



Community
News

*A Parish Magazine for the Catholic
Community in Melton Mowbray.*

Lent 2000

Issue 19

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST	Canon McDonagh	562274
POLISH PRIEST	Fr. Tylka	562101
FRANCISCAN CONVENT		562422
ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL		562891
DE LISLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	01509	268739

FRESH FACES VERY WELCOME. ANY OFFERS OF HELP, TIME OR FUNDS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

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Women's World Day of Prayer	Mrs Burke	500452

Please send articles or letters, in an envelope marked "Parish Magazine", to: St Francis School, Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray.

Cover Picture by Brian Hollingshead

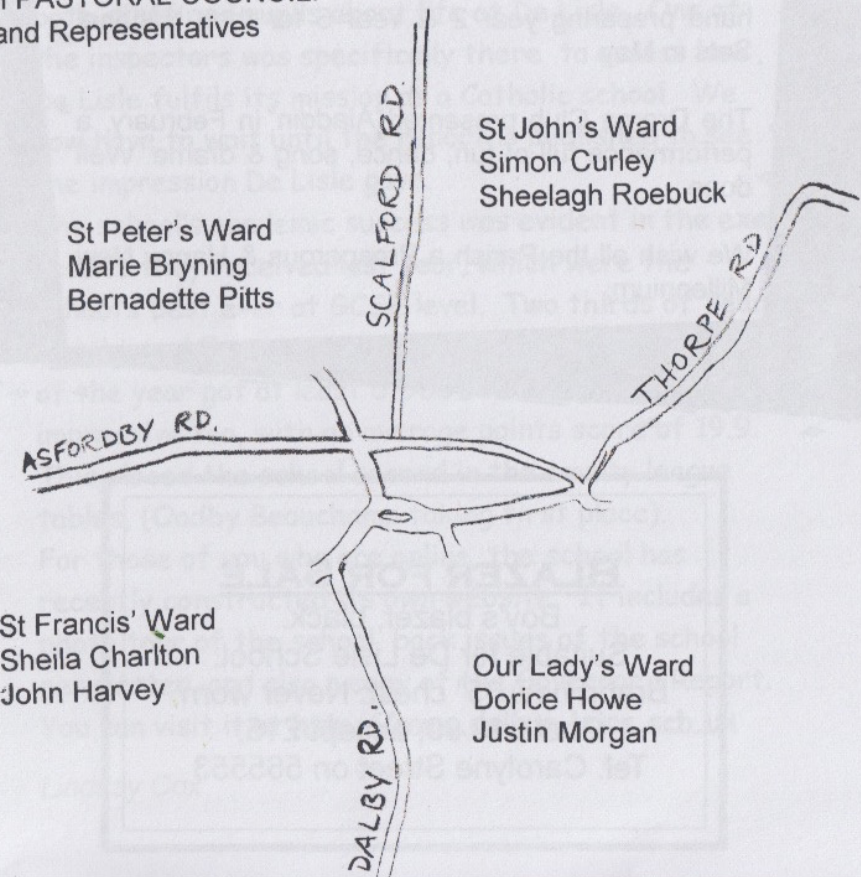
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.

It is a year since I became editor of the magazine, and I find myself in the fortunate position of being able to offer our regular advertisers this issue's advertising free. Thank you again to them & to those who pledge to the magazine.

I want the magazine to make a difference. All of us have something to tell which can inspire others. So please don't be shy, write something! Everyone is also welcome at the meetings, (advertised in the Parish Bulletin).

Ed.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Wards and Representatives



ST FRANCIS' SCHOOL NEWS

Our Christmas Concert, Advent Service and Christmas Assemblies seem a long time ago, but this Christmas leading into the New Millennium, was very important to us. Once again we lead the Town Procession and groups of children visited the Residential Homes to sing the Christmas Message.

The New Year has started with the usual colds and bugs with this term promising to be a long one as Easter is on the latest date possible! Year 5 will visit the Briars at Crich for a week in April and work is in hand preparing year 2 & Year 6 for their National Sats in May.

