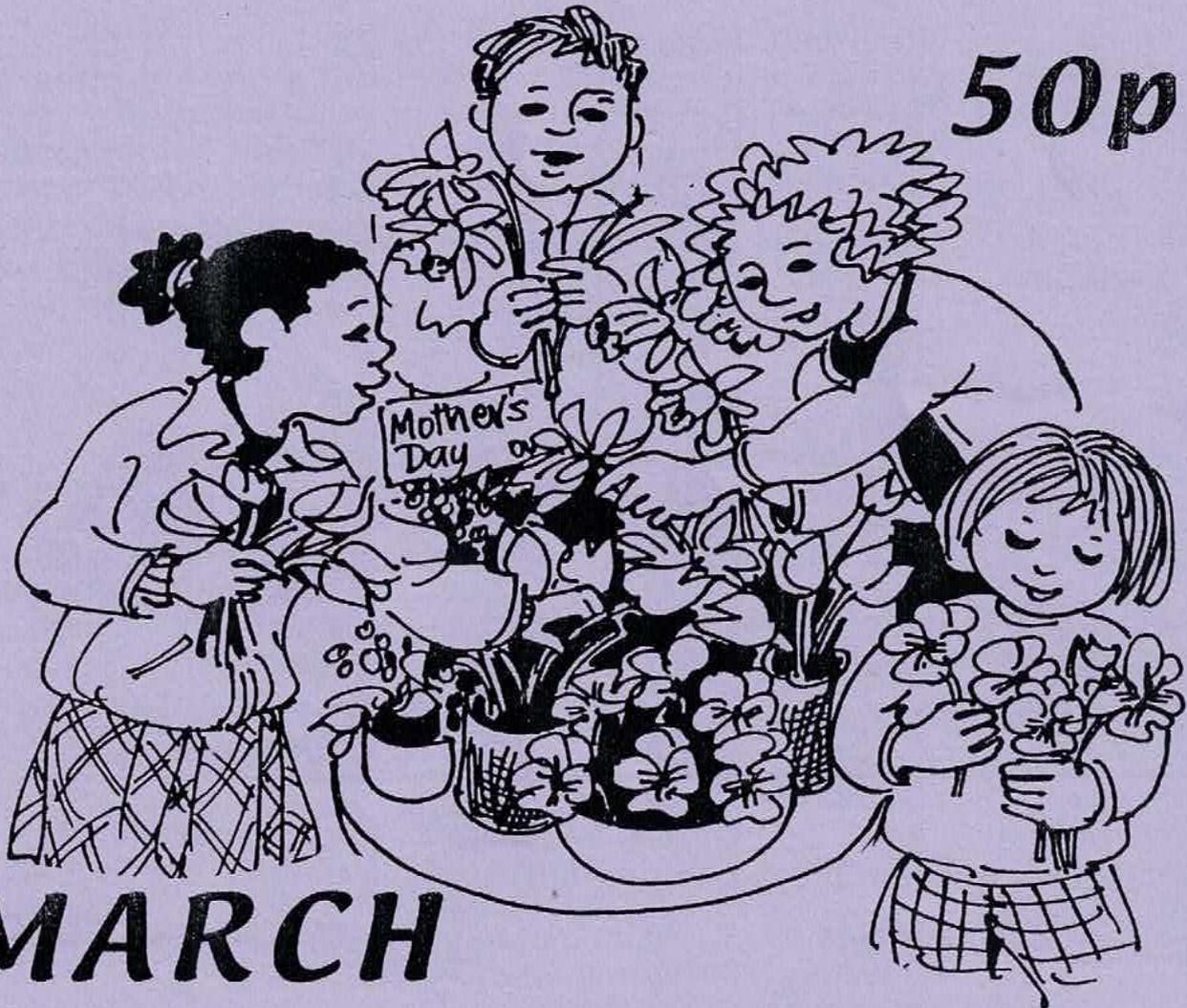


St Paul's Church Parish News

50p



MARCH

APRIL 2004

JOIN US AT ST PAUL'S WEEK BY WEEK. SEE INSIDE

Disclaimer: This issue contains racial stereotyping that was socially allowed at the time of publication. St Paul's Church recognises that xenophobic and misogynistic language is not acceptable today or in the past. This issue is presented unedited as a historical record of the time.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH : NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.00am	Holy Communion	(CW,BCP) 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
9.00am	Holy Communion	(CW) 2nd & 4th Sundays
10.30am	Family Service	(1st,3rd & 5th Sundays: Family Communion)
5.30pm	Informal Worship	(2nd Sunday only in Church Lounge)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

9.30am	Mid Week Worship	(Wednesdays in Term Time)
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	(Thursdays)

STAFF

VICAR	Rev'd John Ross, 44a Colyers Lane, Erith	(01322 332809)
READERS	Mrs Lauraine Wells, 36 Ightham Road, Erith	(01322 407861)
	Ms Tina Chattington, 10 Elmhurst, Up.Belvedere	(020 8311 8292)
	Mrs Jane Stafford, 39 Swanton Road, Erith	(01322 434790)
	Timothy Nunns, 15 Hawthorn Road, Bexleyheath	(020 8304 2538)
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS	Mrs Marion Farr, 27 Barnehurst Avenue, Erith	(01322 331525)
	Mrs Ingrid Walsh, 25 Barnehurst Avenue, Erith	(01322 330265)
	Mrs Brenda Leith, 5 Hengist Road, Erith	(01322 346150)
	Ms Ann Norman, 27 Kempton Close, Erith	(01322 340902)

CHURCH OFFICERS

CHURCH	David Farr, 27 Barnehurst Avenue, Erith	(01322 331525)
WARDENS	Mrs Monica Lindridge, 91 Merewood Road, Erith	(01322 332108)
TREASURER	Mike Stean, 23 Hurst Road, Erith	(01322 340462)

SHARING SCHEME SECRETARIES Marjorie & Eileen Hoare, 25 Cavendish Avenue,
Erith (01322 434230)

VERGER Bill Purdy, 3 Brantwood Road, Barnehurst (01322 527681)

HALL BOOKINGS MANAGER Mrs Janet Wayling, 37 Park Cres.,
Erith (01322 351536)

SITE MANAGER John Ralph, 56 Ightham Road, Erith (01322 430800)

CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Office is situated in the Church Hall,
St Paul's Church, Mill Road

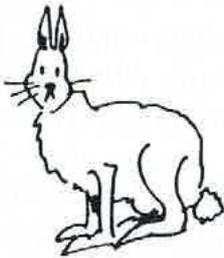
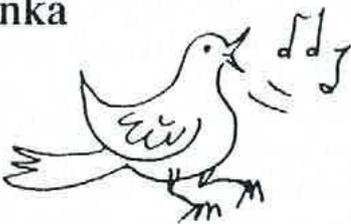
and is open from 9.30am-1.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
and by phone at all times on 01322 336505

Please Note:All requests for Marriages, Baptisms and Thanksgivings
should be made **via the Church Office**

EDITOR	Mrs Jane Stafford, 39 Swanton Road, Erith	(01322 434790)
ADVERTS OFFICER	Ron Richards, 64 Lyndhurst Rd, Barnehurst	(01322 522824)

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2. **JOHN ROSS WRITES: - WHY WE BELIEVE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD**

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Christian faith is a foolish fantasy. However, if the resurrection of Jesus did occur, it confirms his life, message and atoning work. It is the basis of our hope of life beyond the grave. **Jesus is Alive** and the evidence is overwhelming.

