



The
magazine
of the
parish
of

St. Thomas
Brampton

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FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

There will be a BRING-AND-BUY PLANT SALE on SATURDAY, APRIL 11th at St. Thomas' Church, from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon. Please come along and bring any of your spare plants whether fruit, flower or vegetable. Proceeds will be towards buying special flowers for the Festival in 1982.



ActionAid

St Thomas' initiate new scheme with volunteer

"They are such a long way from here there's so little we can do" and "We don't know what happens to the money anyway" are two very understandable comments made when people are asked to contribute to work in countries where hunger and poverty are primary factors. Most charities however do ensure that the money given does reach those people who need it. In some cases too, contributors can keep in regular contact with a particular volunteer and sponsor him or her in a specific project.

A group at St. Thomas' has committed itself to make regular contributions to a bank account from which money will be sent periodically to an Action Aid volunteer at work, possible in Kenya. He or she will be helping the people there to get the most from their environment, and will keep in touch with the sponsoring group so that we know how the money is being used, and how the project is succeeding. We are still very much in the early stages of this venture but all contributions would be welcome! David Oldale (72333) has details of the bank account.

Good News

Gloom and doom being the order of the day from the National press, radio and television, it is comforting to find a little light relief, sometimes even good news in the local press. For instance, Bolsover District Council Finance Committee has made a grant of £150, an increase of £50 over last year's grant, to Chesterfield and N.E. Derbyshire refugees operated by Chesterfield and District Women's Aid. 20 women and 33 children from the Bolsover area are being helped by the organisation.

Another gift, this time £500,000 from the Greater London Council to the Salvation Army is to help renovate their hostels. The two organisations provide shelter for some 8,500 people every night, 2,500 of them in London.

And Mr. David Stott, a senior engineer with Tameside council highways dept. Greater Manchester, has been given three months leave to help war refugees in Somalia under a "save the children" scheme. At Borama in the Djibouti region he will help in the provision of housing and water supplies for 75,000 people.

Finally, on a lighter note, when the Prince of Wales visited Derby recently, his visit was summed up by one Rastafarian West Indian when he said, "Man he's O.K."



Roundabout

JOHN SADLER

The Rev. John Sadler has been appointed to the Caludon Team Ministry in Coventry. John has been curate in St. Thomas' parish, Brampton since his ordination as deacon in June 1978. John and his wife Judith and their infant son, William, plan to move to Coventry in early June. It is expected that Whitsunday, June 7th, will be John's final Sunday in this parish. A valedictory social is planned for Friday, 4th June.

EASTER HIKE

The parish hike on Easter Monday has now become a popular event, this year another family ramble is planned. The route will be interesting but not too demanding for those unused to country walking. Meet at St. Thomas' Church at 10 a.m. for a 10.15 a.m. departure.

NEW PROVOST

The new Provost of Derby Cathedral, the Rev. Benjamin Hugh Lewers, is to be installed on May 6th. A provost is the 'Vicar of the Cathedral' - in most cathedrals he would be known as the Dean. Mr. Lewers, who is at present Vicar of Newark-on-Trent, succeeds the Very Rev. Ronald Beddoes, who retired recently and is now priest-in-charge at Edensor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COFFEE MORNING

Parents of Sunday School children and other parishioners are invited to a coffee morning in St. Thomas' meeting room on Saturday 25th April from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. The proceeds of this event will help to defray the cost of prizes and other equipment. Some of the children's work will be on show.

FROM THE EDITOR

A look at recent notice sheets, distributed weekly in our churches, revealed a multitude of events, meetings of P.C.C. committees, courses, services. Certainly there is a lot going on, and presumably people attend and things happen. I say 'presumably' because nobody tells me anything. A recent complaint from a Spearhead reader accuses the magazine of failing to be a 'community' magazine because there is no news of outside happenings.

If the editor does not know of them, he can't print them, so come on you compilers and roving reporters, please tell me. News from other churches in our area would be particularly welcome. My name is Doug Inger and I live at 132 Foljambe Avenue, Walton, telephone number 35720.

LAY READER

Mrs. Gill Watts-Jones, wife of the Rector of St. Thomas', will be licensed by the Bishop as Reader on Saturday, 6th June in Derby Cathedral. Gill has been training for ministry through the East Midlands Training Course in which men and women from a wide variety of secular occupations train to be priests or lay workers. After her licensing Gill will be authorized to do much of the work normally done by clergy.



