

## Ploughshare October/November 1997 (scanned version from the original)

### From the Rector

She was only 36. She had championed famously the victims of AIDS, leprosy, and landmines. Her face was probably the most recognizable in the world and now it will "dazzle for decades like Marilyn Monroe's, and never grow old."

I write after the amazing, heart-rending funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. It was ironically the moment she had longed for, her Coronation as "Queen of people's hearts." 'The nation has been touched deeply by this remarkable, beautiful and compassionate woman, described tellingly as a combination of Cindy Crawford and Mother Teresa. The tragedy -and she is surely a genuinely tragic figure -of her death has been hard to take in.

By the time this is read, three or more weeks after being written, millions more words will have been written, further revelations may have been made and our perspective will be more realistic. Just now, various simple thoughts occur to me.

- ◆ I wish we could learn to express our love and gratitude to people during their life-time, rather than saving it for when they die. Diana almost certainly had no idea how much she was loved.
- ◆ How often we want to have our cake and eat it. The unhappy Princess hated the world's intrusive telephoto lenses yet she loved them. She was hounded by them and yet she used them to outflank her former husband. Without them she wouldn't have been such a star. It is a difficult balance and the debate about the right boundaries for the media is an important one.
- ◆ Death can strike at any time, often when least expected. The only way to be ready is to be on good terms with our God. He is constantly available, beckoning us to come to Him. *"Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation"* (2 Corinthians 6:2)

**Christopher Frith**

### CYFA at Camp

Quite a few people from the CYFA group attended centrally organised ventures across the country this summer.

Last summer Philip Goodacre and myself went to a venture holiday held at a boarding school in Sparkford, Somerset. This year, however, our contingent has swelled three-fold, with Dan Frith, Nick Travis, Ben Marshall and Alastair Gordon accompanying us on our return visit. Pete Wilkinson also came as a leader.

The busy programme consisted of teaching, eating, sleeping, freetime and many and varied activities.

The theme was the Wild West, and there were several events which reflected this, such as the Barn Dance and the wide game on the penultimate day.

The teaching consisted of discussion and reflection in our dormitory groups in the morning. In the evening there was a main meeting with worship, drama and teaching. We all thoroughly enjoyed our time there. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends and get away from it all for a while. I'm sure some of us will return next year.

## Face to Face with Sarah Frith

*Sarah left school after her A levels this summer. She is a member of CYFA.*

### **Sarah, you are taking a year out before you go to university. What are you going to do?**

I'm going to a remote part of North Cameroon in West Africa for 6 months. I shall be staying with a Missionary family, the Kinnairds, who serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators. My job will be to teach the three children aged 12, 9 and 6, using a home education programme. This should enable their mother to play a full part in the work.

### **What are they doing in Cameroon?**

For the last four years or so Willie and Anntrkka have been thoroughly learning the language spoken by local people and now they are starting to translate the New Testament so that people will be able to hear the Word of God in their mother tongue.

### **Doesn't everybody speak French in Cameroon?**

I gather that only men and children do. Women didn't used to go to school. French is the official language, though, and the nearest to a common one.

### **How are you feeling about it?**

OK I'm quite looking forward to it but a bit apprehensive. I'm not enjoying all the injections! People tell me that Willie and Annukka are a really nice couple and I'm looking forward to being with them and their children.

### **What do you hope to gain?**

Experience, mainly. I hope to broaden my horizons and become more fluent and confident in French, as well as being able to serve others.

### **Would you like people to pray for you?**

Oh, that would be nice. That I won't be lonely, I'll be protected from illness and things and kept safe. Also that I'll be able to cope well with all three children, with such a wide range of ability.

### **What will you do when you return?**

I'm going to be a Eurocamp courier for people holidaying in France and then I have a place to read haw with French at Birmingham University.

## St Thomas' Beach Party

On September 3rd approximately 100 passengers gathered at rainy Brampton airport for a flight to the sun with Galilee Tours. They were accompanied by close relatives who said their farewells in the departure lounge.

To ensure that everyone was seated in the aircraft they were warmly greeted by Captain Andy and then Flight Engineer Pete went through the flight routine. Seat belts were fastened, the engines changed from a hum to a roar and we were away. This was no ordinary flight however: this one had altitude, I mean attitude -it was a flight into faith.

Once we had settled into level flight at 28,000 feet Chief Courier Karen taught us a new song accompanied by the youth band. The message about trusting Jesus if you feel you are sinking was very reassuring to those who were a bit nervous about flying!

After a safe landing in sunny Galilee the holiday activities began. Any ideas that this was going to be a lazy time on the beach were soon dispelled. On this holiday things happened. Such interesting and creative things they were too and all of them related in some way to the sea or water.

Perhaps we should look in more detail at some of the ways in which the different groups passed their time.

**CRABS**, for example, made a super picture of a boat then for relaxation, they all went for a swim.

**OCTOPUSES** were busy making a lot of lovely flags with palm tree scenes to remind them of their time in Galilee.

In another location it was storytime for **STARFISH** with Auntie Sheila ably assisted in some follow-up work by Kate and Natalie.

**SEAHORSES** were also doing flags, two dimensional ones flat is, with fish and inspiring messages.

At the Storrs Road beach resort a well organised group of **FISHES** were building cardboard boats. Would you go to sea in a cardboard boat? Er, well. Perhaps it would take a lot of faith.

