics in Wigan out of a total population of 11,000. By 1851 there were 3,200 Catholics in a population of 32,000. Half the population went to church and a quarter of the church-goers were Catholics. There was no universal, free, compulsory State system of education and it was essential that children be taught the "Three R's" - reading, writing and arithmetic (necessary to an industrial society) together with the fourth R - religion demanded by Catholics. Priests and people were ready to raise the money to provide this education but until Catholic schools and training colleges were established, the main supply of teachers had to come from the religious orders.

The Sisters of Notre Dame were one of the many religious orders that flourished in response to the social and religious needs of industrial England in its Victorian heyday. Founded by St Joulie Billiart, they had a rule adapted from the Jesuits' and suited to their active role. Their curriculum was based on that of the De La Salle brothers; an emphasis on the basic "Four R's" in a timetable that combined variety with continuity. They came to England from Namur in Belgium which as a Catholic and an industrialised country had the resources and the experience to answer the needs of English Catholicism. In addition to providing elementary and secondary education, they established at Mount Pleasant, Liverpool in 1851 the first Catholic women's teacher-training college in England.

The quality of the education they provided will be strong in the minds of many who were taught by them or had the privilege of teaching with them. That bitter-sweet fictional account of life in a convent-school, Antonia White's FROST IN MAY, may mirror that experience. The atmosphere in Wigan convent-school was summed up in the remark "If the word 'please' did not exist, this school could not function". Happily the Sisters are still at Standish to provide that atmosphere for the young Catholics of Wigan.

Tony Hilton



Chapel showing Memorial Windows

The illustrations for this article were kindly provided by the Sisters of Notre Dame at Roundmoor Road, Standish.

READERS LETTERS

SPEAK UP

Father Cummin's letter in the Autumn issue prompts me to suggest that the magazine would be greatly improved if you had a 'Letters to the Editor' page.

The question of the validity of the marriage of the Prince and Princess Michael of Kent bothers me very little. (May I humbly suggest that there are more pressing issues concerning the Church that should be debated.)

We live in a democratic society where, within certain bounds, we can speak our own minds and long may we cherish this right. The Church and the clergy are part of this society and must remain open to criticism.

I wonder if all the clergy appreciate that in their sermons, (as also in their parish letters) they have a captive audience who have no means of reply.

A 'Letters to the Editor' page might help to redress this balance.

Joseph Dunne

LONDON 22nd OCTOBER

As everyone who watches TV will know, the demonstration in support of nuclear disarmament organized by CND in London was most impressive. To be part of it was to experience the great desire for peace and abhorrence of nuclear weapons that exist in this country. The marchers were not fanatics, nor even all members of CND; they came from every class and political party, every trade and profession (and contrary to the public image, even the beliefs of CND members range from complete pacifism to multilateralism and "freeze" of nuclear weapons).

The unofficial estimates of half a million people there must have been fairly accurate, so densely crowded were Hyde Park, the Embankment and the roads between. Marchers were still arriving in the Park two hours after the speaches had finished, many hours after the processions had started. Yet so quiet and orderly was the demonstration that the police were onlookers, their presence seemed unnecessary, appropriately for a Peace demonstration. Christians were well in evidence (especially trying to get to the service before the march) so were Quakers and Jews; numerous other sects and societies could be identified. Transport had coped remarkably well in assembling so many people. Throughout the world similar marches were taking place.

Is it over-optimistic to hope that governments will begin to take notice of this universal and growing movement? For every person who marched there were dozens more with them in spirit but unable to join in.

The deployment of Cruise continues, international relations spiral downwards - Grenada, the Lebanon, retaliation, Cyprus. Is another Korea in the offing? The forces of evil seem hell-bent on a showdown. Nuclear weapons proliferate and "improve", tools of the devil that could destroy God's creation.

The Pope and Bishops denounce nuclear weapons. John Paul II has recently urged world scientists to refuse to work on projects "inevitably destined for deadly purposes". Disarmament talks trail on fruitlessly. Until more people stand up to be counted on this issue there will be no freeze or reduction in nuclear weapons. On the contrary, silence will give consent. The Lord says "My plans for you are peace and not disaster." Can we hope for this peace while clinging to weapons of indiscriminate and mass destruction?

Thalia Hamilton

SUNDAY, ST MARY'S AND CENTRAL PARK

On November's first Sunday 6,000 saw Wigan beat York decisively at Central Park. Many more heard Harry Carey's commentary on the match live from Radio Manchester. Local hospitals have often picked up Harry's voice from Central Park but this time he was with BBC.

