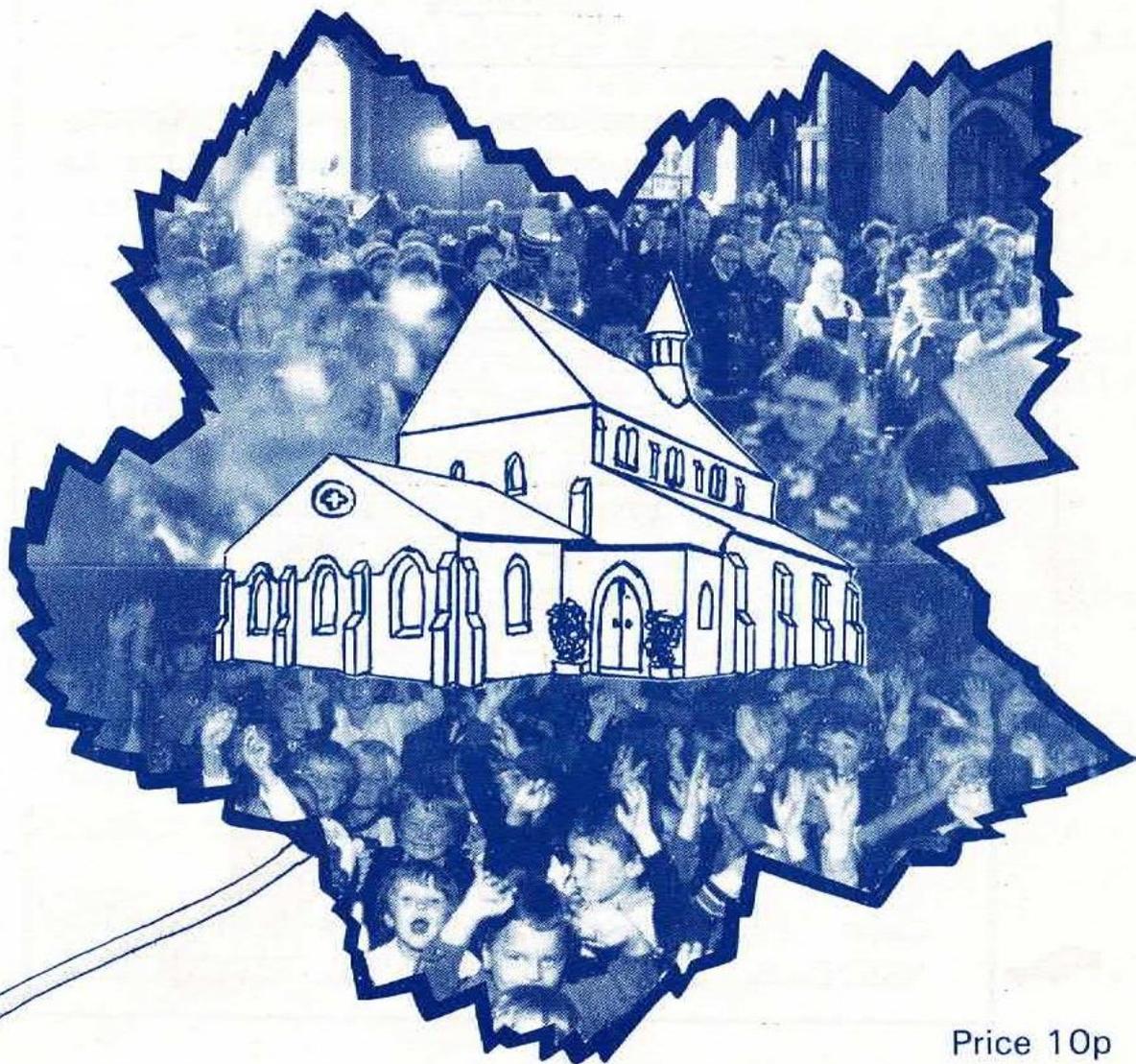
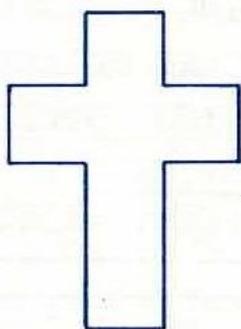


