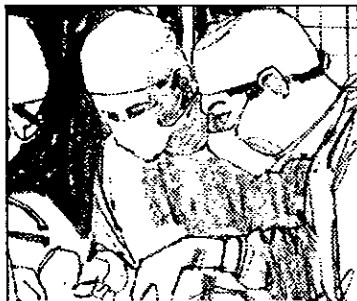


# The Rector Writes



It's a funny thing being shaved from your navel almost down to your knees. "If it hasn't grown again within a month, come back and I'll fix you up with a wig!" said the fellow with the razor and I felt better. Humour helps you cope with loss of dignity.

Anyway, I now know what it's like to go into hospital, albeit for a short stay and a minor operation. I didn't enjoy the experience - but it had compensations. I learned things that I couldn't have discovered any other way and I guess hospital visiting will be more meaningful in future. I was shown great kindness and understanding (especially of my squeamishness). I enjoyed a lazy convalescence, rediscovering the art of lying in. Underlying it all was an awareness of the presence of God.

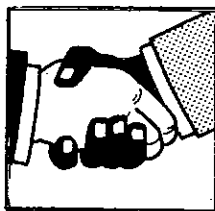
It was great, although I would prefer it not to have had to happen. On a scale a million times larger, I have the same feeling as I think about Christmas.

The Christmas story has an incomparable beauty. It's the story of a multi-millionaire deliberately becoming a pauper so that countless beggars might become rich. No ordinary millionaire but the King of Kings: not mere poverty but the laying aside of everything. "He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant . . . he humbled himself and became obedient to death . . ." (Philippians 2: 7,8). He did it for us.

It is right and good to celebrate Christmas - but how much better if it had never had to happen.

Please accept Sarah's drawing of our family singing carols as a Christmas card from us all to all our wonderful new friends in the parish. HAPPY CHRISTMAS! Please try to keep Christ at the centre of it all.

*Christopher Hitt*



In September 1986, having completed my 'A' levels, I hope to go to the third world in order to do what I can to help relieve the plight and suffering we see on our television screens all too frequently. I have, after application and an initial interview, been invited to attend a selection course in December for Project Trust, an educational organisation which sends young people to the developing countries to work for up to twelve months. I am also looking into two other organisations; Youth with a Mission, and Operation Mobilisation. This will all cost a great deal of money; the selection course alone comes to almost £150. As you can imagine, airfare out there is costly in itself. I ask for the support of the church, both financially, and in prayer, that this is what the Lord wants me to do, and that he will show me the organisation through which to work.

F. Robinson.

Fiona is trying to do her bit: we can all help her, and the Lifestyle Group is prepared to act as a catalyst for fund raising. Watch this space - and church notices - for developments on this project.

Editor.

# NEWS ROUNDBOUT



The Editorial Board of Spearhead is a one-man band. I enjoy this, as I can do all that I wish with the copy, the layout, the illustrations, the instructions to the printer and to those wonderful people who contribute articles and items of news.

**BUT.** I may not always enjoy it, and there is no-one else at the moment who even knows how Spearhead gets to be published. If you would like to be part of it, learning and helping with me, please contact me.

Doug Inger.



## KEN AND SYLVIA: RETIRING

The impossible has happened. Ken Scott told the PCC on Nov. 11th that he and Sylvia have been offered a house in Wiltshire and they plan to move at the end of February. Their great joy will be the fact that they will be closer to all their children.

No-one can deny that they deserve retirement but we shall miss them both very, very much. There will be future opportunities to pay tribute to their ministry in the parish (and in Holymoorside particularly).

## DAYS OFF FOR OUR CLERGY

We promised to tell you which day John Cook would choose for his day off. The answer is Tuesday although he may change it to Saturday sometimes.

Ken Scott takes Fridays and so, from now on, will Christopher Frith. His original plan was to take Wednesdays but it hasn't worked - nearly every week there seems to have been a meeting to go to!

## A BABY IN THE HOME?

If so, you may well be approaching us about Baptism. We shall be delighted. It is the wish of the clergy and Church Council to give Baptism an even more important place in church life than it has had before - and to be of as much help to young families as possible.

We are starting informal Preparation Evenings for parents and godparents, with members of the Baptism visiting team also attending. In addition, starting in January, we are asking families to come to church with their child to give thanks for his or her birth. This rather special thanksgiving will be held during the Family service, and it will be the first step in preparation for Baptism.