The Drama Club presented "Aladdin" in February, a performance full of fun, dance, song & drama. Well done.

We wish all the Parish a Prosperous & Happy New Millennium.

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De Lisle News

De Lisle Catholic School is the Melton parish's catchment school, and this page is to let you know what's going on, if you don't have any other links with the school.

The school has approximately 1200 students and 50 members of staff. About 100 students make the journey from Melton each day on two buses leaving at around 8.00am and arriving back at 4.30pm.

Recently, De Lisle had their second Ofsted inspection. It was Mr. Fay's first as headteacher since taking over from Mr. Kennedy in September 1998. The inspectors spent the week observing lessons and interviewing both staff and pupils about life at De Lisle. One of the inspectors was specifically there to assess how De Lisle fulfils its mission as a Catholic school. We now have to wait until the report is published to see the impression De Lisle gave.

The school's academic success was evident in the exam results they received last year, which were the school's best ever at GCSE level. Two thirds of Year 11 achieved 5 or more passes at grades A*-C and 97% of the year got at least 5 GCSE's. A-level results were impressive too, with an average points score of 19.9.

This placed the school second in the county league tables, (Oadby Beauchamp taking first place). For those of you who are online, the school has recently constructed its own website. It includes a photo tour of the school, back issues of the school newsletter, and also a copy of the Governor's Report. You can visit it at <http://www.delisle.leics.sch.uk>

Lindsay Cox

Help us shape your future

The Parish Pastoral Council is up and running and searching for its purpose! The second meeting of the council was held on January 13th to start to decide how, as a body, we could help Canon in his ministry. A number of practical issues were raised, such as forming a team to help Canon count the collection after Sunday Mass and organising the Parish Millennium Summer Festival.

Our biggest challenge though is to come up with a Mission Statement, not for the council but for the Parish as a whole. It was at this point that it became apparent that this was not something that could be done without the involvement and input of the whole parish - **YOU**.

What do you think our parish should be all about?

What is the point of Parish?

What do you want to see from our parish that we don't already have?

A number of us have ideas of our own but we would like to encourage as much "grass roots" opinion in the Mission Statement as possible. Just like in industry and commerce, if we know where we are going we stand at least some chance of getting there.

"Suggestion Boxes" are to be placed at the back of each of the churches on a permanent basis and early feedback would be most helpful. We look forward to hearing from you.

Parish Pastoral Council.



Recipe

This recipe makes a delicious, healthy Carrot Cake which is ideal for using up small amounts of dried fruit which may be lurking in your cupboards left over from the Christmas baking. You can substitute the raisins and dates for cherries, currants etc. and if the amounts are slightly out (on the fruit) it doesn't matter.



Carrot Cake

9 oz clear honey (weighed on the scales)	1 lb fine wholemeal flour (or plainwhite)
8 fl oz sunflower oil	2 teaspoons baking powder
1 lb grated carrots	1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
4oz raisins	2 teaspoons all spice (or mixed spice)
6oz chopped dates	4 tablespoons (or more) milk
2 eggs beaten	

Warm the honey and oil gently in a pan. When warm and mixed together add bicarbonate of soda. Pour into a large bowl. Add the other ingredients and mix well. This should make a sloppy mixture if it seems dry add 1 or 2 tablespoons of milk.

Pour mixture into a large rectangular baking tin which has been well oiled and lined with butter wrappers or oiled grease proof paper. Or make 2 smaller cakes.

Bake Gas 5, 190°C, 375°F for 45 mins - 1 hour or until firm to touch.

L Escott

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament

For almost three years now, a small group has attended a weekly Holy Hour at the Convent on a Wednesday evening. This has been possible because the participants met and agreed in advance on the day, the time and the form of the Holy Hour, which has now become for all a dearly treasured period of peace and renewal.

Others have expressed the wish for an alternative time, so as Lent approaches once more, you are invited to indicate - by giving names and phone numbers and possible times - if you share the desire to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Mark your message as Holy Hour 2000 and drop it in to either the school office or Convent letter box. There is no guarantee that exact individuals needs will be met, but everything possible will be done.