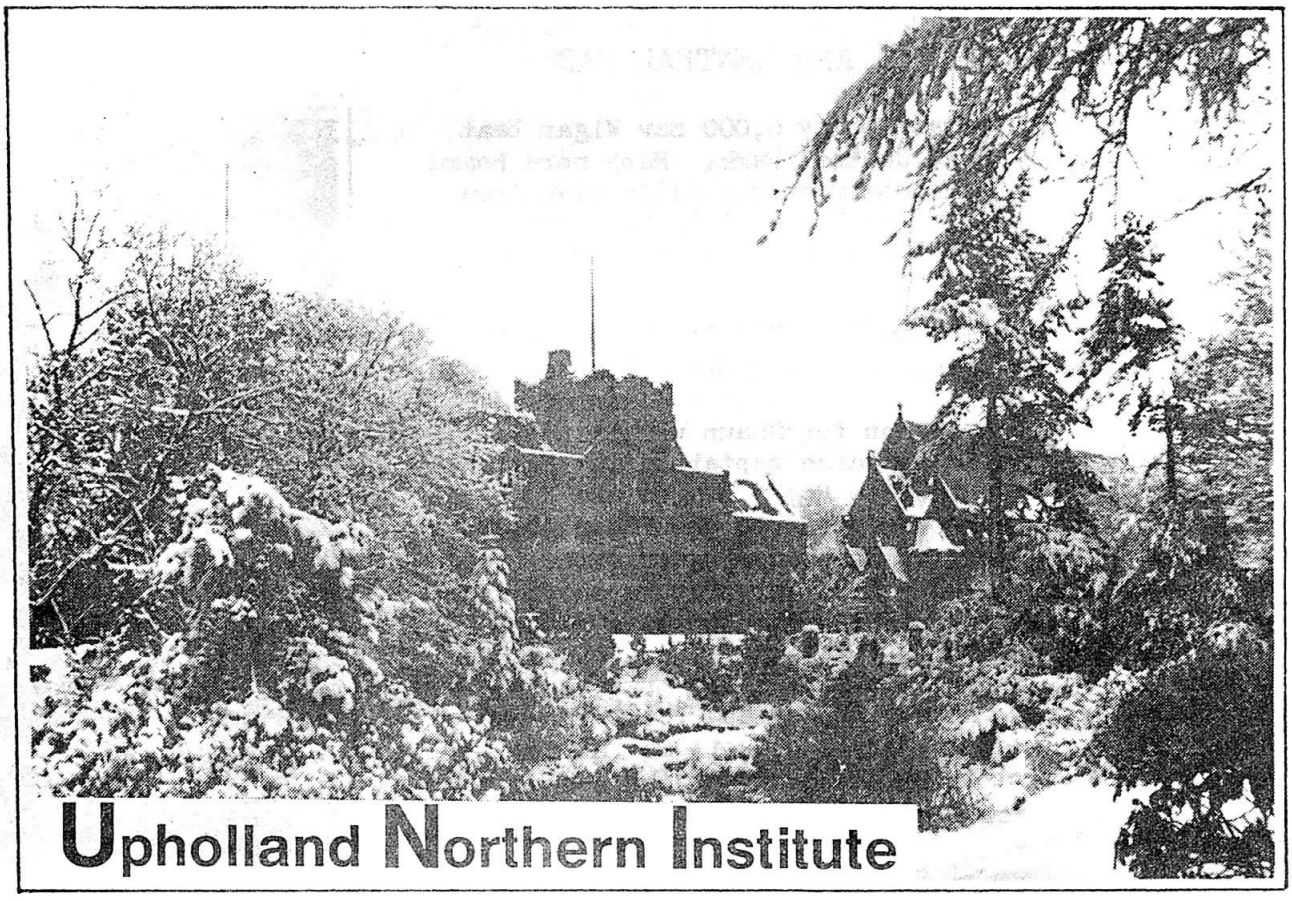
The Wigan team included St Mary's Shaun Edwards who shared the limelight with Steve Hampson, both of them making their debut with the seniors. This is a great season for Shaun who is now at St John Rigby; he has also captained the England Schoolboy teams in both Rugby League and Rugby Union. With acknowledgment to the Wigan Observer we have a picture of Shaun coming onto the field for the York match. An older picture shows him ten years ago in much the same posture as the mascot for the St Mary's team. Three others in the picture have since played for England - Michael Jones, Andrew Bailey and Peter Thompson. Adrian Burns of St Mary's as well as Philip Pendlebury and David Hatch of St John's have also played for England.