# THE NEW LEAF

The Parish Magazine of St. Pauls  
Northumberland Heath



Price 10p

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WEDDINGS, AIRPORTS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

- 3 8.00 pm COMMENCEMENT of HOME MEETINGS for new PASTORAL AREAS (see p. 3)
- 4 2.00 pm Mothers' Union Meeting (see Paula's Palaver)
- 6 FESTIVAL OF MINISTRY (Rochester Cathedral)  
introduction of new Bishop of Tonbridge -  
Rt. Rev. David Bartlett

7 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- THANKSGIVING for ST. PAUL'S 81st ANNIVERSARY  
Special Guest: Rev. John Fletcher (ex-curate)
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.30 am Family Parade Service
- 6.30 pm Festival Evensong (1662 Prayer Book)
- 10 8.00 pm Home Meetings consider - James Chapter 1
- 13 ST. PAUL'S ANNIVERSARY CONCERT (see p. 6)  
Retiring offertory in aid of organ repairs  
.....please support

14 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 10.30 am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE (remembrance at 11 am)  
followed by wreath-laying at Memorial
- 6.30 pm Evening Prayer with Baptism (Series 3)
- 15 7.45 pm Finance Committee Meeting at 250 Belmont Road
- 16 8.00 pm ERITH DEANERY SYNOD Meeting at St. John's, Erith
- 8.00 pm Evening Meeting Point (Women's Action) at 143 Bedonwell Road - "What is a Family Aide?" with Eileen Hollingsworth

- 17 8.00 pm Home Meetings - James Chapter 2

19/20 CHURCH GROWTH COURSE run by BIBLE SOCIETY at North Heath Baptist Church (see p. 3)

21 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Next before Advent)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 10.30 am Family Communion
- 6.30 pm Evening Praise (monthly informal service)

- 24 8.00 pm Home Meetings - James Chapter 3

27 11 am - 4.30 pm CHRISTMAS FAIR  
(Church Halls)

28 ADVENT SUNDAY

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 10.30 am Family Service with Baptism
- 6.30 pm Lord's Supper
- 8.00 pm 20/30 Group Meeting at 44 Colyers Lane with Michael Hewitt (Curate at Christ Church, Bexleyheath)

FROM THE VICARAGE

My dear friends,

A SIGNIFICANT EXPERIMENT

As always with new things, there was a sense of suspicion about the course "As it was.....now is" that we held during September and October. Some did not fancy lessons in Church History. But I believe that it has proved a very significant time for those who braved the Wednesday evenings. I felt that we learned three things..

- 1) A RESPECT FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS: as we learned about how different Christian traditions came into being, we began to understand each other a little better. We have felt a growing concern and respect for each other, with the belief, that St. Paul's ought to be a church where people, with slightly different understandings of faith, can accept each other as fellow Christians, and work together for the extension of His Kingdom in the place where we live.
- 2) AWARENESS OF GOD at work among us. We have become conscious of the movement of the Holy Spirit in the last two decades, and the way that this has affected the church. We recognise, with gratitude, that God has been at work among us, and although we are not all happy with some of the things that have emerged in the life of the church, our problems relate to growth rather than decline. I hope that we are learning not to run away from things that apparently we do not understand but to stay, to talk and pray with others, that together we might discover God's way forward.
- 3) VISION FOR THE FUTURE: there can be no doubt that if we pray and stay together, then we must have a bright future at St. Paul's. It will need sensitivity on one hand and courage on the other. I am writing this letter before the final session which is entitled St. Paul's 2000 - "a chance to work out what the church may be like by the year 2000." I have at this time, no idea what the discussion will produce. But maybe PERHAPS THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ATTENDED THE COURSE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE EXCITEMENT OF THOSE WHO HAVE.

But may the Lord lead into His future, which must be good.

*Best wishes, Robin Balch*

HOME and AWAY

AT HOME:

Pastoral areas are now officially launched as described in the last issue of the magazine. Plans are developing for teams to be appointed in each area to begin the day to day pastoral care of church members, gradually following contacts as manpower and time allow.