Nottingham Diocesan Jubilee Summer School 2000

From 26th to 28th July there is to be a Diocesan Summer School at the University of Derby. It is eighteen years since the Loughborough Summer School, and it is hoped that this year's event, with internationally renowned speakers, will be as seminal as the one at Loughborough.

The event is being organised from the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth (01332 293833). The costs range from £49 for a non-residential package, or £69 for a local residential package, to £139 for the full residential package.

"The challenge is to help us find God at work in the world and as a Church, to celebrate. We hope to deepen together our response to God's call to show his love to the world".

Further information may be obtained from Mackworth directly, or from Pat McCollum on 01664 5001



ONE OF US -

POCKET PORTRAIT



In all walks of life people mix with others without being introduced or knowing each others names. They often know nothing of a person they may meet face to face every week. To encourage a closer community, individuals have agreed to introduce themselves to the Parish. They are after all One Of Us. This issue : **Michael Konieczko**.

Michael may not be known to many of you but he is an active member of the Polish church of our parish, Our Lady of Czestochowa. He is familiar to some, and I hope he becomes acquainted with you all spiritually as their representative on the Parish Pastoral Council. Apart from being bi-lingual, I asked how he qualified for the job? "I approached Father Tyłka" Michael answered "when the Council was being set up and said it was a good idea to have a representative on it. I was volunteered perhaps because I like to talk a lot". I am accused similarly but in Michael's case he also has a lot to say.

I always feel privileged to be allowed these sojourns through people's lives. I am sure you find them fascinating as I do. Michael on the otherhand has marched, perhaps prompted by his family circumstances, into the heritage of his community. Consequently he is rich in knowledge about his forebears but he is also able to expound it with great skill.

Michael was born in London in 1947 of Polish immigrants. His father, an ex-serviceman who had fought in a rear guard action on Poland's invasion, had trained originally as a lawyer. In England, after the war, Michael's father was employed by the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association as an employment officer. In keeping with many such immigrant families they lived in the poorer parts of London's East End, White Chapel and Bethnal Green before moving up in the world to Putney. Michael recalls being fascinated with the bomb damage in London. He digresses here and we talk about the Polish forces during the war and how so many stayed here. The Polish community was kept together by the government in exile and the church because they all anticipated to return to a free Poland.

At five, due to Michael's mother's ill health, he was sent to boarding school staffed by Polish teachers for four years until her recovery. Typically of that era his parents gave strong impressions of the trauma of war. "It was actually ethnic cleansing". Michael brushes up my history of the Europe in the last century. It always odd isn't it when you are told history from the perspective of another country, and always food for thought.

Subsequent schooling was normally secondary or grammar schools. In Michael's circumstances it was a comprehensive school run by London County Council. The school academically outshone its grammar school rivals which didn't sit too well with the establishment. It also had the same excellent sports ethos enabling Michael to enjoy fencing, rowing, rugby and football. "It had an outdoor swimming pool and took pride in teaching all pupils to swim before they left school" added Michael.

Michael confessed that he didn't take advantage of the schooling due to his pre-occupation with playing bridge and reading military history.

However, Michael gained a place at college in Leicester and obtained a HNC in Chemistry. "I had this fascination for making perfect gunpowder" mused Michael. I wondered if he'd taken his studies just a bit to far but he went on to state how he's achieved his Graduateship from the Plastic and Rubber Institute (now the Institute of Materials) paying for his studies by working part-time in the polymer department. He followed this up with a PhD in Adhesion Science.

Michael enthused about his thesis which involved the Corona process which allows printing on plastic bags. He also explained how he showed how a pre-treatment for PTFE worked by a chemical change which no one had done before. I found it very interesting and made notes about washing off your flourine and oxidising your carbons. "And it was all by accident really" said Michael, by something he had found in his pocket after the holidays. Why are scientists so modest I wondered? The work in that field enabled Michael to gain employment at Advance Tapes in Leicester for whom he still works.