Here are some of the reasons we can be so sure.

1. **Jesus predicted his resurrection** (Matt 16:21; Mark 9:9-10; John 2:18-22)
2. **The Old Testament prophesied it** (Ps 16:10; compare Acts 2:25-31; 13:33-37)
3. **The tomb was empty and the grave clothes vacant.**
If those who opposed Jesus wished to silence his disciples, all they had to do was produce a body but they could not. (John 20:3-9)
4. **Many people saw the resurrected Jesus.** They looked on his face, touched him, heard his voice and saw him eat. (Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 24:13-39; John 20:11-29; John 21:1-9; Acts 1:6-11; ! Cor. 15:3-8)
5. **The lives of the disciples were dramatically changed.** Though they fled and even denied Jesus at the time of his arrest, they later feared no one in their proclamation of the risen Jesus. (Matt. 26:56, 69-75)
6. **The resurrection was the central message of the early church.**
The church grew with an unwavering conviction that Jesus had risen and was the Lord of the church. (Acts 4:33; 5:30-32; Rom. 5:24)
7. **Men and women today testify that the power of the risen Jesus has transformed their lives.**

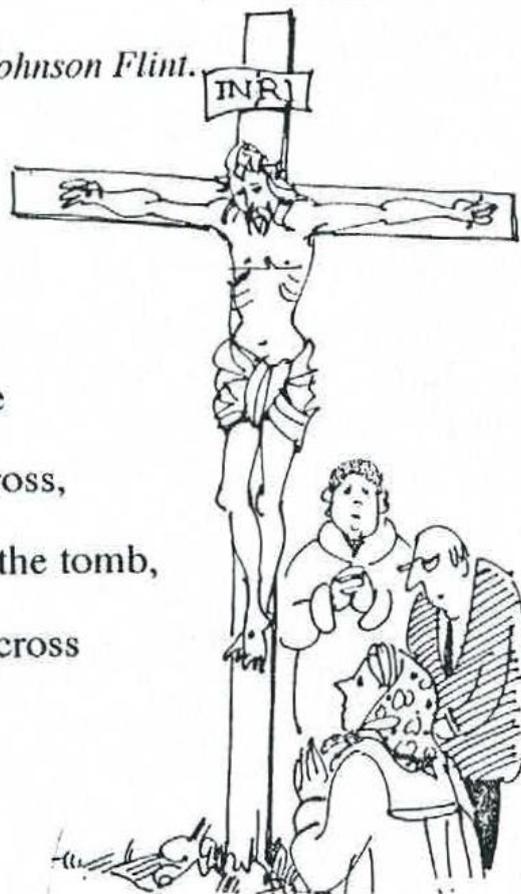
We know that Jesus is alive not only because of the historical and biblical evidence but also because he has miraculously touched our lives.

A Happy Easter to you All

John Ross

And finally - A poem for Easter by *Annie Johnson Flint.*

Some of us stay at the cross,
some of us wait at the tomb,
quicken and raised with Christ,
yet lingering still in the gloom.
Some of us 'bide at the Passover feast
with Pentecost all unknown,
the triumphs of grace in the heavenly place
that the Lord has made his own.
If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross,
his work had been incomplete.
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,
he had only known defeat.
But the way of the cross never stops at the cross
and the way of the tomb leads on,
to victorious grace in the heavenly place
where the risen Lord has gone.



WHAT'S ON IN MARCH/ APRIL ?

3.

LATE REMINDER

DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP at ERITH BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2004. SPEAKER : SID PLATT
Contact: JOANNE DALEY c/o Erith Baptist Church on 01322 557768

JOIN US for MONTHLY PRAYER & TEACHING
3rd MARCH and 31st MARCH at 7.45 pm. Church Lounge.

SPRING CLEANING COMES ROUND AGAIN !

We are planning to Spring Clean the Church
on Saturday 13th MARCH 9.30 - 2 pm.
Please join us for part of the day.
A list to sign up will be at the back of Church.
Thank You ! Monica.

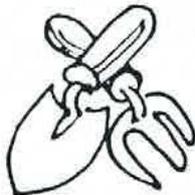


WELCOME BACK TO BISI !

Bisi will be home during part of March and April for a month.
She will be speaking at the morning service on MARCH 28th.
DO COME and hear about her work in South Africa.



EASTER GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA ! on 4.4.4 !!!



Junior Church Invites you to celebrate Easter by decorating
the Church with Easter Gardens and we would like the rest
of the church to join us, both young and old.
ALL YOU NEED IS : a seed tray, soil, a few leaves, flowers,
stones and a pinch of creativity.

So come on and give it a go, make a miniature garden,
Bring it to the church with your name on, on **PALM SUNDAY** to share in
our celebration. Remember the date : **4.4.4 !** (4th April 2004)

BEXLEY CENTRE for the UNEMPLOYED (BCU) ANNUAL WALK

The Annual Sponsored Walk will take place on **SATURDAY 28th APRIL.**
See Page 12 for more details.

There is also an **OPEN DAY** on **21st APRIL** to show off the new premises
at Christ Church Bexleyheath. Go along and see for yourself !

CONGRATULATIONS ! Jane & Clive Cain moved away to Edenbridge
several years ago. Their son **Richard** left here as a toddler and is now at
Secondary School. We recently heard he has been made **Head Chorister** of
Edenbridge Parish Church Choir. We are delighted ! **WELL DONE !**

4.

DIARY FOR MARCH

3rd 7.45pm **PRAYER AND TEACHING**



5th **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

2.00pm The Christian Women of Panama invite you to join them in prayer on the theme of "In Faith, Women Shape the Future"

7th **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP HC)
10.30am Family Communion.
Genesis: 15:1-18; Luke 13:31-35



14th **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

9.00am Holy Communion (CW HC)
10.30am Family Service with Church Parade
Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9
4.00pm Fellowship Tea,
followed by **Informal Service**
in Lounge at 5.30pm

21st **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MOTHERING SUNDAY**

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP HC)
10.30am All Age Family Communion
Joshua 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-32



28th **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

9.00am Holy Communion (CW HC)
10.30am Family Worship.
Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

CLOCKS FORWARD
SUMMER TIME BEGINS
28th MARCH

DEADLINE DATE FOR MAY/ JUNE MAGAZINE: -

Sunday ⁴th April

Articles may be e-mailed, but NOT as attachments please

stafford@beeb.net

DIARY FOR APRIL

4th **PALM SUNDAY**

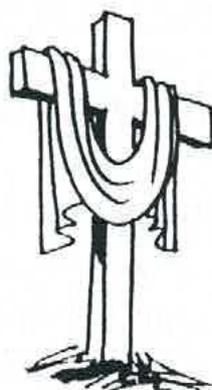
- 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP HC)
- 10.30am Family Worship. **Junior Church Praise Party in Hall**
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-44
- 4.00pm Fellowship Tea,
followed by **Informal Service in Lounge at 5.30pm**



5th - 9th APRIL
HOLY WEEK

8th **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Holy Communion

9th **GOOD FRIDAY**

- 10.30am Joint Service at St Paul's
with members of Northumberland Heath
Baptist Church.