Happy
Easter

HEALTH

Continued

So where does that leave us? Perhaps one way of pulling together the various ideas is to define health, this state of well-being and human wholeness, as "a state in which we are richly and satisfyingly ourselves;" a definition which allows for a static and a dynamic dimension, and also a definition that means that a man with only one leg, or a woman who has recently lost a child still has the potential of reaching full health.

But also, the definition can take into account the three different aspects of health that were in the original W.H.O. definition: the physical, the mental and the social - all of which cannot be considered on their own but are inextricably connected. For complete health, all the different aspects have to work together in harmony: Mental or social disease, for example, whether its guilt or stress or fear or antisocial behaviour can lead to physical dis-ease - so that, in ministering to the sick, we can't ever just minister to the physical or the mental or the social alone.

But there is one other aspect of health that the W.H.O. definition leaves out, and that is the Spiritual aspect, which I consider to be the most important of all, and perhaps the key to all the dis-ease in the other aspects of health: It's an aspect or dimension which takes into account the importance of love .. or in Christian terms, the existence of a creator God who is all love. Now I guess it's an indisputable fact that love is the most healing of all agencies. If people know that they are loved - that they are accepted and needed just as they are - then new meaning is given to life, and suddenly they realize that they are valued, they are O.K., and they don't have to look down on themselves. Then they can have self-esteem because they are loved, whether they know it or not, with a love that surrounds them closer than the air that surrounds their bodies; a love which Christians would define as God's love, but which others may define as the love of individuals or of the local community who are concerned and care.

With this in mind, then, we could take the last definition of health that I gave, but add to it. So that now we could perhaps say that health is "the state of recognizing that we are loved, that we are O.K., so that, within this love and acceptance we can be free and interdependent, and so be richly and satisfyingly ourselves both physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

But the problem is that this is not what everyone wants: Not everyone wants to be whole; not everyone wants to be in a state of well-being or health, for ill-health has its own security. A state of health, a state of well-being you see, leads paradoxically to suffering! The more whole we are, the more capable we are of suffering.

A very simple example would be of someone who was deaf suddenly getting his hearing back again; its only then that he can suffer from non-sleep because the road drill has been drilling outside the bedroom window all night! Health brings inevitable responsibilities, for in a state of complete health our thoughts turn away from thinking about ourselves and so are directed towards others; we would find ourselves having to take the risks of love and all the responsibilities that that would entail! Ill health certainly has its compensations, and perhaps it is not surprising that many like to stay in its dependence on others, in its dependence on "religion" or on "medicine" as a comfort blanket. Or perhaps the purveyors of religion or medicine like to encourage this dependence for their own justification. But then, I guess it is only in full health, by taking the risk of suffering, or in Christian terms, taking the way of the Cross, that we can really begin to experience Life!

John Sadler

Curate at St. Thomas'

UNEMPLOYMENT

A vigil of concern

Unemployment is an ugly thing: all are in agreement about that. But there are many conflicting opinions about the causes of the present situation, and many different ideas about possible remedies. It is important, however, not to oversimplify the problem. There are good reasons for thinking that the present high unemployment figures are not entirely a consequence of the recession, but that we are faced with a long term problem. 'Unemployment' on a large scale may from now on be a permanent feature of our society. This raises enormous questions; for example, should boys and girls be prepared at school for the kind of life they may never lead? Will most people be employed for only a short period of their lives?

Perhaps the most important question of all, should we drop the words employment and unemployment from the language? Should we move away from the present consensus that to be 'unemployed' is to be a second-class citizen? Can we move instead to a new concept of work - seen as the contribution which each of us can make to the community? Some of this work might be paid, as at present. But much of it might be community service, or the practice and enjoyment of art. Who would pay people doing this kind of work?

These, and other such questions, raise deep theological issues - about the nature of man, the nature of community, the nature of work. Is work a curse? Or is it

necessary to our well-being? (Both strands appear in the Bible). Are we ultimately made for work or for rest? The present crisis of unemployment which can be a human disaster for those involved, might at the same time be an opportunity to open up a new vision of man and community.