Michael has represented the UK on the European Electro-Technical Commission in a Working Group working on standards of Electrical

Insulating tape. I didn't see the connection myself between printing and tapes, but its all to do with getting adhesive to stick to one side of the tape. Michael's job is to devise adhesives for their customers' needs. I likened him to the man who invented the glue for 'post-its' and Michael told me that all started because the man's wife wanted a sticky bit of paper to put in her hymn book that would come off for the next service.

Thinking of services, Michael advised me on the differences in Polish and English services and the different celebrations. It was one of those celebrations at which he met his wife Tereasa, who has spent most of her life in Melton. They have two sons, Andrew now living in London after studying at Cambridge University, and Peter, still at home and studying at De Montfort.

I tentatively enquire about Michael's hobbies, because although we are seated in a typical cosy dinning room, there is an obvious domination of clocks and books. I'm somewhat relieved the clocks were collected by his eldest son. However, I can reveal that Michael and his confederates (and that is precisely what they are) were the cause of much public debate in the Melton Times concerning loud bangs on Melton Day a few years ago. The books! "As you can see they are about what I do. Re-enactment of the American Civil War and Table War Games". A moment was taken here to emphasis the paramounce of the safety procedures involved. "Anyway it was only a skirmish we saw on Melton Day, (and we only used one quarter of the charge), the real battles could go on for days".

Its not only grown up games though, as Michael has been known to play War Hammer with Peter. Children have been very important in his life, particularly with his involvement with the scouts. He rose to the heights of District Commissioner for the Polish Scouts. They are more in keeping with Baden Powell apparently, but this is yet another area of interest Michael could expand upon.

A lot of these activities that I have touched on in Michael's life could be magazine articles in themselves. He has already given a talk on the start of the Polish Church in England to members of the Churches Together pilgrims when they visited Our Lady of Czestochowa. Perhaps we can persuade Michael to be a regular contributor to our magazine.

Roy Hancock

Debt forgiveness makes me sick!

The Government has at last agreed to cancel 100% of the debt owed to Britain by the worlds 26 poorest countries. Well done!

Is that the end of it? Predictably the answer is NO. There are other countries on Jubilee 2000's list which should qualify and even when the debt is cancelled they have great difficulty competing in the world trade market.

The debt arose to save Western Banks from a situation that could have crippled them. Huge amounts of money invested by oil producing countries had to be lent out & quickly. The third world was the obvious market. The money was lent out on fabulous terms. Unfortunately interest rates rose & the price of third world exports plummeted. So they owed more & earned less. For many years a blind eye was turned to known corrupt leaders by the West for political reasons. Money was lent specifically for countries to buy Western goods, especially arms. Western exporters pushed through many ill thought projects that failed. The Structural Adjustment Programs that were supposed to help poor countries pay back the debt in the 1980's once again benefited the West. All this after hundreds of years of exploitation. And the people keep dying.

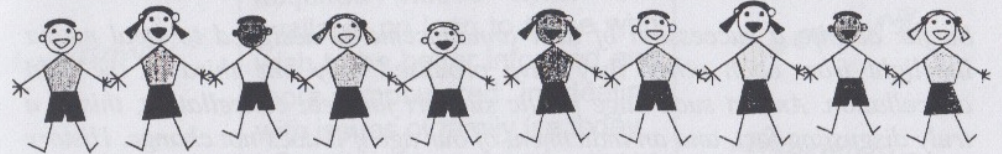
For these reasons "debt forgiveness" is a term I loathe. The forgiveness should at least be on both sides.



So What's Next?

Our next step is to send cards, prepared by CAFOD, to the next G8 summit in Japan, to persuade other countries to cancel the debt owed to them. The cards will be given out soon at church or you can collect one from the entrance of St. Francis School.

Here are some of your statements from the Melton Mowbray Jubilee 2000 Book.



LET US START THE NEW MILLENNIUM ALL EQUAL

My hopes for the Millennium are that we will be a people of action & prayer, that we will show genuine care for the needs of the poor and marginalised and that their self esteem & basic dignity be restored.