Ron Tickle (coach)

I Melling P Riley T Willis M Winrow P Regan M Jones M Blake

M Farrimond D Dunn D Jones A Bailey P Thompson S Howe M Bailey C Casey

S Edwards (mascot)



Weekend residential courses planned for this quarter are

Dec 9th-11th A Living Church Project Weekend. This is open to those already started on the Living Church Project 'Together We Communicate'. It is intended to stimulate and encourage work with the Project by presenting new and tried ideas. Sr Ellen Gielty, SND

Feb 17th-19th In The House of the Living God. Good liturgy requires careful planning of its setting. Resources will be examined such as the use of space and flower decoration. Florence Walsh

Feb 24th-26th Sound in Focus. Workshop sessions to explore principles and problems of the audio-visual medium. Participants may attend the whole course or just the sessions most suited to their needs. Michael Brooks

Further details from the Centre Administrator Tel: Upholland (962) 625255.

Our parishes congratulate the Director of the Institute, Fr Vincent Nichols, on his new appointment of General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

NORTH WEST CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

The next issue of NORTH WEST CATHOLIC HISTORY (Volume XI) will appear in the New Year. It will contain an article on the cult of King Henry VI. There will also be articles on St John Boste, a Catholic social worker in the nineteenth century and the Liverpool Benedictines together with the usual reviews. The subscription for 1984 remains at £3 and this covers a copy of Volume XI.

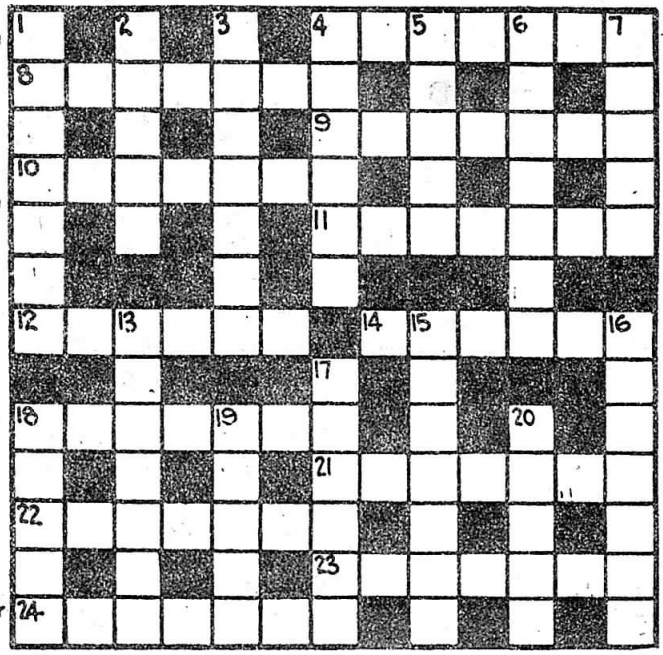
For subscriptions and past publications please contact The Treasurer, North West Catholic History Society, 23 Swinley Lane, Wigan.

Prize Crossword No 4

Here is another crossword worth £5 to the winner.

All entries will be kept sealed until Saturday 14th January when the first correct one opened will be the winner.

Sealed entries marked "Crossword" on the outside should be sent to:
Mrs M Connolly, 2 Acton Street.



ACROSS

4. Italian food gives film star Miss Turne a sag in the middle (7)
8. Great at providing essentials for boat race (7)
9. Reveals by degrees United Nations shoe shelters (7)
10. Checking for size — quite becoming (7)
11. Hurries along when sleuths are upset (7)
12. Join up with silent characters (6)
14. So returns to look after a Channel port (6)
18. Successful oil wells to escort into General Service (7)
21. No danger for the insect inside the old U.S. trail (5-2)
22. What havoc a doctor creates, hiding this pear (7)
23. Wandering about, or return in the morning with mixed gin (7)
24. Half of 18 Down is remitted, but there's no agreement (7)

DOWN

1. Outline of peril, maybe (7)
2. TAA for example re-organises a precious thing (5)
3. A sign of military promotion is rubbish on board (7)
4. Cry of disgust cuts into the Spanish cries of happiness (6)
5. Cry of distress about First Aid for long seats (5)
6. French island in storm in Biblical sea (7)
7. Donkeys from the South Seas? (5)
13. I have less on — just enough to produce these injuries (7)
15. Hundred in popular footwear cause malicious gossip (7)
16. Deviate secretly when the diver gets into difficulties (7)
17. Classify one of 7 or end of 12 (6)
18. Canyon, National or piano — it's great (5)
19. Keep out of the way of first lady about this time (5)
20. Capital place for pairs to break up (5)

There were four entries for the Autumn crossword and the winner was Mr J E Barnes of Greenways, Standish.