The Church has a contribution to make here, helping people to meet and talk together, to think deeply, to overcome their fear of change, and to come alive to new truth and to a new order.

We are also faced with a short term and immediate problem. Human beings are feeling themselves personally devalued, and at the same time faced with enormous economic and family social problems.

It is to show concern and support that the Church in Derbyshire is planning All-Night Vigils of Prayer over Sunday-Monday May 3-4. In the Chesterfield-Staveley area we have arranged our Vigil to take place in St. Peter's Church, Calow, beginning with an act of worship at 8.00 p.m. The Vigil will continue throughout the night in one hour periods, and each parish in our two Deaneries is asked to cover one of these periods.

The Vigil will end on the Monday morning with a Eucharist at 8.00 a.m.

St. Thomas' parish will cover the 5 am - 6 am shift on the Monday morning. There will be an opportunity at each of our churches for members to volunteer to take part.

FROM THE RECTORY



"Now listen to me, you that say, 'Today or tomorrow we will travel to a certain city where we will stay a year and go into business and make a lot of money'. You don't even know what your life tomorrow will be! . . . What you should say is, 'If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that'."

Good, pious, old-fashioned stuff, that quote from the epistle of St. James: but hardly in keeping with the mood of twentieth century man. In time past no God-fearing person would presume to write about his plans for the future without obeying the biblical conjunction literally by adding the qualification "d. v." - deo volente, God willing: to do so would be to tempt providence. Anyone who follows this practice today risks being thought a sanctimonious ass. Yet there comes a time for most of us when we find ourselves abruptly confronted by the stark reality of the truth which James was impressing on his readers: that we are not quite so much in control of our lives as we like to think.

My moment of truth came recently. One day I was the busy parish clergyman, who enjoys perfect health, with exciting plans for the time ahead. The next day I found myself unceremoniously bundled into hospital, into the very ward I had seen parishioners suffer and die. There, with devastating swiftness, I was bedded down, plumbbed in, and wired up to the electronic apparatus which gives a TV picture of how the heart is functioning. The general idea, it appears, is that the heart should continue to beat - and keep nice time, to boot. If the picture on the telly degenerates into a straight line the alarm is given and the whole place erupts into a fury of disciplined activity as the combined energy and skills of all doctors and nurses within range are concentrated on saving a life. I know, because it happened while I was there - not to me, I rejoice to say, but to another patient. In this case the efforts of the staff were in vain; and one of the medical staff had the sad duty of breaking the news to the relatives waiting in the hall for visiting time.

I myself was duly assured that there had been no heart-attack - only something called angina, which appears to be rather like what happens to the car when the carburettor has a clogged main-jet: Not enough juice can get through to provide the power needed. An inconvenience: but not necessarily a disability. So it looks as though the good folk of St. Thomas' parish will be saddled with me for a little while longer. The chap who has declared his intention not to come back to Church while I am Rector will be disappointed; but the large number of messages of good will encourages me to think that there are many who will be content enough. My heart-felt thanks to all our readers for their prayers and good wishes.

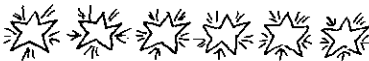
As I was trundled in a wheelchair out into a snowstorm to go to X-ray, I was reminded that Chesterfield Royal Hospital is tatty, antiquated and inconvenient for the staff, who surely can't wait to get into the new buildings at Hady. And that led me to reflect on the affluence which we now take for granted as we fulminate against anything which may be regarded as diminishing our 'standard of living'. There are many countries in the world where the best medical attention available to most of the population consists of a few sheds with mud floors, where one doctor assisted by a couple of half-trained orderlies minister as best they can to the needs of those patients who have managed to survive the 50-mile journey on foot.

After leaving the heart unit I was transferred to a single ward. It had two windows, one looked out at the College of Further Education, the other overlooked the mortuary. I could look in one direction and contemplate the hive of activity at the tech: layer upon layer of cells, lecture rooms where young people were preparing themselves for a career, their lives ahead of them. Or I could gaze through the other window and consider the mortuary with its store of lifeless corpses; and from time to time the rattle of the trolley would announce another customer for the cold store. So nicely poised between life's beginning and its end, I was ideally placed to reflect on my own. And that is the great opportunity of an enforced stay in hospital: it concentrates the mind wonderfully, enabling the patient to get life into perspective: to desist from the proud and futile business of worrying about the future (which is beyond his grasp) and the past (which is unalterable) and to live in the only time where the opportunity for choice exists - the present moment.