The first major involvement of church members in the new arrangement will be a series of six home meetings to be held either on Wednesday evenings, or at other times as planned by the area Teams. There will be FOUR places (one in each area) on WEDNESDAY, November 1st at 8 pm, where the plans will be explained. From these other meetings will be arranged, and it has been agreed that the study of the BOOK OF JAMES will be the basis of such meetings (a chapter each meeting, there being five chapters!) There will be plenty of time for other matters at the meetings. YOU WILL BE INVITED TO A HOME GROUP MEETING. If for some reason you have been overlooked, or you would like to go to another meeting, the venues will be published in Church.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE WELCOMED and HOPED FOR!

AWAY:

Members from St. Paul's played a leading role in the recent DEANERY MISSIONARY TRAINING DAY. Plans are afoot in several parishes to follow up the discussions on the Day. ROBIN BALCH is the chairman of the DEANERY COUNCIL for MISSION and UNITY which planned the Day.

A warm WELCOME to REV. JOHN PEAL the new Vicar of CHRIST CHURCH, ERITH who was instituted and inducted on 27 October. Mr. Peal takes the place of GERRY TYERS, the previous Rural Dean, who has moved to All Saints, Footscray.

A special FESTIVAL OF MINISTRY is being held at the Cathedral on November 6th and this will be the first official engagement for the new BISHOP OF TONBRIDGE, The Rt. Rev. David Bartlett, former Vicar of Bromley.

A CHURCH GROWTH COURSE is being held at the NORTH HEATH BAPTIST CHURCH, November 19/20, organised by the Bible Society. Any who are interested in attending should get in touch with ROBIN immediately, to obtain a place.

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LOST AND FOUND

I WANT TO

SAY a real "thank you" to the super family at St. Paul's for helping me to cope when my car was stolen and also to recover it!

While we were enjoying a lovely evening at the HARVEST HAPPENING someone took a liking to our red Escort parked in the church car park. It was a very wet night and evidently did not think much of waiting for public transport - it was easier to help themselves to our car. You can imagine the shock when we came out to find it missing.

However, it was a lovely experience to see the response of the church family to our plight. I was inundated by offers of help. I am especially grateful to DEREK and JUNE AIKEN for the loan of their Fiesta to take me through the week. At the same time the "eagle eyes" of church members were scanning the neighbourhood, and by "chance?" it was spotted in Shooters Hill. Our thanks are due to KEITH MULVANEY'S quick thinking - he could easily have just passed the red Escort parked in Farjeon Road, but wondered "could it be?". Keith reported it to Shooters Hill Police Station, and an investigation showed that it was indeed the Vicar of Northumberland Heath's car!

The thieves had helped themselves to the battery, car mats, travelling rug, and a sack of potatoes in the boot, but for some reason had left behind a book entitled "Twenty Questions About Baptism"! The team swung into action, and we are indebted to BRIAN TRAVERS and his kindness and skill in recovering the car, and for putting it back in working order.

IT IS GOOD TO BELONG TO SUCH A CARING FAMILY.....  
Please continue to show that care to each other.....

WELL DONE! INDEED!

*Robin*

---

CALLING ARTY, CRAFTY PEOPLE!!

Once again Robin is wanting items for sale at his ART-CRAFT STALL at the CHRISTMAS FAIR. Home produced items around the 50p/£1 sell very well at his stall. The last 3 years he has made £80. With your support it could be £100 this year. Please bring your items to the Vicarage.

"WHAT MAKES CHURCHES GROW?"

