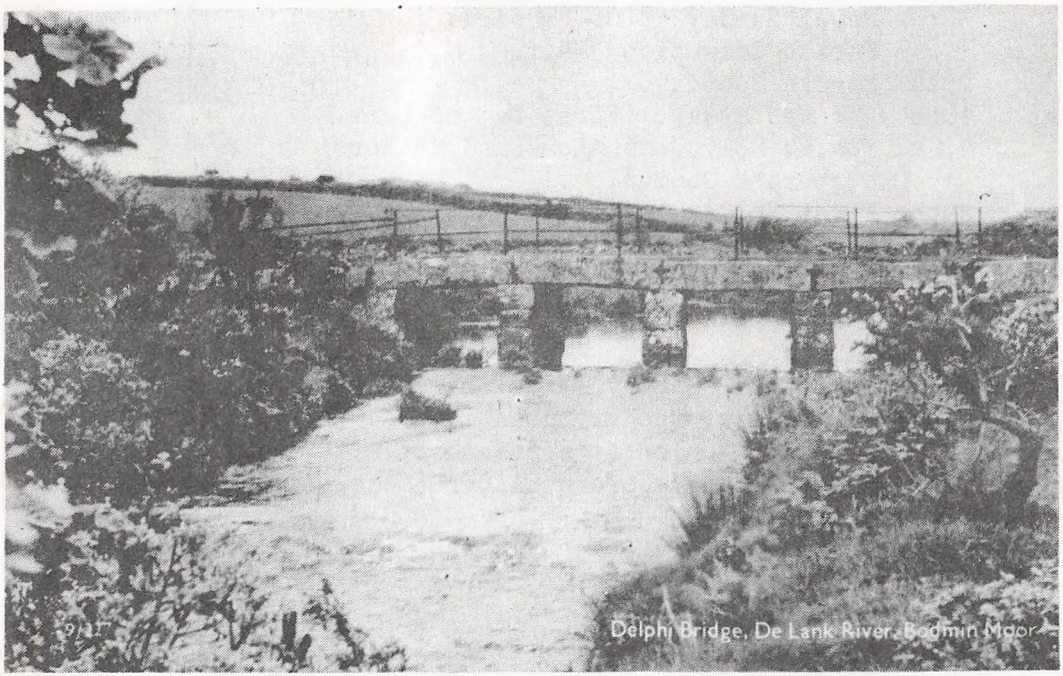
Barnstaple

BLISLAND with TEMPLE and ST BREWARD

10p

FEBRUARY 1983

No. 35



DELPHI BRIDGE, DE LANK RIVER. Blisland - St Breward.

Priest in charge: The Reverend C. R. Sargisson, The Rectory, Blisland. Bodmin: 850249

Churchwardens (Blisland) Brigadier Edward—Collins. Cardinham 226

Mr. G. Masters Bodmin 850331

(St. Breward) Mr. C. Greenaway Bodmin 850433

Mrs. S. Hutton Bodmin 850761

PARISH CALENDARS

BLISLAND with TEMPLE.

February.

1st Tuesday. S.Euny, Missionary.

2nd Wednesday. The Presentation of Christ. Holy Communion 10a.m.
Mothers' Union 3p.m. Mrs Jerram.

6th Eighth Sunday before Easter (Sexagesima)
Parish Communion 10a.m.

8th Tuesday. March Magazine copy due, please, to Editor.

13th Seventh Sunday before Easter (Quinquagesima)
Revel Sunday at St Breward.
Parish Communion 10a.m.

15th Shrove Tuesday.

16th Ash Wednesday. First Day of Lent.
10a.m. Holy Communion (and Mothers' Union Corporate Communion.)

20th First Sunday in Lent.
Parish Communion 10a.m.

27th Second Sunday in Lent.
Parish Communion 10a.m.

ST BREWARD.

1st Tuesday. S.Euny, Missionary.

2nd Wednesday. The Presentation of Christ.
Mothers' Union at Blisland 3p.m. Mrs Jerram.

6th Eighth Sunday before Easter (Sexagesima)
Mattins 11.30a.m.

8th Tuesday. March Magazine copy due, please, to Editor.

13th St Breward Revel Sunday.
Parish Communion 11.30a.m.
Evensong 3p.m. The Revd Canon S.W.Barrie, Rural Dean and Vicar of Bodmin.