The solution was:

ACROSS 1 Averse 4 Junket 9 Tombola 10 Gross 11 Totem 12 Radiate 13 Laundry Bill 18 Ferrous 20 Upset 22 Amass 23 Embargo 24 Disuse 25 Grieve

DOWN 1 Astute 2 Enmet 3 Snowman 5 Urged 6 Know-all 7 Tasted 8 Hairdresser 14 Airways 15 Blubber 16 Afraid 17 Stroke 19 Oasis 21 Spree

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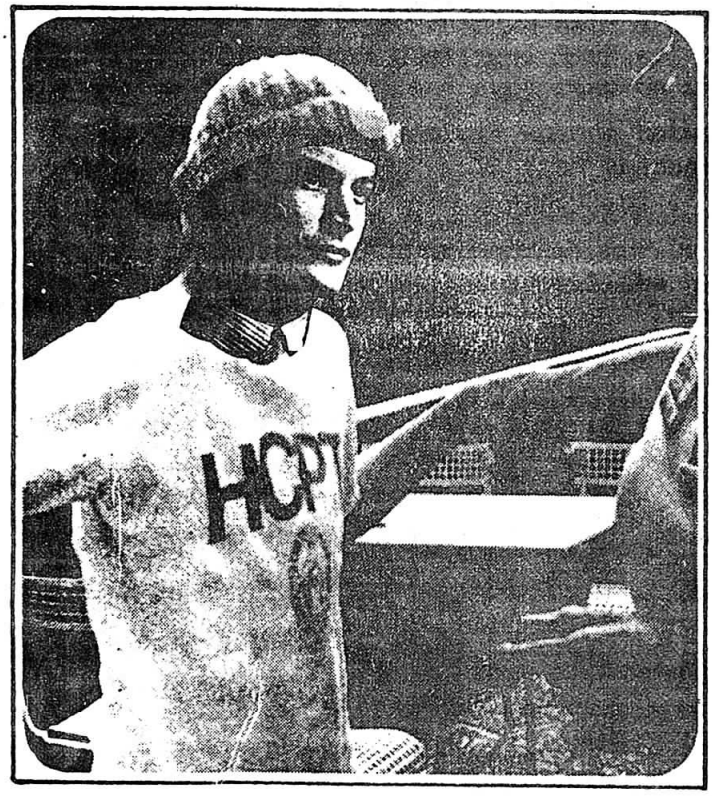
ST JOSEPH'S SODALITY

Members continue to put aside their half-pennies for the Sodality. Recently it was able to give £100 to the Lourdes Sick Fund Association and £50 to our Asmara Project.



HCPT
HANDICAPPED CHILDRENS PILGRIMAGE TRUST

Anyone may apply for a handicapped child to be taken to Lourdes. The children are usually between seven and eighteen years of age and their handicap may be heavy or light.

It all began in 1954 when four children went to Lourdes with Dr Michael Strode. Over the years the number has grown until now in the 1980's there are 1,500 going each year - traditionally in the week following Easter.

The event is more in the nature of a holiday than a pilgrimage. Groups stay in the Lourdes hotels where they can explore the mysteries of French cooking. The itinerary always includes daily Mass, visits to the Grotto and trips to the Forest - the village of Bartes - or Gavarnie high in the Pyrenees. The after dinner singsongs provide happy memories of these pilgrimages which have been described as "A holiday with Our Lady".

The average cost of sending a child is £185 and although the Trust undertakes to raise the money it encourages parents to contribute where possible and of course it welcomes assistance from anyone prepared to undertake fund raising. In fact our local branch of the Catholic Women's League provides the cash for two or three children each year and has been doing this since 1970.

The Sunday Bulletin recently announced a Bring & Buy at Goldenways for the Trust. When the day came it rained incessantly and the attendance must have suffered. However, totting up after the event, Mrs Keating tells us that the figure finally reached £76. Not bad for a rainy November afternoon.

PARISH HELP GROUP

The PHG has some bad news and some good news.
The bad news is that it is forced to discontinue Sunday morning coffee at St John's. This results from problems in clearing the Lower Club Room each time and from lack of 'customers'. There will be coffee in St Mary's Hall each week.
The Good news is that Coffee Morning takings have enabled the Group to donate £50 to our Asmara Fund.

ST MARY'S GUIDES' HOLIDAY IN SWITZERLAND

On the 6th July we caught the 10.30 am train for London and spent the day sight seeing until we picked up the Camptours coach at 8.00 pm on Euston Station. We travelled to Dover and sailed on the midnight ferry, Blue Peter's St Christopher, across to Calais. The coach then travelled on through Belgium, Luxembourg and France and we reached our Swiss chalet at 6.30 pm on the seventh of July. The chalet, clean and cosy, was forty minutes walk from the village of Lenk which is in the Bernese-Oberland canton of Switzerland.

Friday 8th July - we explored the village of Lenk and Saturday was spent catching the sun and bathing in the large outdoor swimming pool.

