

December, 1981.

Dear

More than a year has passed since we sent our last letter so we take this opportunity of bringing you up to date with our news. We cannot remember when we wrote the 1980 letter so will start with Michael's ordination to the Priesthood which took place on 28th September in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. His sister and family came from the Midlands to be with us and a large number of our congregation came to give their support. After the service the latter-mentioned gathered in a village hall halfway between Oxford and Wokingham to celebrate with a picnic lunch. It was a splendid day in every way, one which will always be remembered and treasured

News of the family:

Andrew, 12 on 14th December, is now in high school, Forest Boys', which is a one-station train journey away. He is thoroughly enjoying it and seems to be doing very well. Still full of ideas, his latest venture is a weekly newspaper "The Thursday Thunderbolt" which he and a friend spend hours together planning and typing. It is not for distribution we hasten to add, purely for our perusal and amusement! Apart from his journalistic pursuits, he is a head choirboy in our church choir and also a member of his school choir. Earlier this year he spent six days in France with fellow pupils and teachers from his Junior school and experienced a camping weekend in August with our church youth club.

Fiona, 17, will be writing her final school exams. next June (History and Sociology) and hopes to take up Social work as a career. Many of you are aware of the fact that she has worn a hearing-aid since the age of 5 and ~~we are pleased to be able to tell you that last July she had an operation on one ear which has been a success and now it is only necessary for the aid to be worn when she is suffering from catarrh due to a cold. This can be a little depressing but we hope that the problem will be sorted out eventually.~~

Kathryn, 19, passed her first year in music and is now getting down to really hard work in her 2nd year at Bristol University. This will be a crucial one for her as she will be doing half her degree, completing her finals in 1983. She shares a flat, situated in a very pleasant area, with two other girls, both University students and enjoys taking her turn at cooking the dinner twice a week. She spends much time composing and has been appointed Musical Director of the Operatic Society's next Gilbert and Sullivan production. She also has organ lessons so is a very busy young lady indeed especially as she can never resist accepting invitations to the parties which are a most important part of University life!

Now for some really great news concerning Michael. As from the beginning of January he will be working fulltime for the Church as an assistant Curate attached to St. Paul's, Wokingham. He will be Priest-in-charge of the Community Church of St. Nicholas which is the daughter church of St. Paul's and Chaplain to a Home for retired people as well as continuing, as he has done for the past 4 years, taking services at an old people's home. We are all very proud and thrilled. Joy will carry on with her part-time job for the time being.

It now remains for us to wish you, with our Love, a Very Joyous and Blessed Christmas and Peace in the New Year.