15th Shrove Tuesday.

16th Ash Wednesday. First Day of Lent.
Mothers' Union Corporate Communion at Blisland.10a.m.
Holy Communion and First Lenten Wednesday Address 7.30p.m.

20th First Sunday in Lent.
Parish Communion 11.30a.m.

23rd Wednesday. Compline and Address 7.30p.m.

27th Second Sunday in Lent.
Parish Communion 11.30a.m.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

February is St Brewards' month, for Revel Sunday, our Patronal Festival, is on the 13th. The Parish Communion is at 11.30a.m. and Evensong is Sung at 3p.m. There will be tea in the Village Hall, complete with Revel Buns blessed in the morning.

I have referred before to our church's elevated geographical position, the highest in the county, eight hundred feet up and a landmark for miles around. There has been delight locally in the twelve days of Christmas, for the tower reached a few feet higher still, crowned by an illuminated Christmas Tree. To add to such a lovely surprise, we were also grateful for the added attraction of floodlighting. Thank you, in the name of the parish, to all who hatched up this plot to give us such fun.

"What! Christmas Trees in church and on it (and another in Blisland)! What's religious about a Christmas Tree, or buns in church, for that matter? That's got nothing to do with Church." There is some truth there, on the face of it, though it depends on how narrow a view you take of what is supposed to be "religious", for I suppose the Christmas Tree is a secular form of decoration probably introduced from overseas by Albert the Prince Consort. In one of my churches I had mistletoe, too. "How could you?" says my Carping Critic, "That's pagan, from the Druids, definitely NOT CHURCH".

"Might it not proclaim the victory of Christ, however, if we take the secular and even the pagan, into the embrace of the Church, even learning something from spontaneous expressions of joy ? Can we not show that as Christians we are concerned with the secular and the sacred as ONE, as part of a glorious intertwining of the threads of everyday with those of the supposedly more holy, thereby making everything hallowed? If God made everything that there is, and saw that it was good, then all life is fundamentally religious, and we Christians should reject any attempt to shut off the sacred and the everyday into separate compartments. Our Lord made it clear that the two are one when he made"religious" use of "everyday" bread and wine.

Let St Breward Revel, then, be a full and glad recognition that as our parish church stands prominently, so

Christ rules in the lives of its parishioners. Let us see to it that the everyday and the sacred are linked in our daily lives and that our actions and words are worthy of the Lord whom we profess.

After that little crop of let-us-es, as so many sermons end, I have a word for Blisland. It is commonly reported that the Rector is going about saying that Christianity has not touched Blisland. Now that is not what he said. He touched on the subject in doing what he believed was his Christian duty by giving a lead in a short sermon at Midnight Mass.

I pointed out a need for compassion in a particular case, indicating an area where Christian action was called for, especially as I had understood that Christmas was all about, among other matters, a man and his wife and a baby. I said the need in question was a chance for the community to show by its actions whether or not the Christian faith had touched it. (If I have got the wrong end of the stick as to what Christmas, and the faith, and compassion are all about then I shall be grateful if someone will tell me.) I also said that when my own home was burnt down some years ago the surrounding community was overwhelmingly kind in lending, or giving the necessities of life.

While thanks are due to those who responded, people have not been slow to point out that those who are unfortunate are the responsibility of their families, not of the community and that charity begins at home. It is thus clear that that is precisely where it stops. I question that amongst Christians. Horace Smith (end 18th century, beginning of 19th) wrote

Our charity begins at home,
And mostly ends where it begins.

S.Paul, writing of widows (no pensions then), said that where there were no families the Church community should help, but that families, where there were any, should remember their duty. If he was saying that charity begins at home he does not imply that it stops there.

This raises another question. Are we, as Christians, to help only those whom we happen to like or admire? As S.Paul would say again, "Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ" (Ephesians 4.20) Our Lord said that what we do for others we do for him and that

where we fail others we fail him. He said nothing about being selective in our loving compassion. Where there is need, there must our love be, irrespective of kinship or merit. The golden rule of the New Testament applies again; do as you would be done by.

One thing more; loving has nothing to do with liking, which would be a good subject for a Lenten piece next month.

Conrad Sargisson.

PARISH REGISTERS.

Mary Edith West. Burial at St Breward 13th January.

Miss Molly West died 8th Jan. at Blackwood House, Camborne. She is remembered with affection in St Breward as a regular communicant and teacher in Sunday School.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory. C.R.S.