A basic Course on Church Growth offered by  
the Bible Society at:

Northumberland Heath Baptist Church,  
Belmont Road,  
Erith, Kent.

on

Friday evening and Saturday,  
19th and 20th November, 1982

TIME: Friday 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.  
Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Please bring a packed lunch for Saturday  
Drinks provided

\* \* \* \* \*

The course will be led by  
The Revd Roy Pointer  
Church Growth Consultant, Bible Society

COST: Course fee £3.00, including course  
workbook. (£1 payable on registration,  
balance due at course)

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able at course) £3.50

\* \* \* \* \*

Respond directly to the Bible Society at Church Growth Courses  
or Bible Society,  
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Speak to Robin  
or Ian

St. Paul's presents

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Palaver



Here I am, rejoicing to be back with you all, and praising God for His goodness. I see that in October's magazine I wrote "maybe by the time the October magazine is in your hands I shall be back with you all". I was discharged from hospital on 1st October - "prophetic words" do I hear you say? Maybe - I think the fact matters more than the foretelling of it.

What did I learn in hospital? I believe one of the things our Lord, in His infinite wisdom, had to teach me a lot about is patience. I am just beginning to have a tiny inkling of what it is all about, and I would like to share with you a little of what the word PATIENCE came to mean to me as I wrestled with it.

P - stands for both Peace and Power - the Peace of God can give us the Power or the strength to stand against Satan's darts.

A - is for Acceptance - the sooner we learn to accept the things we cannot change, the easier our lives will be. This does not mean a negative reaction - Acceptance can and should be positive - this is so when we accept trouble with its attendant problems and say "right, this is my situation, now, how do I use it for God?"

T - for Trust we need to be able to Trust Him at all times - many things are unpleasant, some are downright painful, but God knows how much pain and distress we are bearing - He is in it with us - we are not alone, and if we Trust in Him, He will bring us through victorious. Trust means becoming as a small child, putting our hand in the hand of God. Just as a small frightened child will gain confidence from the grasp of his father's hand, so we too, can Trust our Father to bring us safely through.

I - stand for Independence, and this is something we need to learn to give up - to learn to be dependent upon somebody else requires a phenomenal amount of patience - one of the things we have to remember is that, however Independent we wish to be, there are others whose joy lies in their ability

to help others - who are we to deprive others of the joy of service!

E - Endurance - yes, we need to learn to Endure, not with gritted teeth and an air of determination, but with the Peace of God - it is His Peace which shines in the eyes of many severely disabled people I have met - if we have His Peace we can Endure all things. St. Paul in his letter to Phillipians 4:5 says "Let all men know your forbearance (Endurance), The Lord is at hand" (R.S.V.)

N - Notwithstanding, or in spite of. God's gift of Patience is granted to us whatever our situation - we may be filled with fear and foreboding; the outlook, humanly speaking, may be grim; nevertheless, if we look to God in faith and trust, in His time He will answer our prayers - we need to practise that Patience which He will grant to those who ask.

C - is for Certainty, Oh! what joy it is to have the Certainty that Jesus died in order that we might be forgiven, not only the big sins - the ones that show, but that we might know the Certainty of His forgiveness for all those wrong thoughts; for those times of doubting; for the times when we hold back the good that we could do.

E - the final E for me, stands for Empathy - the ability to enter into another person's life. I know that this is what Jesus does for me, He enters my life. He is not only there when I am full of joy, He enters into my pain, He feels it with me - He enters into my distress, when I am sad He weeps with me - He enters into my frustrations, my anxieties, my self-pity, my anger, and I hear Him say "Peace, be still."

These are just a few of the thoughts that came to me as I begged God to help me to understand more of this particular part of the Fruit of the Spirit - I am sure it will mean something different to each one of us. So often I hear people say "I've no Patience", yet, patience is part of the Fruit of the Spirit. If God's Spirit is living within us we have Patience, maybe we need to think a little more about it before we claim to have none. All I can claim is that God does provide us with the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) when, and how, and in what quantity we need it. We have only to ask.

V1

AROUND THE GROUPS:

Afternoon Meeting Point:

1.45 pm for tea and chat: 2.15 pm speaker

- 2 November    Emergency Man in Bexley
- 9            "        Uniforms, Uniforms, Uniforms!!!
- 16           "        Completing our Christmas Crackers
- 23           "        Facts from our past - Eileen Thatcher
- 30           "        The Middle East Crisis -  
                  What does it really mean?