I am concerned that the third world debt is an impossible burden to carry and Governments must relieve the situation to enable a fresh start to be made

To survive the next Millennium, mankind must value every human being. Through debt the Western world are undervaluing millions of people in the third world. Jubilee 2000 must be successful and release the poor from the crushing burden of debt. I pray for God's help in this.

Governments and banks coercing venal rulers to sell their people into perpetual debt is not justice. Removing third world debt is not an act of mercy but of justice. We must also make certain that such injustice is not repeated, by building just systems of mutual respect rather than continue exploitation.

The debt we owe to God is far greater than that which the the third world owes the West. How can we in conscience exact payment from the poor when we pay so little attention to what we owe God?

It is an outrage that we hold these people to such debts. It is the West who owes these people.

DEBT DECISION DAY

Sunday 23rd July 2000 is Debt Decision Day. This is the final day of the G8 summit in, Japan, when leaders of the world's richest nations will make their statement All over the world, we will be watching.

So far despite a succession of debt announcements designed to steal media limelight from each other, they have promised only one third of the debt cancellation. Amidst such huge public support for debt cancellation, this is a truly disgusting fact, and an indictment of our age if it does not change. History will judge the G8 leaders according to what they announce on this day. Meanwhile, the spirit showed by many people, from so many nations, gives hope to us all..Jubilee 2000.

Traidcraft

This year Traidcraft is 21 years old. In that time it has changed lives for the better all over the developing world; changed the shopping habits of UK consumer; changed the way business and government think about trade. Many of those changes wouldn't have been possible without the commitment of Fair Traders.

From 10th May 1999 we sold £728 worth of fairly traded goods at St Peters. Thank you to all those who help and who buy! Well done. Copies of the Traidcraft catalogue will be available at St Johns & the Convent after masses so that orders can be taken and more of you will have the opportunity to buy fairly traded goods.

Amnesty International



We are looking for new members for our small and friendly committee. An article explaining our work was printed in issue 17 of this magazine. If you would like to join us please phone Collette Stein on 01664 464823 or join us at a lovely night out at

English's Bistro. May 4th. 7.30pm. Music by Banna Strand.

Parent to Parent Videos

A Must for Young People

Helpful

A must for all Families

Educational

The local branch of Family and Youth Concern has acquired videos which are available on loan to those who wish to be better informed and more empowered in dealing with issues of family life today.

Eye Opening

Very Worthwhile

Some comments of those who have already viewed these Parent to Parent videos include:

Informative

Very Encouraging

Interesting

Every school and University in the land should show them to 15-18 year olds

Parent to Parent videos are available from Sister Helena at the Convent. Tel. 562422

* * * * *

NFP

May we remind you that Melton Mowbray is very well provided with Natural Family planning advice and teaching. NFP is a completely natural, scientifically developed method of spacing children, avoiding, or achieving pregnancy. It is compatible with the teaching of the Catholic Church and respects the human body and the environment. Our teachers, who have followed certificated teaching courses, are Mrs Joanne Curley, Mrs Vera Chohan, Mrs Linda Escott, and Sister Helena.

Contact address: 7, Hunters Road, Melton Mowbray

Contact Phone No: 501041

Web site: www.FertilityUK.org

Or speak to any of the teachers directly if you prefer.

Choosing Our Child's Secondary School

I am minded to pen this article because I am sure our family cannot be the first to have agonised over the choice of our daughter's next school after St. Francis' have seen her through to the tender age of eleven. There must be hundreds of people out there who have made this decision over the recent years and it no longer seems to be an automatic choice. AND YET there seems to be no way of others passing on their experience to the rest of us, so here goes.

Of course we want our daughter to be educated in a Catholic school but it's not as easy as that, is it? De Lisle is half an hour away by car, not significant as a one off but, as a regular trip, quite an excursion. Then there's the friends she'll make, from the other side of the world! And the clubs she'll want to join and the days the school bus breaks down or the snow's too deep. And have you seen the building - now I know you don't judge a book by its cover but the razor wire and gun turrets were a tad off-putting!