11th **EASTER SUNDAY**

- 9.00am Holy Communion (CW HC)
- 10.30am All Age Easter Sunday Communion
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

18th **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP HC)
- 10.30am All Age Family Communion
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

25th **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9.00am Holy Communion (CW HC)
- 10.30am Family Worship (Groups)
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

6.

PRAYER DIARY FOR MARCH & APRIL 2004

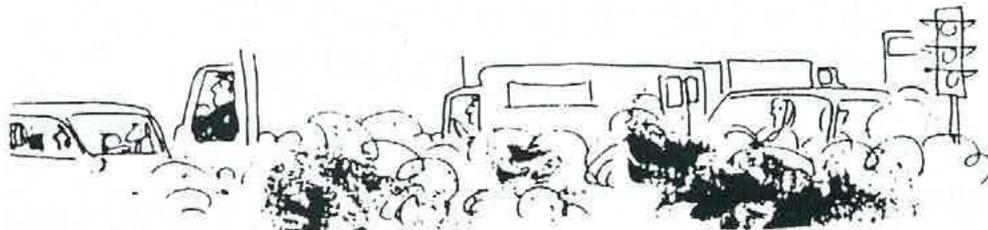


Week commencing 1st March: Pray for spiritual growth in St. Paul's church; in particular pray for John Ross as he leads the regular teaching sessions in the church lounge. Also pray for those leading our Lent groups and those attending them.

May we all learn something fresh from God's word.

Week commencing 8 March: Pray for Christians who are being persecuted for their faith. In particular, remember Christians in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Sudan and Pakistan. May they be given special **blessing**.

Week commencing 15 March: Pray for those who commute to London. May there be safety when travelling and in the work place. Pray also for those who are fearful about job security and those who are unemployed.

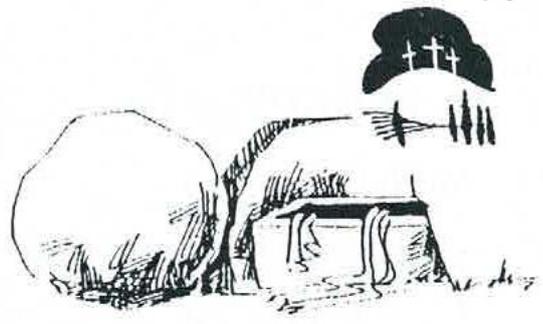


Week commencing 22 March: Pray for peace in our world. In particular for our armed services in Iraq and Northern Ireland. Pray for those seeking to bring reconciliation to broken and divided communities.



Week commencing 29 March: Pray for carers in our local community. In particular remember those working in our various care homes; Bexley and Greenwich Hospice and those looking after the frail at home.

Week commencing 5 April: Pray for our local churches as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. May we learn more about the sacrifice paid for us on the cross.



Week commencing 12 April: Pray for all the Christian ventures taking place at this time. Pray in particular for the safety of the young people and also pray for those who lead them. May all who attend receive rich blessings.

Week commencing 19 April: Pray for teachers and pupils returning to school following the holidays. May they be refreshed.



Week commencing 26 April: Pray for our Queen and Government. Pray for wisdom in decision-making. Also pray for integrity and humility.

LEARN KOREAN in 5 MINUTES !!!! (IED)

It is best to read aloud the foreign phrases for their best understanding !!
Some useful phrases : -

That's not right
Are you harbouring a fugitive ?
See me ASAP.
Stupid man
Small horse
Did you go to the beach ?
I bumped into a coffee table
It's very dark in here
I thought you were on a diet
This is a tow away zone
Our meeting is next week
Staying out of sight
He's cleaning his automobile

Sum Ting Wong
Hu Yu Hai Ding
Kum Hia
Dum Gai
Tai Ni Po Ni
Wai Yu So Tan
Ai Bang Mai Ni
Wai So Dim
Wai Yu Mun Ching
No Pah King
Way Yu Kum Nao
Lei Ying Lo
Wa Shing Ka

8. CROSSWORD

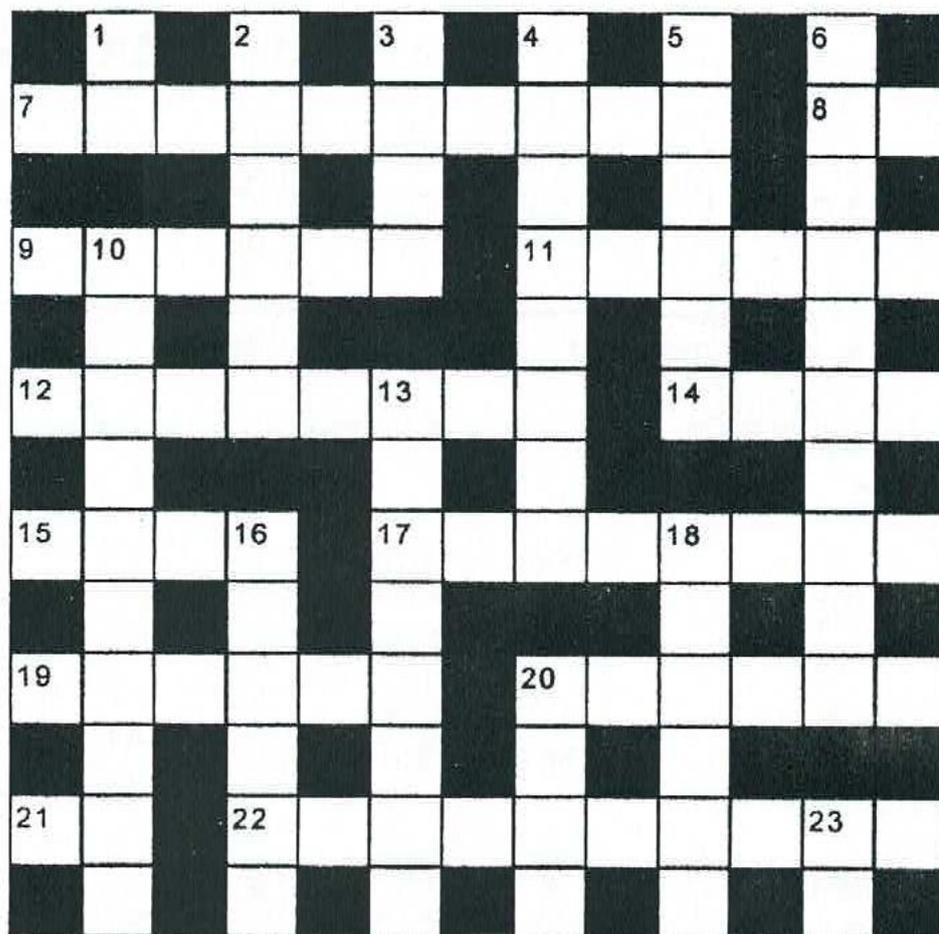
(CNS) *Answers on Page 21*

ACROSS

- 7 Region of NW Iran (10)
- 8 Part of the verb "to be" (2)
- 9 The son of God (6)
- 11 Bigger (6)
- 12 The site of Christ's crucifixion (8)
- 14 Pull abruptly (4)
- 15 Third son of Jacob & Leah (4)
- 17 One of the young men cast into the furnace at the order of Nebuchadnezzar (8)
- 19 Person of outstanding virtue (6)
- 20 Name of two books of the O.T. (6)
- 21 Prefix meaning not (2)
- 22 100th anniversary (10)