Living is a matter of becoming one's true self in the present moment: of responding to the voice of God as he speaks to me through the circumstances of each successive now. For there is no doubt that he is speaking, and speaking word of love. The central truth of the Christian faith is the cross and resurrection word of Jesus: that event which demonstrates once and for all that God is Master of every situation, and that he speaks through every situation. Probably the greatest step forward which anyone takes in the life of faith comes when he begins to grasp that everything that happens to him becomes the will of God for him if he can accept it as such. The abandonment to the divine providence (to use the phrase of the 18th century spiritual teacher de Caussade) makes every successive present moment a sacrament in which God gives himself to us in love.

And what was God saying to me? That is something which I may be able to interpret to others in the course of time, when I have understood the message more clearly and done my best to obey. Certainly, something about priorities: priorities of living - being is more important than doing; priorities in my daily programme - time must be made for leisure and reading, and of course for prayer; priorities in ministry - there must be the wisdom to distinguish the important from the unimportant things, and the courage sometimes to refuse to fulfil people's expectations and demands.

Vyvyan Watts-Jones



JESUS CHOSE impetuous Peter, blustering James and John, dour, pessimistic Thomas, traitorous tax collectors Matthew and Zacchaeus, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed Him.





COMPOSE AN ANTHEM

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the parish, St. Thomas' Church is sponsoring a competition for the best short anthem (2 to 4 minutes) suitable for use at the Parish Communion or Evensong, to be sung by a choir of moderate ability, either accompanied or unaccompanied. The words may be original or received, but must be appropriate in content and literary quality. The adjudicator will be Mr. F.M. Laming, B.Mus., ARCM, who was lecturer in music at Nottingham University until his retirement. A prize of £50 is offered for the best anthem submitted. Should no entry reach an adequate standard, the prize money may be withheld. Entries should be sent to John Badger, 97 Moorland View Road, Chesterfield S40 3DD by 30th May.

CHOIR NOTES

NEW RECRUITS

For many years St. Thomas' Choir has maintained the strong tradition of being an all-male choir.

This tradition was broken on Sunday March 8th when five local girls were formally admitted to the choir and each was presented with an admission card and surplice.

It is sad to relate the difficulties encountered nowadays on recruitment of choristers and it was because of the gradual decline in numbers of boys entering this worthy cause that the decision was made to go "mixed". The Choirmaster would also be pleased to meet any tenor or bass singers who would like to join the choir.

SPONSORED SING

On Saturday afternoon January 24th, the whole choir joined together for a 'Sponsored Sing' - a fund-raising event whereby each member endeavoured for someone to sponsor him to sing up to fifty well-known hymns. Thanks go to members of the congregation, families and friends of the choir who helped raise a magnificent sum of £300 for choir funds.

These funds enable the choir to purchase its own robes (at approx. £35 per set!) and music, thus allowing the church's main funds to be spent in other directions.

A.B. Birkin



PAY RISE FOR CLERGY

Vicars are about to get a rise ... well, they hope so, anyway. At present they are being paid £81 per week in Derby diocese, and it is planned to increase their salary to £104 a week this month. But in making this announcement the diocesan board of finance is taking a big risk, because it can't pay out the money if it doesn't come in. Unlike a secular business the Church can't meet a pay claim by putting up its charges to customers. The customers please themselves what they give. What does the Diocesan finance board do if it gives the clergy a rise, and then the churchgoers don't give the money needed? Now, that's a very good question ...

RECIPES for Derbyshire Housewives



LEMON MERINGUE DELIGHT

1 pt. milk
2 oz. pudding rice
2 egg yolks
3 oz. caster sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Meringue topping: 2 egg whites
3 oz. caster sugar

Cherries and angelica to decorate if liked.

Bring milk to boil and stir in rice. Simmer gently, stirring occasionally, for 25 minutes or until rice is soft. Beat egg yolks, sugar and lemon juice together. When rice is cooked stir in egg mixture and cook for one minute. Remove from heat and pour into greased ovenproof dish. Beat egg whites until stiff, beat in half the sugar and fold in remainder. Pile meringue over pudding and decorate with cherries and angelica. Bake on the middle shelf of pre-heated oven, 200°C of Gas no. 6 for 5 minutes until golden brown. Serve immediately.