NELLIES MEMORIES cont.

Leicester Workhouse 1925 -

Sunday mornings duty was to sit in the big dining hall when husbands and wives met, and I hated it.

I used to do Ambulance work, and if ever I was on there always seemed a lot to take to the Infirmary. The first stretcher case I had was a woman with very advanced T.B Poor thing only lived three days.

Another time I took a very big man - it was after 5p.m and the officer from the office should have gone. However I went alone with this huge man and he was so quiet and kept saying "You will look after me, Nurse, won't you ?" When I got back, the Master of the Workhouse asked me who went with me - I said ,no-one. Well, it seems this man had been knocking them all around. There was quite a fuss made about it as he could have 'gone' for me.

Once we went to fetch a man from a terrible place. We had to get him down on a stretcher and half the stairs were missing. He was on an old bed, propped up with boxes, and old coats covering him. What terrible slums I went in - I certainly saw that side of life.

The babies would be christened at the little church and Matron got me to hold two at one service - I said that I should laugh , and so I did, as the poor little Curate

was scared. Anyhow, she never asked me again, and I told her it was very wrong for me to promise what I couldn't do.

Once a month I took a waggonette of Mothers over to Countesthorpe to the Cottage Homes to see their children. Then once, Matron asked me to take two children there. I went by train and it was terrible having to leave them there. The Superintendant wouldn't let me take them to the Nursery Home and they were crying and shouting, 'Nurse, Nurse.' it was awful.

At the weekends there would be as many as 200 tramps, men and a few women, I was scared when I first had to admit one, but she was a regular and knew more about it than I did! They had very good food and there was the house part for workers, and then the infirm block, and another where thay were well cared for by the nurses.

All the men lived in a separate block, But those who were able, the men and women met for meals in the big Dining Hall, and when they were short of staff I used to help out. When I was on duty in the evenings I would see to the women in the house, and get their supper, cocoa and bread and marg. One night, one went for me, so I went to get help. She had got hold of a knife and I got my hands cut. We managed to get it away from her she was really mad and we had to put her into a padded cell. I had to help put three in there while I was employed there.

One old lady 'took herself out' - she had nowhere to go but they couldn't stop her from discharging herself. She walked up and down outside all day. Matron said if we could get her in without using force, to try. So when I was going to the Nurses Home for tea I went outside and asked her if she'd had any tea, she said No, so I asked her if she would like to come inside and have tea with me - and she came.

Those who wished, could have a day out once a month, Lizzie Goss always came back having had plenty to drink, and when she shook hands we knew she had had a good time. She wouldn't remember it in the morning.

At one time we made a lot of shrouds, and when I returned to the room, one of them was dancing around in one!

I left Leicester in Sept 1928. The old girls were upset, and didn't want me to go, but I had made up my mind to go as a Sister in the National Childrens Home.

The first House I lived in was Posnett House, Frodsham. We had 27 boys and we were three Sisters in charge. After a time I went to live in Charles Garret House with Sister Marion, we had 27 boys and fourteen were over the age of 14, and they came from all kinds of backgrounds Sister Marion had a breakdown and the Sister who took her place was no good at discipline.

The boys told the Govenor that if I could be in charge they would do all they could, but as I was still in grey uniform, I couldn't - but in 1932 I was sent to Birmingham and was ordained at Harpenden in June 1932.

While at Frodsham I helped with the Cubs. Sister Evelyn and I had 36 cubs, 6 from each house. We had good times with them and took them to camp atRhyl. During a storm our tent blew down and we sang outside the Scoutmasters tent "Fierce raged the tempest o'er the Camp",while they slept. Another time we went to Prestatyn , 90 boys, 3 Sisters and 2 Scout leaders. It was rain all the fortnight. We all went to the Methodist Church on the Sunday and the congregation couldn't believe three or four of us were in charge. They were all well behaved.

Another time, I had to take a boy to the Emigration Office in Liverpool. He was going to Canada the following week so he had to see the Emigration Doctor. We had to wait so they asked what would I do?. So I said it would be nice for the boy to see a Liner,so he sent us off to see one just about to sail for Canada & the people were all going on board. The engines were all in motion, We had a good look around the engine room and bakery and everywhere we could. It was an experience for him. The liner was the Duchess of York. We often looked over liners when they were in dock when we went to Liverpool for the day.