DOWN

- 1 Job was a resident of which land (2)
- 2 Irritating (6)
- 3 Kiln for drying hops (4)
- 4 Loose-fitting hooded gown (8)
- 5 Gnarled (6)
- 6 In the Old Testament, this was tent which enclosed Ark of Covenant (10)
- 10 Informal folk concert (10)
- 13 Capital of Uzbekistan (8)
- 16 Charge with a crime (6)
- 18 Longest of St. Paul's Epistles (6)
- 20 First son of Noah (4)
- 23 Prefix meaning without (2)



~~~~~  
**CONGRATULATIONS & MANY HAPPY RETURNS** to **Debbie Davies** as she celebrates her Half Century (50th Birthday) on 6th March.



## WELL DONE LAURENCE ! 9.

Some of you may have seen this photo or read the article in the News Shopper in December concerning Laurence, the son of Geoff & Gaynor Long. Although only eight years old, he was entered into a Music Festival in Beckenham and came First with Honours. Naturally his Music teacher was delighted !

He also enjoys improvising and was able to help out with some of the carols at the Crib Service at St Paul's in December.

He is also just beginning to learn to play the violin at Christ Church Primary School in Lesney Park. Congratulations all round and keep up with the practising !

## CONSTABLE & TOOP

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## 10. THE POWER OF PRAYER (CNS)

Are you one of those people who is continually losing things, or rather mislaying them? I don't mean just your spectacles, but forgetting where you have put things, like the letter that has to be replied to, the library book that has to be returned, the envelope on the back of which you have noted some important information. You search in all the likely and the unlikely places you can think of, but without avail. You begin to feel irritated at the amount of time wasted in searching.

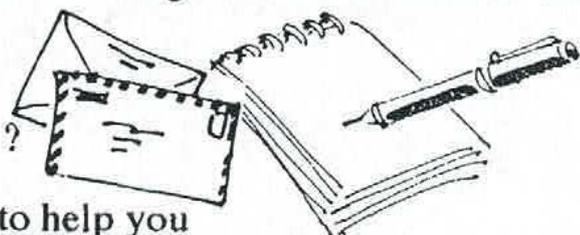
If it is something valuable or important, you have a sick feeling in the stomach.

So what are you to do in such a situation?

**The answer lies in prayer.**

It may not seem right to you to ask God to help you to find something you have lost, but the Lord is always willing to help those 'troubled in spirit'. In the words of the hymn "Take it to the Lord in prayer". Remember what Jesus said, "*Seek and ye shall find*",

*"Ask and ye shall receive", "Knock and it shall be opened unto you."*



Some time ago I mislaid an important document. After looking everywhere without success and getting irritable in the process, I prayed to God, asking him to help me find the document. After praying earnestly for a few moments, I suddenly felt that the problem had been solved, or rather, that I need no longer worry. The next morning I had occasion to open a drawer in my bureau. It had jammed, and on pulling it out to see what was the cause, I found the missing document lodged at the back between two drawers!

On another occasion I lost my cheque book. I searched high and low at home, but without avail. So I prayed to the Lord that it would be returned to me. I was so worried I couldn't sleep and got up during the night to look in another place. But it wasn't there.

Although I had prayed to God, I was still worried, and reported the loss to my bank, who cancelled the unused cheques and issued me with a new book. Later that day I was looking through a file dealing with photography, and there was my missing cheque book. I must have left it there after writing a cheque to a processing firm. I felt such a fool when I informed the bank, who rescinded the cancellation order. Had I have had more faith in my prayer and waited a day or two, I would have been spared this ignomy.

Since then I have frequently prayed to God to help me in my search for missing objects, and having prayed, have ceased worrying. And in due course, the objects have been found.

The secret of taking your troubles to God in prayer is that you must have faith and leave the matter in His hands. To continue to worry shows lack of faith. And it is by faith that prayers are answered.

I just never thought ! For a whole lifetime, I've managed without one. What on earth is it ? Simply a mobile telephone !

Nowadays, I can go anywhere I please, knowing that should anything happen at my home, I can be immediately reached and informed.

I can remember those SOS messages that came on the wireless, just before the News. "Would Mr Brown of Evesham please contact his home immediately. One of his family has been seriously injured . . ." and so on.

But with this new gadget, those are becoming old fashioned. Not only does my mobile ring me, but it tells me the name and number of my caller. It even offers to re-call the number for me ! If I can't answer straight away, my little pocket charmer patiently waits to re-connect me and there isn't a wire in sight !!



More amazing than the electronic telephone is the fact that God can read our every thought . . . and prayer, simply by the fact that it's in our head . . . and felt in our heart.

i used to think that prayers must be of the school assembly type. That God was only listening when 100 kiddies were shouting out the same prayer daily, at the tops of their voices. But Jesus says not. He tells us to "go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your father secretly" (Matt 6:6). Jesus knew their thoughts (Matt 12:25).

My caller on the mobile may be a long way off. But God is right beside me, wherever I am. We don't need to recharge batteries with the Lord. In fact, it is He who re-charges us, every time we connect ourselves to Him for a time of prayer. Just a Heavenly thought. That's all He needs.

### IT'S OK TO BE ME !

*Lynda Scotson*

I'm thinner than some, but fatter than most  
And I have to confess that I like my toast.  
But it doesn't matter what you think I should be  
Because Jesus has said it's OK to be ME!

Sometimes I pray and sometimes I don't  
Sometimes others get cross when they think that I won't.  
But it doesn't matter what they think I should be  
Because Jesus has said it's OK to be ME!

Some days I'm happy without any good reason.  
And others I'm glum - it depends on the season.  
But it doesn't matter what you think I should be  
Because Jesus has said it's OK to be ME!

I know all my faults far better than you  
But I know that I'm growing and He'll see me through.  
So it really doesn't matter what you think I should be  
Because I know that Jesus is setting me free  
And I know that He's said IT'S OK TO BE ME !



## 12. MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

*from Rochester Diocese*

I wonder whether you would be able to make the following need known to local clergy in the hope that there are some folk in our congregations who might respond:

Mission Aviation Fellowship which operates light aircraft in Africa and other parts of the world in the service of the Church is looking for volunteers in some of their overseas programmes in the coming months.

Several of the Overseas programmes are in need of practical assistance, and MAF hopes to recruit teams of volunteers to send to each of these places. Joining one of these teams can prove to be a rewarding personal experience and also make a real difference to those who were helped. MAF are looking for committed Christians aged 18 to 65+ , who are skilled in maintenance and renovation, and also for any who are thinking about serving overseas with MAF in the future.

May 2004: Madagascar. Construction work on a car maintenance facility. Useful skills: Carpentry, metalwork, building, electrical work.

July 2004: Tanzania. Building of carpentry workshop, running of children's Bible Club. Useful skills: building roofing electrical work children's work

August 2004 Uganda. Extension of hangar. Useful skills: general maintenance and repair, decorating.

Anyone interested in joining one of these teams should contact Heather Falconer, MAF Overseas teams and volunteers co-ordinator at 01303 850950 or by e-mail at [heather.faulkner@maf-uk.org](mailto:heather.faulkner@maf-uk.org)