On Sunday we went to Mass, which was said in German, in the small village church and then for a ride on the Gondelbaln which took us up to the "Leiterli" summit where we viewed most magnificent and beautiful scenery. We then walked back down to the chalet, sliding on the snow covered hills.

An organized coach tour on Monday took us to the Blue Lake Trout Farm and St Bernard Kennels. Then on to Frutigen and Adelboden where we visited Our Chalet - the international Guide Centre.

On Tuesday we had a long walk to the "Simmonfälle" waterfalls which flow at a terrific rate of two thousand litres per minute.

Two more coach tours took us to "Lauterbrunnen" "Trummelbachfälle" and "Grundelwald". Here, while some went on the chair lifts, others went ice-skating. A cable car ride also took us up to the "Metsch". The last day was spent shopping in "Interlaken" with a sail on Lake Brienzersee and a visit to a wood carvers.

The journey home began at 9.00 am on the 16th July and we arrived at Euston Station at 4.00 am on the 17th. This morning was spent in London and we caught the afternoon train home. Finally arriving in Wigan at 6.00 pm after a most enjoyable holiday.

Photograph taken in Lenk by Margaret Rowe

Back row	Francis Southern (Leader)	Swiss Driver	Kathleen Dunbar	Clare Southern	Glen (Courier)	Agnes Turner (Leader)
Front row	Diane Hill	Elizabeth Cullen	Michelle Meyrick	Michelle Hesketh	Elizabeth Carroll	Elizabeth Turner

THE YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club has now been in operation for over two years. In that time we have had quite a lot of members joined and also activities to cater for them.

In September we took eight members to Howe Bridge Sports Centre at Atherton. There the Greater Manchester Youth Association organized a free day out when the youth involved were able to play four of their favourite sports under expert tuition. Then we organized a trip to Blackpool Illuminations and the Pleasure Beach. However the most enjoyed event was the Halloween Fancy Dress Disco with the Light Fantastic Roadshow. The pictures give some impression.

The quality of fancy dress was very good and judging was something of a headache.

The prize winners were, from left to right :-

John Worthington (a girl) Philip Smith (Dracula) Simon Appleton (Sylvester the Cat) Kathryn Davies (a punk) Sadie Hurst (a Wheatabix Kid) Victoria Bootle (Hawaiian)

1 Lois Lane 2 George O Dowd 3 St Andrew 4 Ian Thompson 5 Standishgate Halligate
Halligate Milligate 6 Wigan's Brian McTighe 7 Luke Skywalker 8 Bluto
9 Roger Bannister 10 Anna Sewel

ANSWERS

1 Boney M 2 Mobiles 3 Buggles 4 Sham 69 5 Ultravox 6 Abba 7 Art Garfunkel
= O.M.D. 9 Supertramp 10 Ralph McTell

We have had a few fund raising activities for the Youth Club which have boosted the funds. There was of course our Sponsored Pool Marathon when Stephen Blan, Darren Taylor, Paul Sumner and I played Pool for a total of 30 hours non-stop and raised £70.

Our more recent fund raising event was not for the Youth Club but for the Asmara Project in Ethiopia, when we held a Coffee Evening with Home Bake Stall, Bring and Buy, Christmas Stall and Raffle. This raised £56 and I would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us in reaching this amount.

After reading this article anyone between the ages of 11 and 15 wishing to attend the Youth Club will find themselves most welcome. The Club is open every Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 pm in St John's school, Brick Kiln Lane, off Standishgate.

The week before Christmas we will be having another Disco, further information is available from the Youth Club. This will probably be the last organized event of 1983 but you can be assured that 1984 will be full of activities, Discos, outings etc.

May I thank all those who give up their spare time and help with the Youth Club.

Gary Collier

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

Meetings are on the second Monday of the month in St John's presbytery.

The group would like someone to take a special interest in the subject of prison conditions in this country. In this way the group could be better informed and learn what can be done locally to meet this national problem.

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF JESUS AND MARY

It was Summer 1982 when we welcomed the Sisters to our parishes. For some time now the Community of Sisters has been happily settled in at Martland House, 15 Spencer Road. They are quietly and deeply involved in a variety of tasks centred mainly in St Mary's, St John's and Sacred Heart parishes. They visit the sick and elderly in their houses, multiple flats or in the Homes for the aged. They also instruct children and adults in the Faith.

The Co-workers of Mother Teresa meet in Martland House once a month for the Celebration of the Eucharist. The Sisters find their work very rewarding and the people very welcoming; they are impressed by the strong faith and prayer of the people they visit.

One Sister, a nurse previously at Billinge Hospital, is enjoying working full time at Wigan Infirmary.