CONFIRMATION

There will be a service of Confirmation at St. Thomas' Church on Sunday, May 10th, in the context of the Parish Communion. Bishop Tom Parfitt, the assistant bishop who until recently was Vicar of Matlock, will officiate. It is expected that about 15 adults and young people from our three churches will be presented for Confirmation.

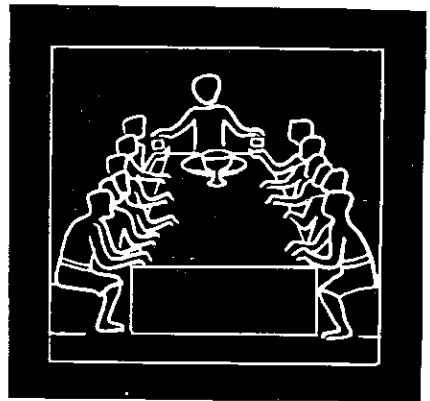
ANNUAL MEETINGS

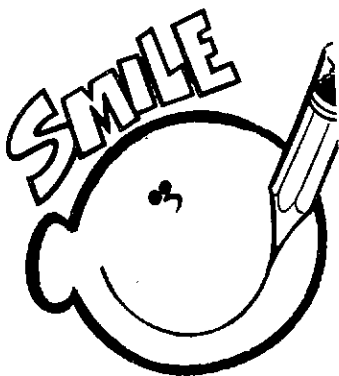
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Monday 6th April at 7.30 p.m. in St. Thomas' meeting room.

Easter

In one way everything has been changed. The resurrection has taken place; Jesus has been vindicated, and the decisive battle between the forces of good and evil has been won. But the victory is still a hidden reality, evident to the eyes of faith alone. The world, as even the Christian sees it, is still a place of intense conflict, in which the powers of evil are still immensely strong. To accept the call of Christ commits man to living in the world, but in uncompromising loyalty to the good as he has seen it in Christ, and in persistent hostility to all those disorders in men and in society which led to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

— STEPHEN NEILL





OVERHEARD

“Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, it is not difficult.”

I JUST HAD TO GET AWAY

Excuse me for talking to You from the bathroom God, but I've locked myself in here.

I need to escape for a while from the noise and demands of my little children. Usually I can take their noise, but it's getting to me today; I had to delay before I exploded . . .

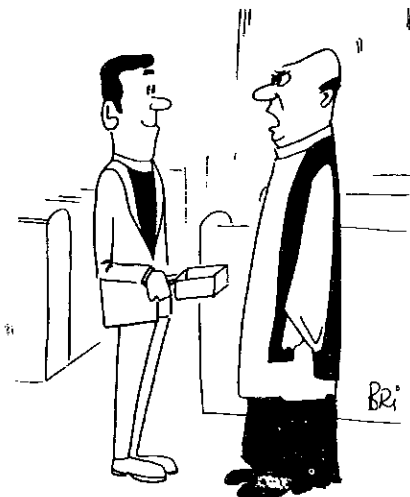
How wonderful it is to be by myself. Beautiful, beautiful quietness. Peace. Be Still. Well, they have tracked me down again. It doesn't matter, for I feel renewed. Thank You for the miracle of silence. But turn up the volume on Your still small voice. I'm moving back into my noisy world.

Daughter: “Why does Daddy say a prayer before he preaches his sermon?”
Mother: “He asks God to help him.”
Daughter: (after a pause) “Why doesn't God help him?”

X-CERTIFICATE SERMON

How to rate a sermon: G: Generally acceptable to everyone; G.P.: For more mature congregations, prepared for change; R: Restricted to those not upset by truth; X: Limited to those who can handle explosive ideas. This is the kind of sermon that landed Jeremiah in a well, got Amos run out of town, and set things up for the stoning of Stephen.

— R.N.S.



“And stop referring to the collection as a whip round!”