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## WALK FOR THE BEXLEY CENTRE for the UNEMPLOYED (BCU)

The Friends of BCU are organising the Eleventh Borough Churches Walk in aid of the Centre on **SATURDAY 24th APRIL**.

The **9 mile walk** will start at St John's Church Hall in Danson Lane, Welling at **10am**, and will go through the south of the Borough from Welling, through Sidcup, Footscray, North Cray and Bexley to Bexleyheath, where the **Rt Rev Dr Brian Castle** will lead the walk along the Broadway to BCU's new premises at Christ Church.

If you are interested in joining us, for all or part of the walk, please obtain a Sponsor Form by contacting **Ann Norman 01322 340902**, or one of the organisers below. Bring a packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Refreshments available at end of walk.

Last year's walk raised **£8,450** an increase on the previous year of over £1,000. It would be wonderful to have a similar increase this year.

George & Rheta: 020 8303 8089,  
Gill 01322 332528,  
BCU 020 8301 3187

**ABOVE ALL. PLEASE SUPPORT  
THE EVENT BY SPONSORING  
ANN or by BEING THERE !**

Since the 1960s Beryl Baker has worked in Paraguay as a missionary/nurse. A native of Thirlmere Road, Barnehurst, and one-time member of St. Paul's Youth Fellowship, she can certainly be described as "one of St. Paul's own", and proof that our missionary work has practical aspects.

Her newsletters are marked by a reticence to describe her own achievements, an account of the welfare of the animal life for which she provides sanctuary, and some details of the medical and spiritual welfare of people over an area the size of Kent. Accordingly, we have decided to visit Beryl in Paraguay this summer. What has at last persuaded us, after 40 years of friendship with Beryl and as air travel becomes ever more dangerous, to undertake the 17-hour flight to Asuncion, the capital, where Beryl is based?

We have a realisation that Beryl cannot continue this work for ever, and that it is necessary to see her work at first hand to think how her work could best be carried on. For this reason we're thrilled that we will be able to go to the Chaco area ( no problems of navigation – there's only one road, the Trans-Chaco Highway), and even to accompany her to her patients. We will stay in her home in the Chaco, reassured that the crocodile in the pond in her garden is said to be more frightened of humans than we are of it! We will also visit the Iguacu Falls and great Itaipu Dam on the borders with Brazil and Argentina. This "adventure" will go some way to compensate for the rather "couch potato" nature of travel by air.

There are many who have been interested in Beryl's work and we will be happy to learn from them what they need to know further, before our visit. There will certainly be a report on our return.

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**"Anglican communion split"; "Schism in the church".**

Only a few months ago a generally unsympathetic TV and press coverage watched the discomfort of the Church of England. It found the Church energetically seeking to interpret the Scriptures ( no bad thing!) Dr. Williams indulging in some energetic persuasion to heal the rift over Geoffrey John, and Peter Tatchell predictably energetically labelling everyone who didn't agree with him a bigot. How far have these predictions come true? A close American friend, e-mailed to say how sorry he was that he and his wife would not be able to join us for the Christmas services, but he asked with some earnestness what the people of St. Paul's thought of gay clergy. I must confess that I could not answer him, for I have heard nothing. If Gene Robinson were appointed our Bishop, would we recognise his authority? Or if he was appointed our parish vicar, would we leave St. Paul's? I'd be interested to see what we could send back to Delaware.

Please let me know of your thoughts.

*Len Hollingsworth.*

## 14. TRAVELLERS TALES

First of all an apology that you will be receiving this magazine a little later in the month than usual. Thank goodness we have an extra day in February and that 29th February is a Sunday ! Many congratulations to ANYONE who actually celebrates their birthday on 29th February. This year they will have their own Special Day ! So why is the magazine LATE ??

Well, George & I have been privileged to do some travelling. So much we could tell you about: - Sailing on an Arab Dhow on the Arabian Sea. A trip around the harbour in Singapore and of course a Singapore Sling in the bar of Raffles. Then there was a guided tour of the Opera House in Sydney, a most beautiful building -wish we could have heard a live performance there. Then there was BEAUTIFUL New Zealand- where does one begin, and finally a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco !

Whilst in New Zealand meeting up with my two penfriends of 52 years, we saw so many places. A very calm and peaceful island (except for the BIG cities) yet even they have no idea of a full blown RUSH HOUR or of the never ending queues on the M25 or any of OUR Motorways. Such lovely friendly and obliging people and great to be with far from home.

When near Auckland and following SUPERB directions from them, we had a few hours and an excellent lunch with Bruce & Jean Martyn who live in Papatoetoe just off the motorway en route to the Airport. Such lovely people and Jean was just as I remembered her standing up in St Paul's in the days of Robin & Eileen Balch. And the lovely smile of Bruce. They had already got their Jan/Feb Magazine which they avidly read even though it is 30 years ago since they lived and worked in Erith. Jean gave me so many hugs to give to Irene Carrier, Eileen & Len, Joan & Ron and I only hope I remember all the others !!! They send fond greetings and love to us all. I came home with a Year Pack of Information from St Elizabeth's Church !!

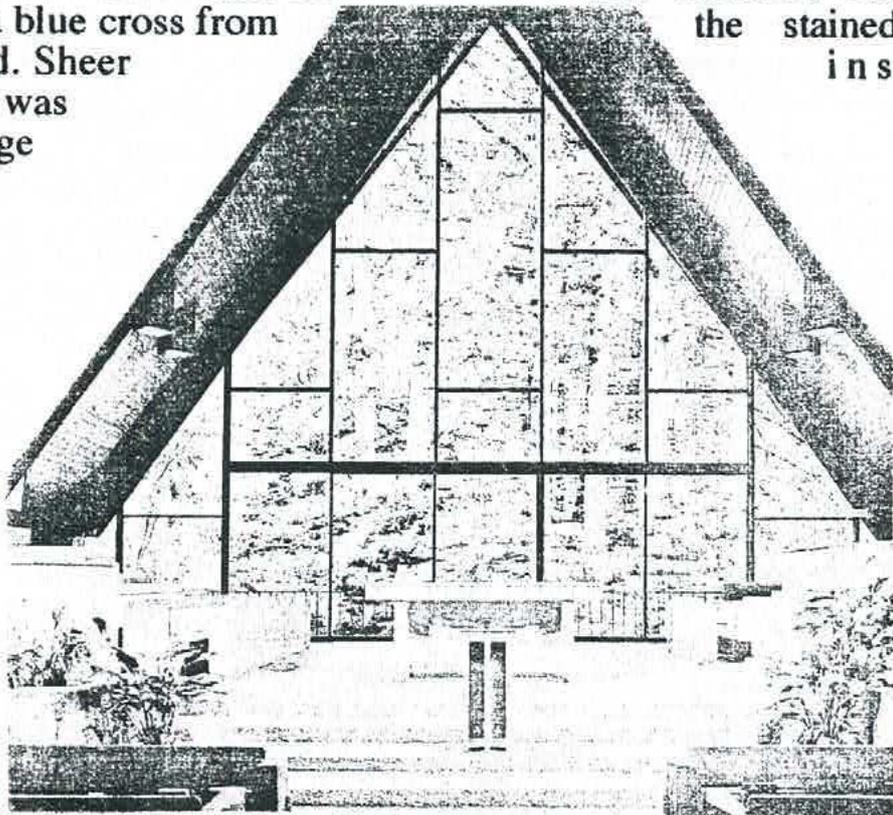


Whilst in the South Island on our Tour, we spent time in the Church of **15.** the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo, built in 1935, to the glory of God as a memorial to the pioneers of the Mackenzie Country. The view behind the altar was so breathtaking it must be jolly hard to concentrate on a sermon or service. It was just a clear glass window looking over the lake. Tear-jerking.



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, LAKE TEKAPO, NEW ZEALAND

Finally I attended a Service in my friend's Presbyterian Church just outside San Francisco. Again such a magnificent view through a huge triangular window and the sun reflected onto the Redwood trees a blue cross from behind. Sheer inspiration. The theme was Journeys! The message was of



**Believing or Beholding.** Christ in everything.  
We've taken about 700 photos if you're interested !!!

*Jane Stafford*

**16. NEWS FROM LOKKI IN SRI LANKA –  
BUT DO NOT MENTION THE CRICKET! *Len Hollingsworth***

News of England's third-worst cricket defeat, against Sri Lanka, will nevertheless have come as good news to the inhabitants of the unfortunate island.

The Sinhalese pre-occupation with cricket can best be explained by saying that the name of Murali has the same effect on the whole population in the Island that the name of Beckham has on the younger population here. If there is a Mrs. Murali, perhaps she is also famous for being a member of the Spice (Island) Girls.

The crisis that Sri Lanka has endured for the last few months follows the extra-ordinary decision to suspend Parliament and reject the peace proposals with the Tamils. This civil war has endured for more than 20 years, killed over 65,000 people, and at one stage strangled the tourist industry which was so important to the gentle majority of the people of Sri Lanka. In particular, 50 churches have been attacked, property, books and Bibles have been destroyed, and people attacked by anarchists who want to increase the political instability. Lokki himself remains unhurt and says that the attacks have been justified by the accusations that Christians have been converted by unethical means. To his knowledge, not one such accusation has been substantiated, but, as he says, if a lie is repeated often enough, it will become accepted as truth.