Evening Meeting Point:

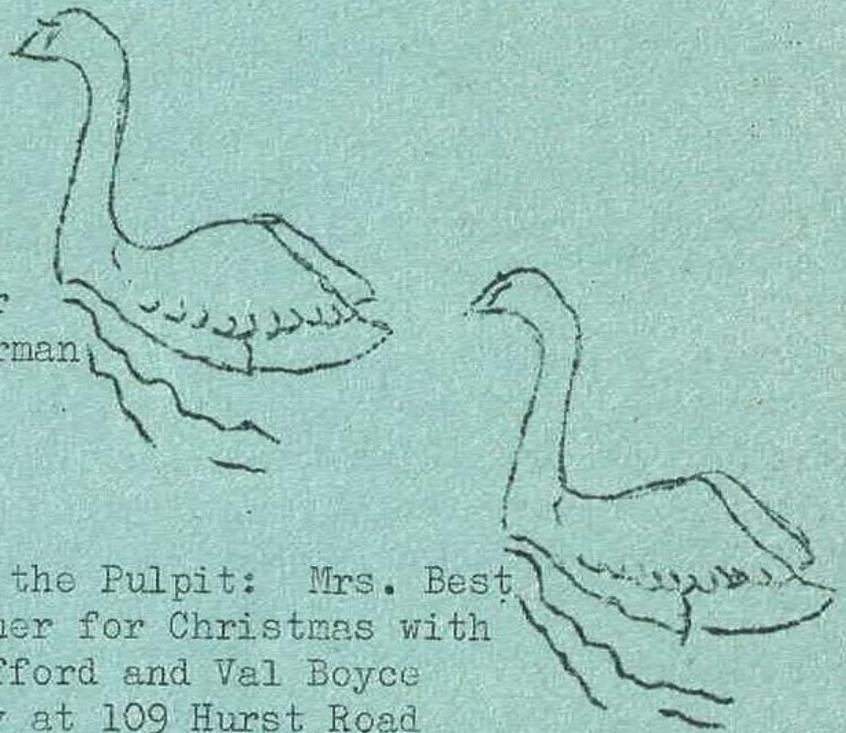
8 pm at 143 Bedonwell Road

- 16 November    What is a Family Aide? with Eileen Hollingsworth

Women's Fellowship:

2.30 pm - Hall

- 3 November    Miss Woods
- 10            "        Mrs. Watts
- 17            "        Mrs. Turner
- 24            "        Mr. L. Mohrman



Afternoon Plus Group:

2 pm - Hall

- 4 November    Journey to the Pulpit: Mrs. Best
- 11            "        Make a Banner for Christmas with  
                  Jane Stafford and Val Boyce
- 18            "        Bible Study at 109 Hurst Road

MOTHERS' UNION MILESTONES

In days when we hear that Mothers' Union Branches are closing, our group registered a courageous step forward with their on-going plans on Thursday afternoons with Afternoon Plus.

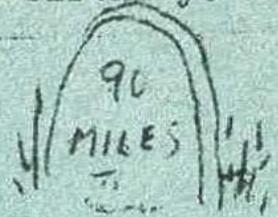
At an ADMISSION SERVICE at St. Paul's on September 19th, seven new members were admitted:

EILEEN BALCH : JOAN HANDY : ENID VINEY :  
MARION FARR : MADGE GRADDON : JAN BOOTH  
and PAM RAINSBURY

We wish this new venture God's Blessing for their on-going ministry.

We also acknowledge a milestone, as the oldest member of St. Paul's MU reaches her 90th year. MRS. EDMUNDS of FRANCIS AVENUE will be 90 on November 11th, and we wish her every happiness on her birthday.

-----  
MEETING POINT'S  
SUMMER FUN.....



We decided this year that it would be a shame to lose contact during the summer holidays this year. So it was arranged that picnics would be held at various places. We would all meet at the church at 11 o'clock and squeeze as many people into the cars as was safely possible, and off we would go.

The main venues were Danson Park and Martins Grove. At Danson Park we were lucky(?) to find the Inflatable Castle and the Clown Cavalcade and some mum's braved aching arms on the Boats. At Martins Grove the paddling pool was extremely popular and many children did not want to leave.

