

Dear

Almost another year gone and time to bring you up to date with "The Clayton Saga".

This year has been a testing one for us all. On the 10th January Mike suffered a heart attack whilst taking 8 a.m. Communion and spent the next $4\frac{1}{2}$ weeks in hospital during which time he had another attack followed later by the first of two cardiac arrests. With expert medical care and attention and in answer to the prayers of many he recovered sufficiently to return home to us on the 11th February. By the beginning of April he was fully back to work and thoroughly enjoying his new role as a clergyman. Whilst Mike was in hospital we received another shock when it was revealed that the plastic stirrup in Fiona's ear had become dislodged and that another operation will be necessary. To "top" everything, Kathryn, who had passed her driving test earlier in the year, drove the "Beatle" head-on into a milk float in October and, thankfully, only suffered minor cuts and bruises and a sprained ankle, but the car is a technical "write-off". Fortunately, only the week before, we had purchased a second-hand "Ford Fiesta" from a neighbour so we are still mobile! Joy's Dad, who turned 89 in August, has been having radium treatment for a rodent ulcer on his face and this appears to have been successful though maybe only temporarily.

Now to strike a more cheerful note - Kathryn passed the first part of the final exams. for her Music Degree and Fiona her A-levels. The latter will now have to wait two years before entering college to study for a Social Work Qualification and is in the meanwhile looking for a job.* Andrew is doing very well in his second year at High School and is now singing in the back row of the Church choir as his voice is breaking. He turns 13 in December, but is already 5'6" tall and towers over his Mum! His favourite hobby is writing his own magazine (it used to be a newspaper) for circulation amongst the family only. Joy gave up her job at the beginning of the year as she found that running the home, gardening, painting the house, cleaning her Dad and brother's flat once a week, etc., and acting as Mike's secretary was more than enough to keep her busy and still have time for other people and just to "be".

In the summer we spent two relaxing weeks in North Devon. Six of us (including Fiona's boyfriend Steve) stayed in a caravan. This was not as uncomfortable as it sounds although the boys were a little cramped in their tiny room with bunk beds - Steve is over 6' and had to unwind himself slowly each morning so as not to dislocate anything! We had all the mod.cons. - stove, frig., heating, telly and bathroom with shower. From the windows we had a glorious view of green hills dotted with grazing sheep - all very rural and peaceful - and not a soul to be seen. Devon must be THE most beautiful county in all England. The moors (Lorna Doone country) were covered with purple heather and as Devon is peppered with hills we were often treated to a panoramic view which quite took the breath away. We had great fun exploring tiny villages, many with ancient churches, and sating our appetites on the cream teas for which Devon is justly famous. It was quite a shock to the system when we had to return to the noise and bustle of the "outside world" at the end of our holiday. On the 23rd October we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our arrival in this country. So much water has flowed under the bridge in those years and as a result we have gained a deeper understanding of ourselves and of our fellow human beings. We are still very happy here and have no desire to return to S.A. The only disturbing factor is the incessant strikes but we hope and pray that eventually the strikers will get their priorities right and realise how well off they are in reality when compared with those living in the Third World and behind the "Iron Curtain".

In conclusion, we do enjoy hearing news of our South African friends and for anyone coming here on holiday our phone number is (0734) 788434.

With our Love and Best Wishes for a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and Peace in 1983.

MICHAEL, JOY, KATHRYN, FIONA and ANDREW.

*FIONA WILL SHORTLY BE STARTING WORK AT A HOME FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.