Despite all this, at his church there have been 31 baptisms this year and recently the Bishop confirmed 28 people. Now Lokki, as the Venerable Lokhendra Abhayaratne, resides in Galle, at the southern tip of the Island and has found it very helpful to have a driver for the countless trips to Colombo. This journey, of a little over 100 miles, can often take more than four hours. It passes through an endless succession of seaside resorts along the South-West coast, none of which has been built with the needs of long-distance travel in mind.

---

**THINGS CHILDREN SAY !**

A little child in church for the first time watched as the sidesmen passed the collection plates. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear:

"Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

---

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## THANK YOU !

17.

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, prayers and messages I have received since my accident. I am progressing well and hope to be back in full circulation in a couple of months.

*Veronica Ralph.*

---

## MEMORIES

Now that the 'Sales' are fading, perhaps the following little anecdote may be of interest to some of our lady readers.

When I was a teenager, I worked in a Fashion Shop, selling coats, costumes (as suits were called in those days), blouses, dresses, skirts and hats. Across the road was another shop that dealt in Menswear. Both establishments were owned by the same prosperous gentleman. One day we were told that a box of hats would be sent across to us, and that these were to be put in the window and sold for the sum of one shilling each. Obviously this was to attract customers into the shop, but needless to say we, the staff, all dived in and found ourselves a shilling hat. When the manager came across later he was furious to find only about three rather pathetic items left. Of course he couldn't sack us ALL and we had paid our shillings and the money gone into the cash desk. As a point of interest, has anyone seen any smart 'titfers' in the sales at Bluewater recently for just 5p ? !

*Audrey Green*

---

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9th-15th MAY 2004 LOOKING AHEAD

Once again **Christian Aid Week** 9th - 15th May is fast approaching and I shall be looking for 'willing volunteers' to help with our local Fund Raising. Last year we raised over **£1300** through various Church collections, House to House collections, Cake sales and various fun activities.

At St Paul's we have a very small but dedicated team of House to House collectors that I rely on, but we are always pleased to welcome new faces, so if you feel you could possibly spare a few hours during Christian Aid Week, then please see me or fill in the display at the back of the church. If you have not collected before, then be brave, find a friend (going in pairs is much more fun) and have a go ! I won't say street collecting is easy but it is rewarding and for a very good cause !

For those who are unable to help with the collecting, then please aim to support the Church groups with this years Christian Aid Fund raising activities or organise one of your own. If you are planning to hold an event, please let me know so we can publicise it. Thank you.

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

Janet Rose (01322 521067)

---

## WANTED: House to House Collectors and event Organisers

This year I would like to cover as many houses in our Parish as possible, so if you are willing to help please see Janet Rose (01322 521067) or sign the lists at the back of Church. Thank You.

## 18. THE NEW GROUP LOGO

Bill Allan

*Our last magazine referred to this new Scout logo, designed by Bill. Edith Rose thought it would be good to encourage Bill to let us know more !*

**THE SHIP** - The **Henry Grace a Dieu**, was an English warship commissioned during Henry VIII's reign and named after him. A contemporary of the **Mary Rose**, named after the king's favourite sister. The **Great Harry** was even larger. Built on the old carrick style with a large fore and stern castles, she was 165 feet long and weighed around 1000 tons. Built locally between 1512 & 1514, she was one of the first vessels to have gun ports allowing her to fire broadside. In 1539-40, she was extensively remodelled, as she was the **Mary Rose**, to increase her firepower and manoeuvrability. She appears to have been more of a diplomatic vessel, sailing on occasion with sails of gold cloth.

### **THE SHIELD**

is based on the Erith Borough Council Arms which has been the basis of our group badge for many years.

The three pikes or 'lucies' portray the areas connection with Sir Richard de Luci, Lord of the Manor of Lesness in the 12th Century.

In 1178 he founded Lesness Abbey whose arms are also lucies and afterwards he was Canon regular there.

The fleur-de-lys, also known as the fleur-de-luce, is a further play on the name Luci. The fleur-de-lys in the group Scout Badge has been altered to portray the universal Scout Emblem.

The white horse on a red background is from the arms of Kent County Council. Its position on the shield shows Erith's location in the NW of the county.



**THE SCOUT LOGO** incorporates :

The **2nd Erith Scout Group** the name and number of the group.

The group started in **1910** and is one of the longest continuous running groups of the twentieth century, having been temporarily disbanded only during the war years.

The **Ship** is a stylised portrayal of the **Great Harry** which is our District Badge.

The **Shield** which is our *Group Badge*, is the Erith Borough Council Arms with the fleur-de-lys changed to the *Scout Emblem*.

The Scout Motto is **Be Prepared**.

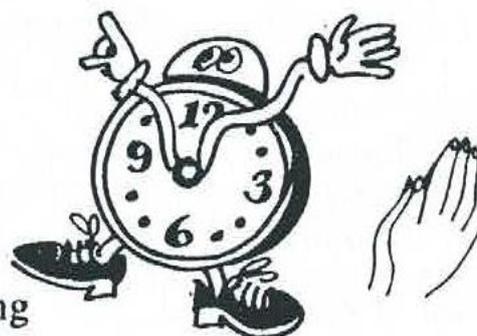
The '2nd Erith Scout Group has a long tradition and is an organisation of which we are justifiably proud.

*Well Done Bill ! And long may ALL the groups continue to flourish.*

**I AM THANKFUL !**

*Author Unknown*

For the mess to clean up after visitors,  
because it means I have been with friends.  
For the taxes I pay because it means I am employed.  
For the clothes that fit a little too snug  
because it means I have more than enough to eat.  
For my shadow who watches me work  
because it means that I am out in the sunshine.  
For the spot at the far end of the car park  
because it means I am capable of walking.  
For all the complaining about our Government  
because it means we have freedom of speech.  
For that lady behind me in church who sings off key  
because it means that I can hear.  
For the piles of laundry and ironing  
because it means my loved ones are nearby.  
For my heating bill  
because it means that I am warm.  
For my weariness at the end of the day  
because it means I have been productive.  
For the alarm that goes off early in the morning  
because it means that I am alive !



## 20. THIS SHOULD MAKE YOU STOP AND THINK !

*May the power of this story reach the depth of your being,  
for change, gratitude and awareness! God's blessings to you.*

*contributed by Pauline Dewberry*

One day, a man went to visit a church.  
He got there early, parked his car, and got out.  
Another car pulled up near and the driver got out  
and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"  
The visitor went inside for Sunday School,  
found an empty seat and sat down.  
A young lady from the church approached him  
and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"  
The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.



After Sunday School the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down.  
Another member walked up to him and said "That's where I always sit!  
You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment,  
