

EXTENSION TO IMP

The Public Bar at the Lincoln Imp is to be extended by another 20 feet. Work is to be set in hand immediately, and the result should be a really good sized room, almost a small hall in fact.

The darts teams are battling their way through the league matches with varying degrees of success. The Men's 'A' team is next to the top of their league, and they seem to be determined to take the last step up as soon as possible. The Ladies' 'A' team has improved considerably, and they now have several points to their credit. All the same they haven't managed to move up from the bottom of their ladder yet.

The Sick and Dividing Club had a very good pay out of £1 17s. for the year ending December, 1957. This means that each member paid 1/- a week for the year, and besides being entitled to £1 a week when sick, was able to draw £1 17s. at the year end.

A football match was held on Boxing Day between the Old Imps and the Young Imps. Youth triumphed over age, and the victory went to the Young Imps. Unfortunately, Mr. Les Gant suffered a broken ankle during the game.

ERMINE WEEK

It is planned that this year's Sports and Gala should be only one event in a whole week of activities, including Baby Show, Cricket match, Gala Dance, Beauty Competition, etc. Anyone with ideas or who is willing to help is invited to a meeting at St. John's Hall on Monday, February 24th.

GROWING YOUTH CLUB

(Dancing Instruction)

(Photo by P. Child,
25 Brattleby Crescent)

St. John's Youth Fellowship has grown rapidly since its re-organisation. Friday night seems to suit most young people, and members come from far and wide. The programme includes games and dancing, and under Mr. K. Garner's instruction it is hoped that table tennis and billiard teams will soon be ready for competition.

Friday night is open to all young people

8,000 SHARES FOR SALE

As part of the appeal for £25,000 for Ermine Parish Church, 8,000 Ordinary Shares of 5/- are being issued. The Share Certificates will make unusual souvenirs for all those who buy them. The certificates are signed by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln and they state that the owner has had a share in the building of the Parish Church.

Shares may be purchased from any member of the Church Committee or from St. John's House. If Ermine is to have the finest Parish Church in Lincoln it will need the firm support of every Family.

Free Books— Cheap Horlicks

St. John's Evergreen Club now has its own library. Lincoln Public Library have supplied 100 books which they will change as required, and Boots, Chemists, have given 200 books from their head library in London. Many other books have been given by individuals.

Mrs. E. Daines, acting on behalf of the Red Cross, sells Horlicks, Ovaltine, etc., at greatly reduced prices to members of the Evergreen Club. A service which is much appreciated.

On Tuesday, January 14th, Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Cottrell arranged an outing for the club to see the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham.



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Election Night

On Wednesday, February 12th, there will be the St. John's Church Annual General Meeting. All members of the Church of England should come and help to elect Churchwardens and the Church Council for the year 1957-58.

Nominations for election to the Church Committee should be sent to Mr. S. Appleby, 37 Chatterton Avenue.

At this meeting a review will be made of the first year's WORK AND ACHIEVEMENT, and an outline given of any plans for the future. The treasurer will present a report on the finances of the past year, and if you want to know what happens to your collections, come and find out—contrary to popular opinion, the Church doesn't receive a penny from the State.

The annual General Meeting is a lively meeting, with a cup of tea thrown in for good measure. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion, so it's up to you to come and say what YOU think. **Book the Date now—** Wednesday, February 12th, at 7-30 p.m.

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NIGHT OUT FOR MEN

On Tuesday, January 7th, the members of the Young Wives' Group invited their husbands to join them for a New Year's Supper and Dance. An informal supper by candlelight set the party atmosphere for the evening, and even the husbands who said that they didn't dance soon joined in some of the more hectic square dances. After a repeat of Three Drops of Brandy, more than one man was seen to mop his brow, and exclaim: "I'm not as fit as I was." Nevertheless, it was unanimously agreed among the men that they should be invited more often!



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How do You Pray?

by

THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY
The Rt. Rev. Cuthbert Bardsley

I said: "Oh, God, if there is a God, show me yourself and let me know you." That was my first real prayer, made 25 years ago. I was 22.

Oh, I was a Christian before then—in a way. I bore the label. I went to Church. But it was all in my mind and not in my heart. I felt none of the power of God, or the power of prayer. . . .

Until that day I prayed, really prayed and had the answer—that God needed me.

I have been praying ever since—yes, and getting answers.

My prayers are usually answered in quite an undramatic fashion. God does not write in letters of gold on my bedroom wall.

But sometimes He does answer me dramatically, and it is of some of these occasions I want to tell you, because you may think that they offer proof of the power of prayer.

I remember not so long ago when my sister was gravely ill in a big London hospital and I was told: "She is dying."

The next day—it was a Sunday—I asked my congregation to kneel with me to pray for her. It was about seven o'clock in the evening.

My sister got well. And afterwards she told me: "One evening during my illness I felt I didn't want to live . . . then suddenly the feeling passed and I knew great peace and happiness. I knew I would get well."