We are hoping to extend this to next year, as all those who attended felt that the effort was well worth while, and perhaps next year there may be a few more people who would be interested in joining with us.

Yours,

an Exhausted Mum!

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ALL MATERIAL for DECEMBER magazine to reach the  
VICARAGE by 7 NOVEMBER..... many thanks...

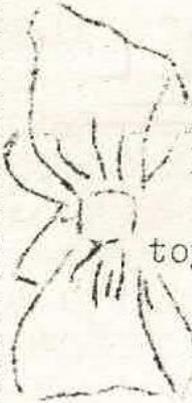
\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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November 27th.

CHURCH ARMY

# CELEBRATION GALA

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Monday, November 22nd 1982 7.30pm

LESLIE CROWTHER	ROY CASTLE
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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS.....

WE ARE GLAD to hear of the return of VI BLACKER from hospital at the beginning of last month (October). She has been much in our thoughts and prayers during her long stay in hospital from the middle of August. Robin and Ian have been very conscious of the loss of Vi, and have not been able to keep in touch with all the house-bound folk who were ministered to by Vi. As the pastoral areas come into operation, and Vi directs operations, we do hope that we can demonstrate our care again. We are pleased to welcome HEATHER NESBITT (Church Army student) to help with pastoral visiting, one afternoon a week. If she comes to you, please give her a warm welcome. TINA FOX and NEIL THOMSON, also students with the Church Army are helping on Sunday morning with the Pathfinder Bible Class. If any church member would like to offer them Sunday lunch time hospitality, please give Robin a ring.

CONGRATULATIONS to DERRICK and VI BLACKER on becoming grandparents for the fifth time, with the birth of IAN JAMES BLACKER, a son for David and Anne. FRED and JOYCE TOPP visited Canada for two weeks last month for the marriage of their daughter, PAT to a Canadian. It is reputed that Fred had to give his speech in French - ask him how he got on! Good to hear of the safe arrival of a second son to ELIZABETH and STEPHEN HARDING. Elizabeth's late father was a Vicar in the North of England and her mother is now a member of Christ Church, Southport where GARTH GRINHAM is Vicar. Elizabeth is often a conveyor of greetings between the churches.

ON A SADDER NOTE - we sympathise with the READING FAMILY on the loss of DUDLEY'S mother, ETHEL. She had reached her 93rd year and the family praise God for the peaceful way that she passed into His nearer presence. The funeral service was held at St. Paul's on September 27th, with both Robin and Ian taking part - Gareth Stubberfield playing the organ. (Please see the family's tribute on p. 14 ).

We also announce the death of MILDRED GRAHAM of Belmont Road. Mrs. Graham was regularly visited by a team of church members over the past years, as she was completely incapacitated by a severe arthritic condition. She battled for a long time against this increasing disability and was indebted to the loving care that many gave. She will be missed by her friends and neighbours who grew to love her for her courage, cheerfulness and faith.

NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH GUIDES...NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH GUIDES...

As you know, we have had two Guide Companies at St. Paul's, 1st/2nd Northumberland Heath. Unfortunately, the 2nd has had to close for the time being due to the decrease in the number of girls wishing to attend. Would anyone be interested in building up the Company once again. There are three Brownie Packs within the church, and two Girl Guide Companies are definitely needed. At the time of writing, the 1st Northumberland Heath Guides are full with 36 members.

Anyone willing to HELP! ring ERITH 39349 : MRS. PAIGE

MRS. ETHEL READING 1890-1982

As a family we wish to say a big 'thank-you' for the support given to us by the Family at St. Paul's when we lost a dear Mum and Grandma. It is indeed a wonderful experience to be upheld by the prayers and love of a Christian fellowship. To those who were able to join with us at the funeral service - a time of thanksgiving and assurance - a sincere thank-you.

Although rarely seen at St. Paul's, Grandma had a deep interest in the life of the church. It was her wish that rather than have flowers, donations should be given to Spike Island.

A long life; a good life; a peaceful passing - indeed a time to Praise Our Lord.