In another part of this resort **SHELLS** produced wonderful see-through pictures of a seascape.

For their take home souvenir, **ANCHORS** each decorated a mug with a sea scene. An ideal reminder on dull winter days of sunny days by the

Before leaving for the flight home everyone gathered at the main resort with Captain Andy, who was stood close by the shore in a boat. It was a real boat with a sail on which was written the message **Trust God and Obey Him**. Then it was back to the aircraft with more singing and playing from the excellent youth band.

Our flight home seemed to take hardly any time at all and, on arrival, there were welcoming groups of parents and friends to greet everyone on our return.

**Glyn Botham**

## Welcome David and Nanette

We are delighted that two Church Army workers have joined St Thomas'. Sister Nanette and Captain David Sanderson have moved from Sheffield.

Nanette has been an evangelist on the Manor estate in Sheffield and has now retired.

David is to retire in March next year: he has been serving as the national Church Army Decade of Evangelism Officer.

It will be great to have them with us.

## Church Cricket Match

Rector's XI won by 5 runs

While Geoffrey Boycott was on his way to inspect the wicket at Headingley, the annual cricket match was taking place at Somersall Park between the rector's and curate's elevens. Rain had prevented play the previous month but July 23rd saw a close fought contest, with several father v son matters of pride at stake. Having won the toss, the Curates XI elected to field first.

After an early collapse -Gratton taking 3 wickets in one over -the rector's men made slow if steady progress, with notable performances from the lower order batsmen. A Travis retired injured from the field after diving to not quite catch his son (who, incidentally, reciprocated rather more successfully in the next innings.) The eventual total of 77 all out off 18.3 overs looked a reasonable target.

However the Curate's men also had a slow start, facing some formidable bowling, which was enough to stretch any wicket keeper. The stalwart middle order steadily built up the runs. As the light faded and the umpires warned against bouncers, it looked as though the Curate's men would cruise home. A late middle order collapse produced the most nail biting finish in years, with the Curates batting together, last men in, needing 5 runs to win from 4 overs. The younger one, having earlier hit a huge six, was clean bowled by Underwood and the Rector's team celebrated a rare victory.

The crowd enjoyed many impressive debut performances in this match but the Charlie Brassington memorial award went for the third successive year to Matthew Gratton.

Rumour has it that the curates may be challenging a rather different match: anyone for hockey?

## **The 9.09 Camping Weekend at Birchover**

Wouldn't it be fun if we went camping in Derbyshire for a weekend? So spies were sent out to go and look over the land -er no, campsites. They returned and reported (it was overflowing with milk and bunnies) and we decided that we'd go to Birchover.

Friday 18th July found tents being pitched in the field at Barn Farm, with a few more being added on Saturday. In all 28 adults and 25 children (from 14 weeks old to a 16 year old celebrating his birthday that weekend) camped out, and we had a few day visitors including Sheila Pite (as was), who was a lovely and welcome surprise.

We shared everything over the weekend -from teaspoons to tents and cooked communally. A highly efficient mess tent produced breakfast (with a novel form of toasting bread on a gas ring), barbecues, bolognaise and regular brew ups for 50 plus. Special thanks are due to the Calow family for organising the mess tent and to Angie and Dave Fookes for organising almost everything else.

On Sunday morning we had an informal time of worship together (a bit later than 9.09). Everybody said "Thank you Jesus" for superb weather, wonderful views, cooling icecreams from the village shop, for a special time of fellowship and enjoying being part of the Christian family together, but more particularly that Jesus made it all possible.

## **Wednesday Lunch Plus**

An exciting new venture in the life of our Parish is to be launched shortly under the above title.

Some of those attending the daytime Alpha Course this summer, identified a need for further Christian fellowship during the day, including people from outside the local congregations. This has led to a small group planning a monthly get-together which will start with a nice lunch and be followed by a guest speaker or suitable entertainment.

Tickets at £2.50 each will be sold in all our three churches and from the Church office.

Wednesday Lunch Plus' will take place at St John's Church Centre on the second Wednesday of each month with lunch at 12.30pm. It is planned to finish with tea or coffee at 3p.m.

Be sure to put into your diary the first of what we hope will be many Wednesday lunches, starting November 12th 1997 when the lunch will be followed by 'Songs from Yesteryear' with Andrew Lockwood.

## **Operation Christmas Child 1997**

### **Chesterfield**

Arrangements for our local campaign are now well under way. This year we hope to have a more comprehensive network of collection points, thanks to Yeomans Army stores and look forward to having the assistance of Chesterfield Football Club in launching the campaign in the local media. We still have to find a warehouse and vehicles so please can you remember our search in your prayers.

There will be a volunteers launch meeting on 13 October, 7.30pm, at St John's Church Centre, to which all are invited. The local campaign will run from 20 October to 10 November 1997.

### **A Million Shoe Box Gifts**

Operation Christmas Child -the well known "Shoe-box" campaign organised by Samaritan's Purse is again being launched in 1997.

Last year over 1,000,000 shoe box gifts were distributed world wide, of which over 200,000 were sent from the U.K. and over 15,000 from our Chesterfield warehouse. The shoe boxes were filled with gifts for the children in 36 countries, including those sent from the local warehouse to Serbia, Annenia and Hungary.

The Chesterfield Group are now ready to help Samaritan's Purse achieve this year's Operation Christmas Child U.K. target of 300,000 shoe box gifts. **All we need now is your help!**