I asked her when that evening was. She said: "A Sunday, I remember hearing the church bells." It was the Sunday we had prayed.

MY NAME

Coincidence? Perhaps, if it had happened only once. But when it happens many times you must find another name. The name I find is God.

One night the wife of a close friend of mine—a Colonel who has since been ordained—telephoned me. Her husband had double pneumonia and his doctor said he would die.



I 'phoned four friends (who were part of a "prayer cell" we have for such emergencies) and asked them to pray for my friend at 10-30 that night. When the wife 'phoned again she said: "Thank you—he is going to live. He has suddenly begun to get well again."

The nurse had gone into the room on that night and found an extraordinary improvement. The doctors could not explain it. But I could. For the time when the nurse found this sudden change was—11 o'clock.

RADIANCE

Are Prayers always answered?

Yes, ALWAYS, although sometimes we may doubt it, or may fail to see at the time just what the answer is.

Once I prayed hard to God to save a woman's life. She, too, was in a London hospital and the doctor said she was dying.

Even so, the transformation in that woman was extraordinary. She was so radiant that nurses—and even three cooks from the kitchens—used to go to her bedside just to be near her.

I told her—and I meant it—"You know, I rather envy you. You are going through a great adventure . . . the greatest of all adventures."

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How Do You Pray—continued

Afterwards a nurse told me that her last words were a whispered "the greatest of all adventures."

Did my prayers fail? You could, of course, blame that woman's passing on my ineffectiveness. But then, how explain her last supreme happiness?

I believe God answered my prayers, in His own way.

BE READY

Prayer works both ways—do not forget that.

Sometimes you may talk to God first, but often He may speak first to you. And then it is **you** who must be ready to answer.

Let me tell you a "bomb" story to show you what I mean. My curate and I were going home after doing what we could during a bad raid on our much-bombed parish—Woolwich—when I suddenly had an urge to visit a certain deep air-raid shelter.

"Don't be ridiculous—go home to bed," said my curate. Obediently I went.

I had just got indoors when again came the conviction that I must go to that shelter. **I went.**

When I got there I met a youngish woman running up the steps. She asked: "Have you heard what's happened to No. 7, — Street (her home)?"

I knew No. 7 had been totally wrecked. So I took her there and was able to help and comfort her and when she had to hear that her father had been killed. She became a Christian soon afterwards and I do believe God used that night to bring her to Him.

GUIDED

Now you may say here that I was merely believing what I wanted to believe.

That might be a fair criticism—**IF** what I believed was always pleasant for me.

But that is not so. **Sometimes God guides me to do things I do not want to do.** Sometimes I am disappointed in my prayers because for the moment I am more concerned with what I want than what God wants.

It is only exceptionally, of course, that prayer concerns the supreme crises of life and death.

Far more often, prayer is a matter of quietly talking with God about the everyday things.

(This article is reproduced by kind permission of the "Daily Express.")

FEBRUARY GARDENING

Early Peas such as Greenmantle, British Lion, Pilot, Meteor and Superb, and Broad Beans (Longpods) should be sown now in a warm part of the garden. Parships may also be sown, and Shallots planted.

For early crops of Tomatoes and Onions, the seed should be sown in boxes. Seed potatoes should be placed in boxes for chitting, and stored in a place free from frost.

Some flower seeds may be sown this month, e.g., Lobelia, Salvia, Petunia, and Coleus. Use a good seeding compost, and remember that the size of the seed is a good indication of the depth at which it should be sown; the smaller the seed, the nearer it should be to the surface of the soil. To water seeds sown in boxes, place the boxes in a tray of water. This enables the water to be

And it is in these things, in human relationships, that prayer is supremely important. For it is on how well we get on together that depends the peace of the world.

THOUSANDS—

It was important, for instance, that a Services leader of very high rank (I must not name him or give his rank) should pray for the right decision in a battle on which depended the lives of thousands of men.

He went into his room, he told me, and gave orders that he must not be disturbed for ten minutes. He prayed and suddenly the solution to his problem came to him. **And thousands of lives WERE saved.**

But it was also important for me to pray for **THREE** men who needed my prayers.

—OR THREE

I was taking an officers' course in moral leadership and these three men—they were really tough characters too—objected to it. They told me they were going to make things as hard as they could for me.

But my prayers were answered. **Three days later those men were shaking my hand and thanking me.**

Do do not wait for a crisis in your life before you begin to pray. Begin with the small things because, after all, they are life.

One last point—and a challenge. Suppose you say you do not believe in prayer or God. All right. I accept that and respect your honesty.

But at least you have not been able to prove there is no God—any more than I can prove, scientifically, that there is. So we are equal there. Agreed? Then why not try this—try talking to the God you do not believe in as I did 25 years ago.

Just say: Oh God, IF THERE IS A GOD, show yourself to me.