DUDLEY & INGE, ELIZABETH & MICHAEL

FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER 1982

November	6.....	Vi Blacker
	13.....	Queenie Wright
	20.....	Mrs. Bursnell
	27.....	Edith Rose
December	4.....	Guides and Brownies



Flowers for Remembrance: Valerie Rickwood

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN "THE NEW LEAF" -  
our parish magazine

RECORDED IN THE REGISTERS

We welcome into the fellowship of the Church in Baptism:

September 26 Matthew James Griffiths of 33 Cavendish Avenue  
Christina Linda Green of 83 Horsa Road  
James Alexander Coverley of 114 Brook Street  
Moira Claire Alexander of 18 Wood Close, Bexley  
Miranda Christine Stratton of 103 Heath Way

We congratulate on their marriage:

September 24 Alan Goodell and Deborah Tiplady

We extend our sympathies to the relatives of:

September 17 Brenda Logan of 47 Becton Place (73 years)  
October 7 Thomas Eric Hall of 98 Bedonwell Road  
(60 years)  
Hazell Edward Want of 63 Swanton Road (72 years)  
George Henry Bamber of 10 Hind Grescent  
(68 years)  
" 11 David Baillie of 7 Doris Avenue (68 years)

COLLECTIONS AND COMMUNICANTS

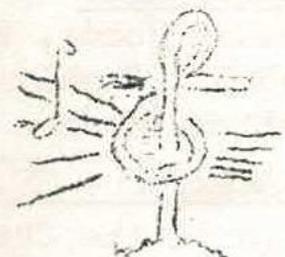
	<u>Total for the Day</u>	
September 5.....	£409.83	(21)
12.....	230.09	(21)
19.....	285.50	(136)
26.....	269.85	(80)
Mid-week .....	7.80	(24)
Church Pastoral Aid Society	64.88	
	<u>£1,267.95</u>	

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PLAYGROUP - ST. PAUL'S

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# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH — MILL ROAD

## STAFF

<i>Vicar:</i>	Rev. Robin Balch, The Vicarage, 44 Colyers Lane (Erith 32809)
<i>Curate:</i>	Rev. Ian Murray, 113 Belmont Road (Erith 34762)
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Mr. Harold Holmes, 9 Cavendish Avenue (Erith 36519) Mr. Dudley Reading, 103 Lesney Park (Erith 39869)
<i>Pastoral Assistant:</i>	Mrs. Vi Blacker, 250 Belmont Road (Erith 38941)

## CHURCH OFFICERS

<i>Church Warden:</i>	Mr. Fred Topp, 91 Carlton Road, (Erith 33852)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mr. Derrick Blacker, 250 Belmont Road (Erith 38941)
<i>Hall Manager:</i>	Mr. Brian Thatcher, 44 Hurlingham Road (Erith 39410)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Service (3rd Sunday-Family Communion)
6.30 pm Evening Prayer (4th Sunday-Lord's Supper)

## ORGANISATIONS

<i>On Sundays:</i>	9.30 am Pathfinders (11-14 years) 10.30 am Sunday School (3-6 years) Explorers (7-10 years) Bible Class (11-14 years) 8.00 pm Spike Island (13-20 years) 20/30 Group (4th Sunday)
<i>For Young People:</i>	Saturdays 6.00 pm Pathfinder Club 7.30 pm Spike Island Club
<i>For Women:</i>	Meeting Point — Tuesdays 1.45 - 3.00 pm and 8.00 pm on 3rd Tuesday (Women & young children) Afternoon Plus — 1st Thursdays at 2.00 pm (Mothers Union) others as announced Women's Fellowship — Wednesdays 2.30 pm
<i>For Men:</i>	"Cross-fire" — Tuesdays as announced — 8.00 pm
<i>For All:</i>	"Come Together" at Vicarage, Wednesdays at 8.00 pm Home Meetings as announced
<i>Uniform Organisations:</i>	at various times Scouts and Cubs — G.S.L. — Mr. John Hallock (Erith 35624) Guides and Brownies — Mrs. Doris Paige (Erith 39349)