ST MARY'S GUIDE COMPANY

Thank you to Mrs Flatley and the Guides who have worked hard through the Spring and Summer months to produce a well kept and colourful garden round the Grotto which I am sure you cannot have failed to notice.

We now have quite a small company, as Guides who have completed their programme and attained their Queen's Guide Award have moved on into the Ranger Unit, and no Brownies have come up to us in the last 18 months, in fact there are only eight Brownies in the Pack. We would welcome any girl between 7 and 9 years into the Brownies and ten plus into the Guides. The Guides meet each Friday between 6.45 pm and 9 pm in St Mary's Hall; the Brownies on Mondays between 4 pm and 5.30 pm.

This season we have changed to the new programme for Guiding and apart from a few girls who are completing the old syllabus for the Queen's Guide Award, everyone is working towards the Baden Powell Trefoil. The Queen's Guide, which is now in the Ranger Programme, has been completely changed and in future will be on a par with the Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

The Guides have taken part in two weekend camps - one in Hall Lane, where we camped as a company in the lovely grounds of one of our past leaders, Mrs B Belshaw and a second at Rectory Lane where we joined in the District Camp. Both weekends were cold and wet but nobody complained and all are looking forward to next season.

Eight Guides took part in an Activity Day run by the County at Bispham Hall and they enjoyed a wide variety of activities.

Twentythree Guides and their parents joined with the Division on an outing to the Tower Circus, Blackpool - all who went had an enjoyable day.

On November 27th we shall be going to Altrincham Skating Rink on an outing organized by the District.

Thank you to all who supported us with the Raffle by donating prizes and buying tickets. The Company raised £36 from this event. This with other money we have earned has been put towards a new microphone which has been presented to St Mary's Church.

We hope you will come to our Carol Service in St Mary's on Sunday December 18th at 6.30 pm. You are all invited to the Hall afterwards for a cup of tea or coffee. Also the Guides are hoping to go Carol Singing around the parish - if you know of anyone who would like us to call at their house please tell us.

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iec
Wigan Information Exchange Centre

The period of settling in to the allocated rooms in St John's presbytery is over and the small MSC team is hard at work.

In addition to the production of small posters the Centre is providing a monthly "News Exchange" for local magazine editors and a monthly sheet called "What's On" which should be of interest to everyone. Both of these are available free at the Centre and "What's On" can be picked up at local libraries.

The Centre has been greatly assisted by gifts of desks, chairs etc from the Electricity Board, the Wigan Observer and the Social Services Department. Duplicating equipment has so far been beyond their reach but they hope shortly to lease a photocopying machine, mainly to facilitate poster production. They would be glad to hear from anyone with a piece of spare carpet.

JUNIORS ONLY

MIX AND MATCH

These pairs have been mixed up. Can you sort them out?

Hot	& Comb
Bubble	& Saucer
Knife	& Spade
Brush	& Chips
Fish	& Squeak
Bucket	& Fork
Cup	& Cold

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Who is Superman's girlfriend?
2. What is Boy George's real name?
3. Who is the patron saint of Scotland?
4. Who won the British Marathon?
5. What are the four main 'gates' of Wigan?
6. Who won the Rugby League Lance Todd Trophy at Wembley in 1959?
7. Who is the son of Darthvader?
8. Who is Popeye's rival?
9. Who was the first 4 minute miler?
10. Who wrote "Black Beauty"?

Answers on page 20.

PUT THE CORRECT GROUPS WITH THEIR HIT SINGLES

It Ain't what you do	Eurythmics
Communication	Blondie.
Rapture	Duran Duran
China Girl	Bananarama
Girls on Film	Fun Boy Three
Love is a Stranger	Spandau Ballet
Our Lips are Sealed	David Bowie

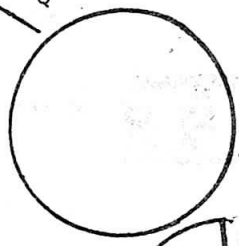
PLEATED ANGELS

To make the pleated angel you will need:-

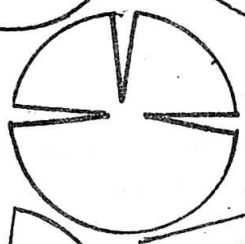
White paper
Small plate
Double-sided Sellotape or Blu Tack
Scissors
glue
Gold paper
Tiny spray of dried flowers or a very small Christmas-tree bauble with some tinsel.

Instructions:-

Take a piece of white paper, draw a circle round a small plate, and cut out.

