

Dear

November 1990

Late autumn is moving into winter and we have had one or two cold days, but the weather is mild and sunny at the moment. The trees are still a glorious picture of red and gold, reminiscent of our first glimpses of this country more than 18 years ago.

This year has been an "event-full" one, in the sense that almost every other week there has been some function either at the church or in someone's home to raise money for the building extension to the church. (For our part we held a Cheese and Wine Evening at *All Saints' House* attended by over 70 guests, the really hard work being done by some faithful members of our congregation - we just had to host it!) We are getting even more desperate for extra space because besides Mother's and Toddlers with over 60 members, Sunday School has increased in numbers, a fact which makes us very happy, but accommodating everyone comfortably in the Vestry and Priest's vestry is difficult. However, not all our fundraising is for our own benefit. The year we arrived here we held a "Sherry & Mincepie Morning" on the first Saturday in December in aid of *Missions* (venue "*All Saints' House*") and this is now an annual tradition. Also, we support the *MacMillan Unit* at the local hospital, and *The Children's Society*. When we have raised enough to pay for the extension we intend continuing the weekly Wednesday coffee mornings which have proved so popular with the local community, thereby supporting others in need. Mudeford has grown tremendously in our 6½ years here and as a consequence so has Michael's ministry.

In March Fiona and Colin moved into No. 16 Kestrel Drive, 3 doors away. It's lovely having them so near (very handy when either household is away, from the point of view of drawing curtains, switching on lights and feeding their moggy "*Tallulah*".) Joy and Fiona have a weekly "Scrabble" date which both find exhilarating and relaxing (if that's possible!) Fiona obtained her B'Tech. and is still working in the Audiology Department at the hospital. Colin has received promotion in his job. Both are very involved with their church, especially on the music side.

As regards holidays, this year Michael and Joy spent a week in Torquay, Devon, taking Kim (the dog) who enjoyed herself as much as they did. Torquay is a beautiful seaside resort - and so clean! Whilst there they visited Nick's parents in Sidmouth who live in a lovely old cottage attached to the parish church where Keith (Nick's Dad) is verger. They also drove to Dartmouth and visited surrounding areas.

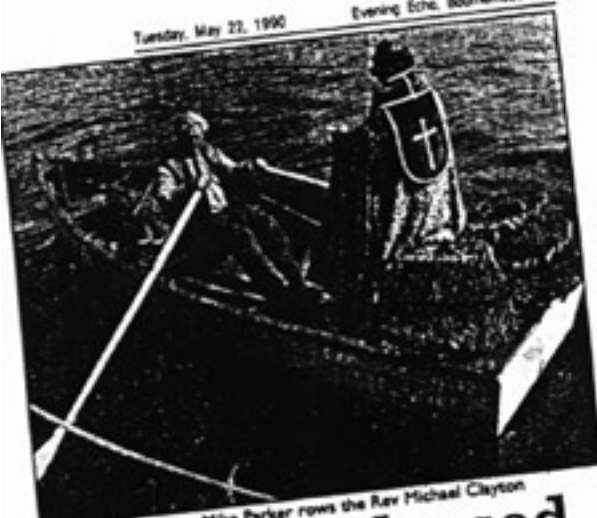
A 4-day coach trip in September with members of our congregation to the historic Cathedral City of Lincoln proved so interesting that we hope to pay a return visit sometime.

Andy, and his girlfriend, Mel, spent two weeks in July in Yugoslavia (it was Andy's first trip in an aeroplane). Whilst there they visited the Italian cities of Trieste and Venice (including a 40-minute Gondola ride) and the beautiful Lake Bled near Austria. They went to the new home of the Lipizzaner horses and deep into the Postojna Caves, enormous caverns with stalagmites and stalactites (similar to the Congo Caves near Oudtshoorn - our South African friends will know what we mean). Despite these trips they still found plenty of time to sunbathe on the beach and returned home very tanned. Andy left the bank in January and is working for a magazine publisher.

Kath is still busy with her choir and organ at her local church. Jeremy (7 next February) has joined the choir. Tim (4) is at pre-school and shows promise of being a rugby fullback (he certainly has the right build for it!). They both, particularly Jem, enjoy watching football with their Daddy who is a keen Bristol City supporter.

News of events in South Africa is saddening, just when things seemed to be improving. And, of course, the situation in the Gulf is on all our minds. We all pray for peace in our troubled world. Christmas is a time of hope and love, and that is what we wish you and all your loved ones now and in the coming year.

With loving greetings from us all,



Fisherman Mike Parker rows the Rev Michael Clayton

Waters blessed

CIVIC leaders joined the congregation of All Saints, Mudeford, for the annual blessing of the waters. Quay fisherman Mike Parker rowed the Rev Michael Clayton out into the Run for the simple service. After a short blessing, Mr Clayton threw a cross into the water as onlookers sang hymns. The ceremony followed a service at the church nearby and a procession down to the waterfront. Clergy from other churches in the borough also participated. The blessing of the waters - a thanksgiving for the harvest of the sea - was first introduced in the 1950s. Mudeford was traditionally a fishing community.



- ABOVE: Cutting from local newspaper showing Michael performing the Blessing of the Waters ceremony off Mudeford Quay
- TOP CENTRE: Mel and Andy
- TOP RIGHT: Colin and Fiona
- MIDDLE: Timothy and Jeremy
- BOTTOM: Mel and Andy's trip to London (Tower Bridge) in January



Christmas Greetings