CHALLENGE

Keep it up for a bit, a few months even and keep it up particularly when you feel forlorn and lost and lonely.

Or go on thinking if you like that religion is bunk and that you have no time for bishops.

I ask only that you should challenge God as fiercely as you like: and see what happens.

And if I say I think I know what will happen, forgive me. You see I have been through it too.

soaked up from underneath, without disturbing the position of the seeds.

Fruit trees, roses, herbaceous plants, lupins, delphiniums can be planted; and trees, shrubs and strawberry plants should be sprayed now before any of the buds begin to burst.

Complete the pruning of fruit trees and spray with a winter wash, as this is important for the growing of good clean fruit. Lime of Potash may be lightly forked in now. Any remaining Spring-flowering bulbs should be planted without delay to avoid very late blooming. Begonias and Gloxinias may be started in the greenhouse.

March is a very busy month for gardeners, so all ground operations should be completed by the end of February.

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9	R. Mason A. Gaunt	Mrs. Briggs Roger Briggs	Wickenby Crescent Local Schools	Mrs. J. Wilson
16	E. Daines A. Chamberlain	Mrs. Temporal Mrs. Parker	Carlton Grove Christian Unity	Mrs. Hodgkinson
23	S. Appleby B. Parsons	Mr. and Mrs. Harrison	Fiskerton Drive King's Messengers	Mrs. Barsley

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Parish Priest

REV. J. HODGKINSON, St. John's House, Sudbrooke Drive. Phone Lincoln 1621.

Churchwardens

Mr. D. Barsley, 52 Laughton Way; Mr. M. Lound, 33 Willingham Avenue; Mr. K. Priestley, 50 Laughton Way.

P.C.C. Secretary

Mr. S. Appleby, 37 Chatterton Avenue.

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. L. Smith, 10 Barkston Gardens.

What's on this month

February

- 1 Sat. Coffee Morning in aid of C.L.B., 10—12 a.m.
- 2 Sun. **Purification of the B.V.M.**
- 4 Tue. Young Wives' Group.
- 5 Wed. Whist Drive, 7-30 p.m.
- 8 Sat. Dance (Blue Star Group Band), 7-30 p.m. Admission, 2/6.
- 9 Sun. **Sexagesima.**
- 12 Wed. Annual General Meeting of the Parish, 7-30 p.m.
- 14 Fri. Valentine Night Dance. (Youth).
- 16 Sun. Quinquagesima.
- 18 Tue. Young Wives' Group, 7-45 p.m.
- 19 Wed. Ash Wednesday. Evensong, 7-30 p.m. P.C.C., 8 p.m.
- 23 Sun. Lent I.
- 24 Mon. St. Matthias, A. & M. Holy Communion, 6-15 a.m.
Ermine Sports and Gala Week, preparatory meeting, 7-30 p.m.
- 26 Wed. Whist Drive, 7-30 p.m.

Wanted . . . For Sale . . .

(12 words, 1/6. Orders to Street Representatives or direct to St. John's House).

Good Flock DOUBLE MATTRESS for sale. Offers to 10 Allandale Close.

Very good double bar ELECTRIC FIRE; will fit into fireplace. Bargain at £1 10s. 2 Cornwall House.

LADIES CYCLE for sale. Offers to St. John's House, Sudbrooke Drive.

Exchange: 3 bedroom HOUSE, Nottingham, for similar in Lincoln. Enquire St. John's House.

GOBLIN SWEEPER, all tools, excellent condition. £8 or nearest. 2 Barkston Gardens.

REDUCTION

From next month adverts. will cost only 1/- for 12 words. What have you to sell? Give your adverts. please to Street Reps. or direct to St. John's House—and turn those oddments into money.

St. John's Register

Baptisms. January 5th.

Maureen Anne, daughter of Barry and Nora Watt. Jill, daughter of Eric and Sheila Turner.

Linda, daughter of Stanley and Kathleen Campbell.

Julie, daughter of Kenneth and Norma Turner.

Kim Graham Derek, son of Leslie and Marian Burton.

Peter, son of Dennis and Kathleen Burley.

Susan, daughter of Dennis and Kathleen Burley.

Julie, daughter of Charles and Joy Smeeton.

SUNDAY SERVICES

The Family Communion, 9-15 a.m.

(Young children may be left at St. John's House)

Evensong, 6-30 p.m.

Holy Baptism.

1st Sunday in the month, 3-45 p.m. (Please give a fortnight's notice).

Mid-Week Services

Holy Communion	Monday	6-15 a.m.
" "	Wednesday	9-15 a.m.
" "	Thursday	6-15 a.m.
" "	Friday	7-0 a.m.
" "	Saturday	8-0 a.m.

Sunday Schools

Senior Confirmation School (11+), 10-45 a.m.

Junior " " (7+), 2-45 p.m.

Infants " " (4+), 2-0 p.m.

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