Womens' World Day of Prayer



It is perhaps significant of the change now apparent in the attitude of the Established Church that for the first time in its history the service for the Women's World Day of Prayer was conducted solely by women in St. Thomas' Church on 6th March. Gill Watts-Jones, wife of the Rector of St. Thomas' led the service, and Sylvia Scott, wife of the Rev. Kenneth Scott, gave the address. Gill Watts-Jones is nearing completion of a 3-year Ordination Course with the East Midland Ordination Board, at the end of which she will become a Lay Reader and possibly a Lady Worker in the church. Sylvia Scott was admitted to the Office of Reader in June 1980.

In addition, there was singing from the St. Thomas' Group and Yvonne O'Donnell, and various reading from the Bible using the theme of the service, "The Earth is the Lord's".

The service for the Women's World Day of Prayer for 1981 was prepared by Christian American Indian Women representing Indian tribes from throughout the United States of America. They work in their homes, communities and churches and some at the national level of American Indian affairs. Their reverence for nature and feeling of kinship with all creatures of the earth enable them to teach us how to live in harmony with our world.



In her address, Sylvia Scott emphasized that the Earth is the Lord's and that man is fast destroying His world by greed, selfishness and thoughtlessness in exploiting nature. She showed that in years past man had exploited the earth for survival and nothing was wasted, everything being returned to the earth where possible. Now there is waste, and time is running out.

During the last war when rationing made us accept little, to defeat the common enemy. We were happier than now, when we feel we must have everything we want because values have been spoilt. This desire to possess so much is often the cause of mental stress. Even unemployment can be a blessing in disguise for those nearing the end of their working life, especially for those who are in great stress to hold down a job.

The final prayer of the service, a Navaho blessing, has much to say to us all

Creator God,
With your feet I walk,
I walk with your limbs,
I carry forth your body,
For me your mind thinks,
Your voice speaks for me.
Beauty is before me
And beauty is behind me,
Above and below me hovers the
beautiful,

I am surrounded by it,
I am immersed in it.
In my youth I am aware of it,
And in my old age
I shall walk quietly
The beautiful trail.

IN YOUR GARDEN



The popularity of herbs, now used more extensively in cookery, may lead you to wish to grow your own. Despite the instructions on the packet, which always make it sound easy, some of them are difficult to grow from seed.

Parsley seed can be temperamental but if started under glass as for a half hardy annual it should respond. Peculiar traditions are attached to this plant. I heard of a priestly gardener who guaranteed success by carrying loose seed about in a pocket for a few weeks before sowing. His comments were not recorded when on one occasion he discovered that his wife had sent the suit to the cleaners. If left to flower parsley will self seed freely.

Thyme, a small shrubby perennial, can be raised so easily from seed that it is probably more convenient to sow seeds every other year.

Basil is difficult, it requires pampering and you must be resigned to a larger than usual proportion of casualties. I understand that tomatoes are much improved if garnished with a pinch of basil when serving.

Borage is an annual not much used but once grown will be with you for ever. It is quite a pleasant flower to have in the border and attracts bees.



Once established mint can spread rapidly but I have known gardeners who have found it unresponsive. If you have had problems try starting off a piece of root in a pot or container. Being able to control the watering and drainage you could give it the conditions it needs for success. The developing clump can then be planted in the open ground. Its characteristic is to spread rapidly, to avoid this the shallow roots may be confined by means of a bottomless bucket sunk in the ground.

One small clump of chives will rapidly expand and needs to be divided in alternate years. It is recommended that the flower buds be picked off unless it is grown only for its flowers.

In view of the few plants usually required it is probably more convenient to buy one plant of any of the less widely used perennial herbs and propagate from cuttings. Pieces of current seasons growth of those like Sage and Rosemary can be rooted easily under glass in the manner of Dahlias and Chrysanthemums.

Lavender is listed as a herb. It is easy to strike, pieces of new growth will root in the open ground in the early summer. After harvesting in the summer the bush should be given a light clipping over with shears to promote side growth for next year. After three years the plant generally becomes lank and woody and is best discarded. A few cuttings every year will keep you going.

May I refer once again to the proposed Flower Festival next year. In April herbaceous plants can be split, preferably taking small pieces from the outside and planting in spare ground or establishing in any suitable container. The middle of the clump, which will probably be woody, and devoid of growth, should be discarded.

Towards the end of May and during June seeds of biennial and perennial plants which will produce flowers during the early summer of 1982 may be sown.