Then there's the alternatives - there's three to choose from and that that's just the Melton schools to say nothing of Ratcliffe or Oakham or Stamford. They're so much handier and better to look at. She'll grow up knowing lots of people in Melton (I think that's a positive!) and won't spend half her life on a bus. And we can see what she's getting up to!

But the Melton schools all feed into one enormous blob at the age of 14 - another disruption. She'll get lost, she'll be a number AND THEY ARE NOT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

We visited De Lisle and John Ferneley - that made it even harder. But for us the one thing that stood out, was the feeling inside De Lisle that you were still in a Catholic school - the feeling you get (only much more so) when you walk into St Francis - and Ferneley were free to admit that they didn't do much by way of religion or worship.

There is no system in place to help (indeed County Hall wanted to know how many were going to De Lisle in the first week of September and Open Days weren't being held until the middle of November!). Perhaps all the schools could be invited to "pitch" at an evening "do" before the end of the previous school year (year 5).

An elderly parishioner told me last year that he believed that by the time our children had been at De Lisle for two years they had forgotten all the RE they had learnt at St. Francis, but we decided we'd take the chance that some of the ethos would stick anyway.

I don't think there is a right or wrong answer, I don't judge, I just want those who still have to face the prospect to know that whatever they decide, others have been there first and to feel free to talk to parents with children older than their own.

Answers on a postcard please!

Simon Curley

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

PRAYER WORD SEARCH. These ten words from a well known prayer are hidden in our word search. Can you name the prayer? It may be nice to say the whole prayer yourself.

GRACE
LORD
MARY
BLESSED
HAIL
JESUS
MOTHER
GOD
HOLY
PRAY

B	L	I	A	C	E	Z	C	B	O
L	O	R	D	B	A	O	K	D	J
E	C	S	O	R	E	H	T	O	M
S	D	E	G	F	M	L	I	G	O
S	P	R	J	E	S	U	S	T	U
E	V	A	M	O	W	B	N	E	X
D	C	P	H	A	I	L	D	C	E
F	L	Y	O	G	Z	Y	R	A	M
R	H	S	L	W	I	T	J	R	K
P	R	A	Y	B	U	A	V	G	C

TWO.

Two little eyes to look to God,
Two little ears to hear His Word,



Two little feet to walk in His ways,
Two little lips to sing His praise,



Two little hands to do His will,
And one little heart to love Him still.

Christine Strange.

STUDENTS OF THE CROSS

*May my door be ever open
And at place at my table kept free,
Least my dear Lord, Christ Jesus
Should come to visit me.*

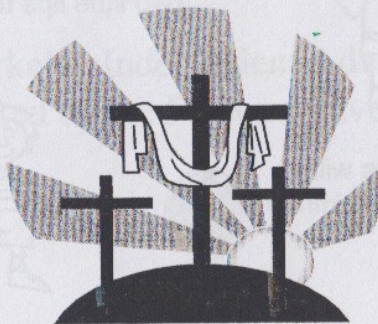
Once again this Easter, the Students of the Cross will be walking to Walsingham. On their first night together they stay in Melton and, for the only night of their Pilgrimage, they traditionally have been offered a bed, evening meal and, most importantly, a hot bath in the houses of the parishioners.

On the Saturday evening, the students, their hosts and anybody else who wants to come along, all meet together in a local pub for a night of music and laughter. Anyone who can play an instrument, sing, recite a poem or even play the spoons would be particularly welcome!

This year about 30 Pilgrims will need our hospitality on Saturday 15th April. They will leave, from the convent, at about 8.45 on the following morning.

If you feel that you could put up one or more pilgrims for that night, please contact Helen Webb (MM 560010) for details.

It may be an opportunity to forge new friendships or to renew old ones. Either way it's a wonderful way to start Easter Week.



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Ethical or Socially Responsible Investment What's it all about?