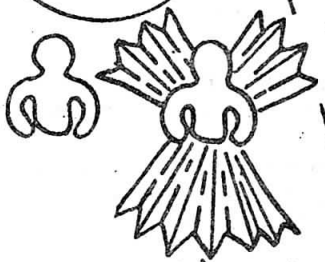


Cut the circle in three places as shown - be sure not to cut right into the middle. (To find where the cuts should go, you could fold the circle in half, then in half again, and use the creases as a guide.)



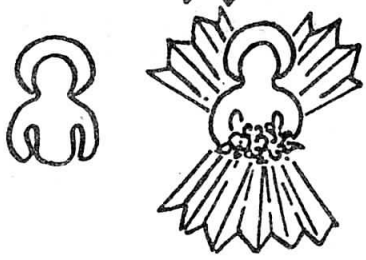
Now pleat each of the three segments with your fingers (taking care not to tear the middle.) You now have the angel's wings and skirt.

On a piece of paper about 3" x 2" draw the outline of head, chest and arms, similar to shape opposite. Cut out and glue to the front of the angel.



Stick a halo behind the angel's head - use a 1" circle of gold paper, or paper with glitter glued on.

Glue between her hands a tiny spray of dried flowers or a very small Christmas-tree bauble with some tinsel.



WHO WAS THERE?

Which groups had hits with these places in the song title ?

1. Belfast
2. Berlin
3. Elstree
4. Hersham
5. Vienna
6. Waterloo
7. New York
8. Orleans
9. America
10. London

Answers on page 20

CUB SCOUTS

The Pack is still thriving and at the present time we have a total of 31 boys attending our Wednesday meetings; eight of these boys joined us after the Summer break and were invested during October.

Previous to the Summer break we had a District Camp at Bispham Hall. Six boys attended the camp and all of them successfully achieved their Camper and Explorer Badges.

During October we once again entered the District Cooking competition and although we could not match our last year's achievement of first place, we came sixth. November has been a very busy month so far. We have taken our Cubs on one of the Nature Trails. This was led by Mr G Workman who is responsible for these conducted tours on the Haigh Hall Plantations. We also took the opportunity of visiting the Zoo, much to the delight of the boys. Also in November we entered a team of six boys for the Old Wolves Shield. This is an annual District Competition to test the boys on general scouting principles. Ten teams entered the competition and we were placed in first position. This was a marvellous achievement and credit must be given to the six boys concerned.

Now that the dark nights are with us we are more confined to indoor meetings. During this time all of the boys will be working hard for their various Arrow Badges and Proficiency Badges. In December we have two boys leaving the Pack and going into our Scout Troop. This loss will be made up by the five or six boys waiting to come into the Pack after Christmas. I would remind parents that we still have a waiting list. If you have a name to put forward please contact myself or any of the other leaders.

Allan Foster
Cub Scout Leader

WLT **WIGAN LITTLE THEATRE**

PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

'CINDERELLA'

in aid of Asmara Project

For one night only — Wed 11th January

Tickets £1 available only from Brian Finch Tel: 30142

This can be a family occasion for St John's & St Mary's

A "CHAIR" FOR LOUISE

Many people contributed to buy a special wheelchair for a brave little girl, whom I met this Summer. Thank you for your gifts.

Her parents would like you to know that they bought the wheelchair and that Louise used it for two weeks when she was admitted to hospital once more. On September 8th she died.

The chair is now being used in the children's hospital - her parents gave it so that others may benefit from the generosity you showed to their daughter Louise.

Please pray for them.

Betty Lloyd

Cricket

Not much happening on the cricket front at the moment apart from prize presentations. Two of our players were among those presented with trophies by BILL BEAUMONT the ex rugby union international, who was guest of honour at the West Lancashire League buffet dance two weeks ago. Bill ARKWRIGHT won the third division batting trophy with an average of 47.5 and our first team captain GRAHAM COOPER went up to receive the cup final runners-up prize. However BILL ARKWRIGHT is most upset, as we all are, that the figure on his 'BATTING' trophy is of a 'BOWLER'. That sort of faux pas would not have happened at a St John's cricket do.

At our own club presentation FRANK FOSTER won the first team bowling prize - in his retirement season!!! BILL ARKWRIGHT won the batting and MIKE RICHARDSON the fielding prize. The second team winners were MICK PERRY for bowling, COLIN WATTS for batting and the fielding prize went to GEOFF LAWLESS. The best batting performance award went to COLIN WATTS and the best bowling to PAUL DEARDEN. The clubman of the year prize went to JOHN WATTS.

At the time of writing one of our young batsmen DAVID HILL is still very poorly in Blackpool Victoria Hospital. Everyone at the club sends their best wishes and hope to see him out and about very soon.