but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them,  
the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change.

Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet.

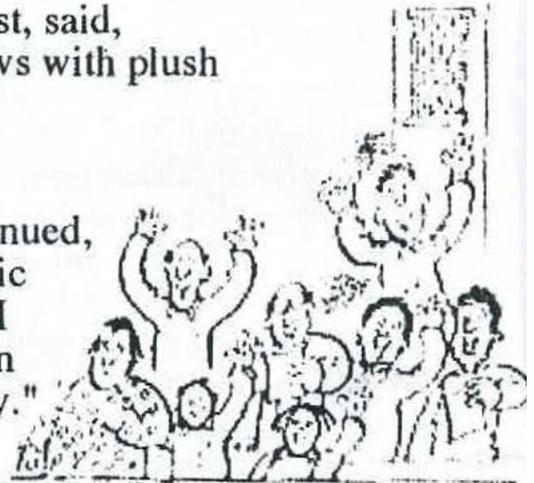
Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out,  
"What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns,  
and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

---

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said,  
"It was a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush  
bucket theatre seats. It worked.  
The front of the church fills first."

The young priest nodded and the old one continued,  
"And you told me a little more beat to the music  
would bring young people back to church, so I  
supported you when you brought in that rock 'n  
roll gospel choir. We are packed to the balcony."



"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest,  
"I am pleased you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"Well," said the elderly priest, "I'm afraid you've gone too far with the  
Drive-Through Confessional."

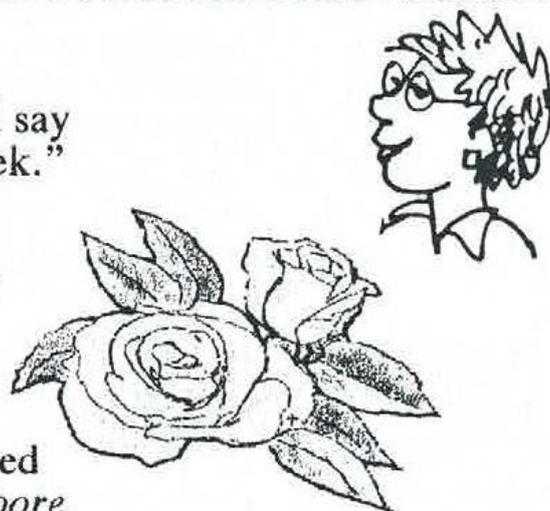
"But Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions have nearly  
doubled since I began that!"

"I know son," replied the old man. "But that flashing neon sign,  
'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell', can't stay on the church roof !"



Thanks to Mikel Rice

LOVE is a smile that lights up the day,  
 the warmth of a kiss on your cheek,  
 The touching of hands when no words need say  
 "I'm the comfort and strength that you seek."  
 Love is a glow that warms from within  
 to cheer you when life gets you down  
 It sustains, it refreshes, it shows you the way  
 To smile where there once was a frown.  
 Love is a phone call, a flower, a card,  
 a kind word, a look, a caress.  
 To know you are needed, cherished and loved  
 Is the meaning of true happiness. *S.Moore*



**ACROSS: ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 8**

|                   |              |               |               |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7 Azerbaijan      | 8 Am         | 9 Christ      | 11 Larger     |
| 12 Golgotha       | 14 Yank      | 15 Levi       | 17 Shadrach   |
| 19 Zaddik         | 20 Samuel    | 21 In         | 22 Centennial |
| <b>DOWN:</b> 1 Uz | 2 Trying     | 3 Oast        | 4 Djellaba    |
| 5 Gnarly          | 6 Tabernacle | 10 Hootenanny | 13 Tashkent   |
| 16 Indict         | 18 Romans    | 20 Shem       | 23 An         |



# ON THE REGISTERS



23.

We extend our Sympathies to the Families of :-

DEC 22 John Charles West Appleton  
Hurst Road, Erith age 78 years

JAN 1 William Augustus Abel Lipscombe  
2004 of Colyers Lane , Erith age 87 years  
Edith Margaret Laurel  
Homeleigh NH, Erith age 87 years



2 Gladys May Heuerman  
Gallions View NH. Thamesmead age 87 years

3 Eva Celia James  
Betsham Road, Erith age 72 years

4 Ivy Jane Snapes  
Ramsden Road, Erith age 78 years

6 Rose Elizabeth Hawkins  
Carlton Road, Erith age 87 years

20 Alan Charles Doye  
Ightham Road, Erith age 76 years

25 Astrid Kathleen Rose (Ann) Colman  
Cheviot Close, Bexletheath age 59 years

FEB 1 Olive Margaret Pride  
Becton Place, Erith age 83 years

++++++  
*Help us, Lord, to have a greater understanding of the grief of others when the ones they love have departed from them. Make us sensitive to their sense of loss and help us to bring your healing into their lives. Through Jesus, your Son, who gave comfort to those he loved even as he was dying on the cross. Amen.*

++++++

**ST PAUL'S FELLOWSHIP TEA. Sunday 14th March and Sunday 4th April at 4. 00pm.** ALL in need of fellowship are most welcome to attend. Do feel free to come along. Newcomers always welcome. The meeting will be followed by an **Informal Evensong in the Lounge at 5. 30pm.** Lifts can be arranged. Please contact David & Marion Farr Tel:- **01322 331525**



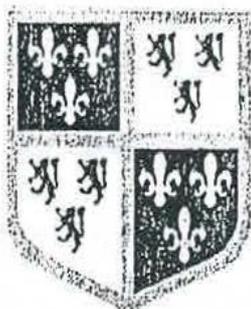


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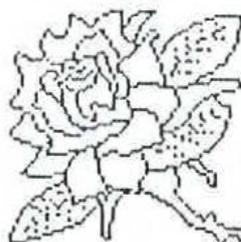
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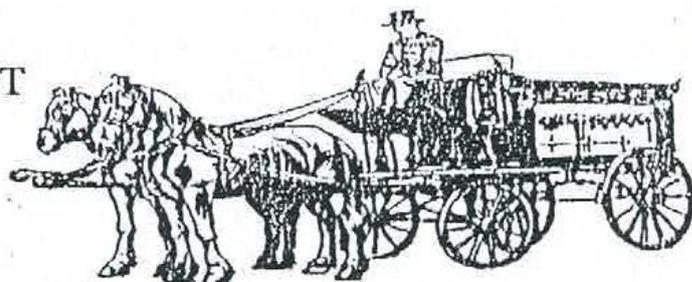


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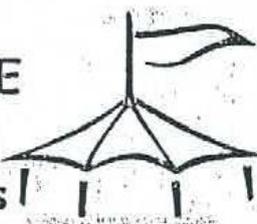


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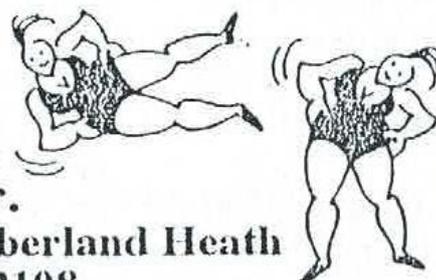
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**26. FRIENDS OF ST. PAUL'S**  
*May the hope and peace of Jesus be yours.*

*from Joan Handy*

The Christmas cards and letters tumbled through the letter box again this year, from many corners of Great Britain and the world. Sometimes the cards had on them loads of robins or carols and nativity scenes. This year it was a message of peace. Here is a selection from this year's letters.



**Jack & Ruth McGinley** say that they are enjoying their first full year of retirement, visiting friends and family and introducing grand children to the delights of Norfolk beaches.

**David Bengough** who is (perhaps our oldest friend) and is living in a home near his niece in Wales - Jenny writes that uncle is keeping quite well and is very happy and contented in the lovely home - we see him all the time and he will spend Christmas with us.

Now a message from **Malawi from the Rev'd Michael Gibbs.** Michael calls St Paul's his nursery church. The Gibbs family left Rydal Drive with their young family to go to South Africa. Michael and Brian his brother were choir boys at the time and have fond memories of the time spent here at St Paul's. Whilst in South Africa Michael became a non stipendiary priest and has worked in Malawi for a long time. He and his wife are now retiring and hope to be back in England this year and I am hoping they may pay us a visit in the near future.

**Robin and Eileen Balch** Send their best wishes to everyone, Jenny has had a little girl Rebecca Ruth at the end of January so making them grand parents again and they seem very busy - Eileen has had one of her own poems published in a book "Bright Voices" following a national competition, so our congratulations to them all.

**Rev'd Robert & Mrs Goldspink** The saddest news was that Bob had died on New Years Day, I have lovely memories of them, Bob prepared me for confirmation (Ron also) and I still have the little book that had been given to me at that time. At that time Youth Club was very important to me in my teenage years - and we had wonderful Houseparties in the Lake District - Wales - where we learnt a great deal about our faith - which has always held me in good stead and I have a great deal to thank God for.

**Jean & Bruce Martyn** are from Papatoetoe, New Zealand and send their best wishes, no doubt we will hear more about them from Jane when she returns, as she is hoping to pay them a visit on her holiday.  
*See Page 14/15 !!*

**REMINDER of HOME GROUPS    ALL ARE WELCOME**

**27.**

**PLEASE NOTE: SOME VENUES MAY CHANGE OVER LENT**

|                         |          |                       |              |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b><u>MONDAY</u></b>    | 2 - 3.30 | 25, Cavendish Avenue  | 01322 434230 |
|                         | 8 - 9.30 | 82 Bedonwell Road     | 01322 430345 |
|                         | 8 - 9.30 | 39 Swanton Road       | 01322 434790 |
| <b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>   | 1.30 - 3 | 9 Cavendish Avenue    | 01322 433724 |
| <b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b> | 8 - 9.30 | 25 Barnehurst Avenue  | 01322 330265 |
|                         | 8 - 9.30 | 45 Ramsden Road       | 01322 405914 |
| <b><u>THURSDAY</u></b>  | 8 - 9.30 | 55 Northumberland Way | 01322 339980 |
| <b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>    | 2 - 3.30 | 168 Brook Street      | 01322 430372 |

*You are most welcome to join any group but PHONE first as some groups meet irregularly*

**PICKING UP THE PIECES**

*St Paul's Bereavement*