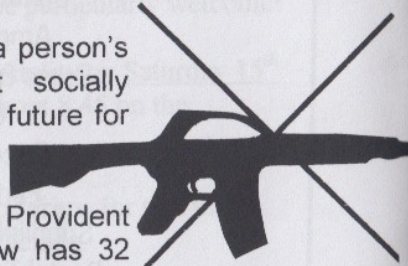
Growing numbers of investors are objecting to buying shares in companies that have their fingers in unsavoury pies.

Ethical investors consider the ethical, social and environmental impact of the companies in which they invest, as well as their financial performance, and are not prepared to make money at the expense of, for instance, Brazilian rain forests, Genetically Modified Food, the arms trade, alcohol, testing on animals, tobacco or companies involved in Third World debt.

Ethics are very personal and will influence a person's decision on where to invest. By that socially responsible decision, they will influence the future for all of us.

The ethical standard was set by the Friends Provident Stewardship fund in 1984. The market now has 32 fund managers managing 84 SRI (Socially Responsible investment) funds and SRI funds now have £2.5 billion invested in them.

Fund managers do not all use the same criteria. Some deselect companies from negative criteria (as above), others buy shares in companies on the strength of positive reasons (e.g. a company with a good equal opportunities record or a good environmental record) and some even buy shares in companies and then try to persuade those companies to improve their



practices. Information on each fund is available to allow investors to attempt to match their own ethical profile.

The ethical question is becoming more and more important - six years ago not one of the UK's top 100 companies compiled an environmental report and accounts; at the latest count 37 companies now report on the impact their business has on the environment

Investors believe that well managed companies will be superior investments relative to the wider market. A company's environmental management provides the outside world with a good indicator of the overall quality of its business management. Whilst this is not always borne out in practice ethical funds are at least comparable in performance with ordinary funds and are often "above average".

For further information on ethical investments and pension funds call Simon Curley of Bowker Davies Dodgson Ltd, 12 Asfordby Road on Melton 480865.



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Be A Friend

British Victims of Abortion Befrienders

British Victims of Abortion is a division of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, run by women who have themselves had an abortion. It collates research on post-abortion counselling helpline to after our parish-initial training course she attended. N.B. **are now one penses and**



trauma, and offers a telephone women suffering tion. Here one of ioners tells of an ing course she at- Training courses **week long, all ex- travel paid.**

When I heard about the weekend to be held in London I knew nothing about BVA, but having had three miscarriages I had often thought about the feelings of women who had abortions, and wondered what help was available

to them. Nobody else local was going and I felt someone should, so I offered. Expenses and travel were paid by BVA, so all I had to do was catch the train on Friday and go to Damascus House, a conference centre. I joined 15 people, of all ages and from different parts of the country. Some had flown from Scotland. I expected them all to be women, but there was one man. I knew no-one, but there was plenty of opportunity to mix, and by the end of the weekend I felt we were all part of a family. Everyone had found someone with whom they could share privately the experiences which had brought them there.

The intensive course started on Friday with a talk from one of the leaders, and these continued on Saturday. There were three leaders, all of whom spoke of their own abortions:

The BVA Helpline open 7pm – 10pm every evening

Margaret Cuthill, an Evangelical who runs BVA gave a quiet, balanced talk; Bernadette, whose story was so traumatic that several people cried; and Jane, who shared how becoming a therapist was part of her healing journey. I learned that when women have an abortion, they try to push it to the back of their minds, and spend time in a state of denial, until it is brought to the front of their minds by another crisis in their life. Then they realise that they have killed their child, and for a while they simply cease to function properly, and struggle with the many symptoms of post-abortion syndrome. They need to talk to someone to begin to understand why the tragedy of abortion happened in their life.

BVA has offered support for years, but there has recently been a change with the introduction of medical abortions, in which women are conscious and living the experience of the child's death. They are quicker to go into abnormal grieving and to realise that they have a problem, and demand for help is growing nationwide. BVA has a national U.K. Helpline, and are seeking people to become listeners on this telephone line and give support. People who call the Helpline will be at different stages, and can be referred to a BVA Counsellor if necessary, but the Befriender's job is just as it sounds: to be a friend to people who have had an abortion and listen. Saturday concluded with a role-play about the pressures on a pregnant woman, and we came to realise that abortion is often not a free choice.