Tom Siney

GUIDES (St John's)

St John's Guides continue to flourish and we welcome Mrs P Tate and Mrs S Fairclough as assistant Guiders. We are now 22 in number and are continuing our varied activities. Six Guides spent a happy if damp weekend camp at Rectory Lane together with Guides from other companies in our district. An evenings ice skating at Altrincham was enjoyed by several Guides - an event to be repeated in the near future. On Thursday Oct 27th we had an open night when a display of handicraft by various Guides presented a suitable background for a number of Guides to take interest badges. Two Guides together with one Leader were enrolled by Miss Rowe our District Commissioner and the evening ended with a candlelight campfire.

We are now planning our Christmas activities and hope to visit the Palace Theatre Manchester where one of our members is appearing.

POETRY

A parishioner particularly interested in poetry recommended the following. In the next issue we hope to print one of his own poems.

MONEY, O!

When I had money, money, O!
I knew no joy till I went poor;
For many a false man as a friend
Came knocking all day at my door.

Then I felt like a child that holds
A trumpet that he must not blow
Because a man is dead; I dared
Not speak to let this false world know.

Much have I thought of life, and seen
How poor men's hearts are ever light;
And how their wives do hum like bees
About their work from morn till night.

So, when I hear these poor ones laugh,
And see the rich ones coldly frown -
Poor men, think I, need not go up
So much as rich men should come down.

W H Davies

December

Th	1	Lourdes Assn Christmas Bingo	7.30 pm	St Mary's Church & Club
		SPUC meeting	8.00	Mount House 215 Whelley
		"Advent" Adult Rel Educ Gp	8.00	St John's Presbytery
Sunday	4	Second Sunday of Advent		
Tu	6	CWL Christmas Dinner	8.00	Haigh Hall
We	7	Mother Teresa meeting	7.30	Martland House 15 Spencer Road
Th	8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
		"Walsingham" Christmas Social	7.30	St Mary's Church & Hall
		"Advent" Adult Rel Educ Gp	8.00	St John's Presbytery
Fr	9	A Living Church Project	6.30	Weekend at Upholland N Inst(see 16
Sa	10	Don Orione Fancy Dress Social	8.00	AUEW Hall Chapel Lane
Sunday	11	Third Sunday of Advent		
Mo	12	Justice & Peace Group meeting	7.45	St John's Presbytery
Tu	13	Don Orione meeting (Wigan Gp)	8.00	St John's Presbytery
Th	15	"Advent" Adult Rel Educ Gp	8.00	St John's Presbytery
Sunday	18	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
		Marie Taylor Hospice Concert	2.00	St Marie's School Standish
		Guides Carol Service	6.30	St Mary's Church
Th	22	"Advent" Adult Rel Educ Gp	8.00	St John's Presbytery
Sunday	25	Christmas Day		
Mo	26	Feast of St Stephen the first Martyr		
Tu	27	Word of Life meeting	7.30	St John's Presbytery

January

Sunday	1	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God		
Fr	6	The Epiphany Holyday of Obligation		
Sunday	8	Baptism of the Lord		
		The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children sell White Flower Emble		
Mo	9	Justice & Peace Group meeting	7.45	St John's Presbytery
We	11	"Cinderella" for Asmara fund	7.30	Wigan Little Theatre
Sunday	15	Second Sunday of Ordinary Time		
We	18	1st Christian Unity Service	8.00	St Mark's Newnown
Th	19	2nd Christian Unity Service	8.00	Trinity URC Milton Grove
Fr	20	3rd Christian Unity Service	8.00	Salvation Army Citadel Millgate

January

Sunday	22	Third Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Tu	24	Main Christian Unity Service	8.00 pm	Wigan Baptist Church Scarisbrick St
Th	26	Walsingham Association meeting	7.30	St Mary's Church & Hall
Sunday	29	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Tu	31	Word of Life meeting	7.30	St John's Presbytery

February

We	1	Mother Teresa meeting	7.30	Martland House 15 Spencer Road
Th	2	SPUC meeting	8.00	Mount House 215 Whelley
Sunday	5	Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Sa	11	Our Lady of Lourdes		
Sunday	12	Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time		
		Closing date for material for Spring Issue of Magazine		
Mo	13	Justice & Peace Group meeting	7.45	St John's Presbytery
		"Christian Aid" meeting	8.00	Trinity URC Milton Grove
Tu	14	Don Orione meeting (Wigan Gp)	8.00	St John's Presbytery
Fr	17	In the House of the Living God	6.30	Weekend at Upholland N Inst (see p 16)
Sunday	19	Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Fr	24	Sound in Focus - Workshop	6.30	Weekend at Upholland N Inst (see p 16)
Sunday	26	Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Tu	28	Word of Life meeting	7.30	St John's Presbytery

Christmas Blessings.