# ST. JOHN'S WALTON



A Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend was held to mark the completion of the porch extension. On Friday evening, 4th October, in a service to remember and cherish, the Bishop of Derby referred to the extension as the congregation's harvest from their labours over several years past. He then performed a brief dedication ceremony in the new porch. A buffet was held in the Walton Village Centre after the service providing a pleasant opportunity for the Bishop to chat informally, and for some members of the congregation to meet Christopher and John socially for the first time.

The Church had been beautifully decorated for the occasion by the Holy-moorside Floral Art Group under the guidance of Mrs. Pegg. The Church was open all day on Saturday and Sunday and about 400 people came to visit it. The weekend culminated with a Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday afternoon, and the Church was full to capacity for all three services during the weekend. A brochure giving the history of the Mission Church was produced for the occasion.

The re-equipping of the Church has continued with the purchase of Alternative Service Books, Family Service Books and Baptism Cards, and new green vestments have been bought with part of the money donated in memory of Richard Norman Carter, a matching altar cloth is also proposed. 18 kneeler kits have also been purchased and members of the congregation are busy making these up to varied designs, once this first batch has been completed more will be ordered. If anyone would like to take part in this work or would like to donate a kneeler as a gift or memorial there is a list in the back of the Church. Alternatively Margaret Thomas can be notified direct (telephone 569477).

We hope to buy 70 new chairs shortly. If anyone has ideas for the disposal of the present sixty-eight 70-year old wooden chairs (which are mainly linked in fours) the District Council would be glad to hear from them. We are still thinking about the need to revise the chancel area, particularly the floor levels.

Following the planting of daffodils and crocuses in September, 33 shrubs have now been planted on the Chesterfield side of the churchyard. This work was financed with part of the legacy left by George Buckley, to improve the external appearance of the church. Advice and help in planting was given by Bob Rogers, formerly in charge of the Chesterfield Borough Parks Department. It is hoped that in years to come the shrubbery will contribute material for internal decoration, as well as beautifying the exterior of the church.

The first social event organised in the church since the extension made such events practical was an Advent Supper on the evening of Friday 29th November.

## GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD





May I urge you to think and act? If you want to prevent the hijack of Sunday:

- 1) at the cost of only 24 pence write to Tony Benn at: The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA; and to The Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA.
- 2) as many as possible who are affected by Sunday trading (as retail employees, inner city residents, owners of small shops) in groups of 5 to 10 should visit Tony Benn.
- 3) pray that Sunday will be preserved for worship and rest.

The Reverend John R.M. Cook.

## THE HIJACK OF SUNDAY

By July next year, a Sunday may be like a Saturday, with many shops open, if the recent Auld Committee recommendations to the Government are passed through Parliament.

Sunday trading is likely to affect profoundly church life, as well as having other adverse effects on society. Many involved in the church's ministry (for example, Sunday School teachers) will have to work. Parking and noise will be major problems for many city churches. The church congregation will be fragmented, with some available for services on Sunday and others on weekdays. Many fringe members may cease to attend any service when there is a chance to go shopping, or when they have to work on Sunday. Family life will be made even harder, especially where women in less affluent families feel under pressure to work.

Christians must think deeply about the benefit of a weekly 'special day', not only for themselves, but for society as a whole. There is a democratic duty (not to impose our views on others) but to persuade people about what is for the common good.



# HARVEST      WORKSHOP

## RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

The sound of rain splattering against my window pane was the depressing noise that woke me on Harvest Saturday. The thought of the day ahead and all the outside activities now to be washed away in rain filled me with despair and yet I needn't have worried - we didn't get that wet and all agreed that the day was "brill".

Sixty children all came; I know the number as that was the number of choc ices that disappeared with great rapidity at 4 p.m.! The variety of workshops, nearly all provided by members of our congregation, showed the wealth of talent and the scope that we could provide. The children enjoyed activities ranging from hobby ceramics to photography and from the youngest, three years old, to the helpers like Hilary, a mere 21 years old!! We all had a great day. New workshops that went down particularly well included stage make-up, keep fit, and tennis and all tastes and ages were catered for.

We all gathered in church at the end of the day to be reminded not to be like Mr. Forgetful but to remember that Jesus has given us all talents to use for the good of the families, community and world in which we live. So if you didn't get involved this year, you never know your luck, we might do it again next year.

H.R.