On Sunday we began activities which would determine whether we might be suitable Befrienders. We were given examples of how a Befriender should and should not react on the telephone. Then we went on to role-plays, at which everyone seemed totally brilliant except me, or so I thought! I hoped my one-to-one skills might compensate for my other failings. I was worried that my poor performance might disqualify me as a Befriender, as by now I could see how much they were needed and I badly wanted to be one.

When I left, I felt so close to the people who had been strangers that I hugged them all. When I got home I sat and cried to think of the suffering I had learned about. I hoped I might be some help, but I wasn't sure I would be thought right for the job. I was overjoyed to get a letter from Margaret Cuthill saying I could go on a rota as a telephone Befriender for the U.K. National Helpline. I am now a 'first stop' for people in distress from anywhere in the country. I am not a counsellor and I am not allowed to see people in person. Phone calls are diverted to my home. If you are interested in supporting others in this way, why not give BVA a ring on 0141 226 5407. Please also let the local SPUC branch know you are applying. This is another positive way of being part of the solution to the culture of death.

I HAVE A DREAM

I have a dream, a perfect world, where nobody lives in fear.
People live together side by side, as we enter another year.

I have a dream, a fair, just world, where there is no need for sin.
People are kind, caring and fair, and welcome everybody in.

I have a dream, a clean, green, world, where pollution is a thing of the past.
People recycle and don't drop litter, because they want their world to last.

I have a dream a peaceful world, where fighting and wars are no more.
People work at their differences and learn from their errors, because in the end, what do we need fighting for.

I have a dream, a considerate world, where you have the right to speak your mind.
People aren't judged by their colour or wealth, because in the end we are all of the same kind.

Okay so my dream is pretty far fetched, this world won't come around this millennium.
But if we work together, as a group as a people we can change the world we live in.

I have a dream, a perfect world, that will come around one day.
But meanwhile we'll live in hope and in faith, and for that perfect world we'll pray.

Amanda Bailey Age 14 years

Amanda Bailey is the granddaughter of Fred Draper, who featured in the last issue of Community News.

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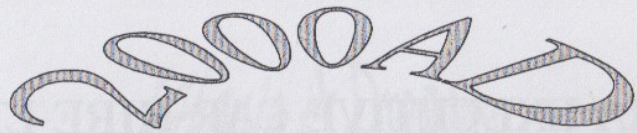
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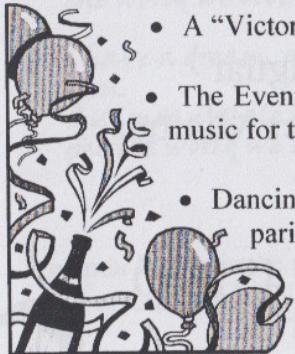
THE OLD MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

It has been decided that to mark the New Millennium, in this jubilee year, the parish will hold a "come all" celebration in the form of a festival for everyone; young and old, fit and "not so fit". And to give the festival a theme we are taking the celebrations that were held in Melton Mowbray for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee as our theme.

Events are to be held on the afternoon and evening of September 9th this year to which every single member of the parish is invited. More than that, this extravaganza will take an awful lot of organising and it is the preparation work that will be the most fun and will hopefully involve many.

In an attempt to get everyone working together, volunteers are required under the following headings:

- The Victorian Field Games - teams and individual events are to be organised in which competitors will earn points for their "ward" (you know, the portion of Melton in which you live - see map).
- A Tour of Victorian Melton - a walking tour of the town for the civic minded (guide required).



- A "Victorian" barbecue (or should that be spit roast?).
- The Evenings Entertainment - a disco for the young and live music for the sensible!
- Dancing and Bar until late to round off the best social the parish has seen this century - please feel free to bring a friend (non Catholics more than welcome).
- For further information, watch this space!