~~~~~ INVITE YOU to join them ~~~~~  
Support Group
in the Church Lounge on the **2nd Friday** of the month at **12.30pm** when Lunch will be supplied. *It is our prayer and wish that no one grieves alone.*
David & Marion Farr 01322 331525: Church Office 01322 336505

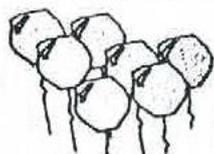
ST PAUL'S CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE (24 Hour Answer

Phone): For an appointment or information please 'phone **Church Office 01322 336505** on Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9.30 am - 1pm.

Please remember our counselling team of Dorothy Merrifield, Brenda Leith & Ingrid Walsh in your prayers as they continue to serve in this work. And also they are involved in further studies and training as part of the service.

ST PAUL'S PRAYER CHAIN Please feel free to use the Prayer Chain in absolute confidence. First contact Dorothy Merrifield on **01322 347254**.

DON'T FORGET: SPARE BIBLES: CLEARLY LABELLED will be collected from church by **JOAN DOW** from St Paul's **01322 432978**



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A PROMISE or a THREAT ?! No Finance Report this month, but Mike Stean promises us a **BIG FULL REPORT** next month! So Keep Giving !!

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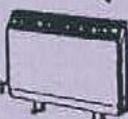
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PRIVATE
CHAPELS
OF REST

*We are a long established, local family
business - offering a professional,
caring service.*

We are agents for Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans.

WELLING
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Tel. 0208 303
1476/9973

CRAYFORD
21 HIGH STREET
Tel. 01322
552738

MEMORIAL MASONS
BROCHURES & ESTIMATES
ON REQUEST

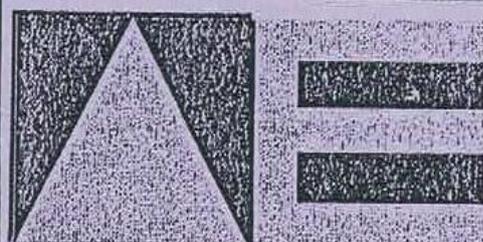
Nail Extensions

By Dawne

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Qualified Nail Technician



*Caring for
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matters*

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FANCY DRESS for
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Group Discount
Costumes Cleaned
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Accessories for Sale

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1 Belmont Road, Erith.
TEL: 01322 336443



Because we're
local **We**
understand
the needs of
local people.

At Co-operative Funeral Service our emphasis is on understanding. The very nature and origins of the Co-operative Movement is one of involvement in local communities.

It is through being part of the local community that we have come to understand your needs and to design our services to meet those needs exactly.

- Professional and sympathetic staff
- 24 hour service
- Funeral Bonds available

For a Bond Information Pack simply call into the branch below or call us free on 0800 289 120.



We understand

7 Station Parade, Station Rd, Sidcup Tel: 0208 300 1389
299 The Broadway, Bexleyheath. Tel: 0208 303 1856
202 Bexley Road, Erith. Tel: 01322 332925



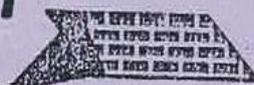
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