I went to Birmingham to take over the Sewing Room and had several girls in their teens. When I first went there they weren't allowed to talk, so I said that when I was their age I couldn't sit still, and not talk all day, and didn't expect anyone else to do such a thing. We had such a happy time, the girls used to tell me all their little secrets.

Foundat

Foundation Stone
Hall
July 13th 1929.

These photo's are of the Foundation Stone Laying of Blisland Hall. July 13th 1929. Laid by Mrs Vernon Morshead. But who are the rest? Have any of you recollections of the event?

A new subscriber rang the other day to book her next issue. In the course of the conversation she said that she would love to have a get-together, or hear from former evacuees that came to Blisland during the war. Is anyone else interested, or do you know where our war-time guests are now?

On going through my folders I found a copy of the St Tudy Parish Directory. The names and telephone nos. of many of the factions in the parish. Churches, various committees, clubs, associations, surgeries, libarary van and refuse collection. It also included a trade directory of local craftsmen and stores, plus the delivery vans.. Could we possibly compile a similar list? It can be murder looking for a plumber when you don't know where to start, and he's not the chap you call on every week!! but when you want him - it's at the double. Who would care to be included?

SMV

We used to get parties of visitors and Mr Markham, the Govenor, used to ask me to take them around. Each week , one of the Houses would be open to visitors - they were taken to see the workshops, laundry, bakery and swimming pool and I always took them to the sewing room last and we always kept a case to show them what each girl and boy took with them when they left. They had a very nice lot of new clothes. I used to let the boys choose their suit, shirt, tie and socks, and would say what I thought would be best.

They had a good choir and used to go on tour for about three weeks at a time, and they gave concerts at different places, and every year gave a lovely show in Birmingham Town Hall. I always helped with dressing and seeing them on stage, and I went to several other places with them.

I remember so well when I was ordained with several others at Harpenden. We all put on our new blue uniforms. It was a moving service - very impressive. We each received our badge and a Bible. The service is similar to the ordination of ministers.

Every June we went into Birmingham town centre to sell daisies on Flag Day. It was sometimes very hot; we were each given 2/6 for our bus fare and lunch, then had our tea in the Central Hall,where all the money was counted. The big boys would be there to come and change our tins when they got heavy.

In 1932 I went to Birmingham Central Hall when Rev. Luke Wiseman introduced the New Methodist Hymn Book. I used to teach in the Sunday School in the Home, but the Govenor said he would release me to go and help at Kingstanding. There was a large new estate and a Hall was built to begin with, and then the Church and Sunday School were built. We had 600 children in the Sunday School, and with the help of a friend I had 50 teenaged girls in the Junior Guild. A lot came from very poor backgrounds. When I walked around that way with my friends they would say ' You know all the little urchins' We had some good times there, though, and I used to invite a few at a time to come to my room at the Home. They loved that.

We had a fine minister the Rev Kenneth Waights. He was a good visitor and stared a Men's Fellowship on Sunday mornings. He would get about 100 there.

In 1937 my brother Hedley lost his wife. I went to London for the funeral, and felt I had to give up the work I loved so much and look after him and Bob and Pat.

The Principal of the Home, Rev. Litten, didn't want me to leave, and offered me a house where they could come and live with me, and enable me to stay in the Children's Home, but my brother wanted to come to Cornwall. It was a very sad day when I went to Head Office at Highbury to see Rev.Litten, but he was very nice and I only went back once to Birmingham to pick up my clothes.

The first place we lived was at St Day, Pat started school there, and Bob had a job in Redruth. Later that year we moved to Cotton Woods, Nanstallon. Hedley did some of the work for these people but I was expected to do the cleaning. It was a very lonely place.

Next move was to Lostwithiel where Hedly was a Steward in the Conservative Club. After I had been with them $3\frac{1}{2}$ years He decided to get married again, so I had to find a job. It was terrible leaving Pat. Bob was in the Air Force, he joined in 1939 before the war started.

I went to Shepton Mallet to work in the Sewing Room at West End House, it was a hospital for mental defectives. The war was on and we had many air raid warnings being so near to Bristol and Bath. There were troops stationed at Shepton and we used to entertain them, and in return they would come and fetch us so that we could go to the E.N.S.A. concerts, and bring us home again.

In Sept 1940, Fan, Nurse Jackson and I had a holiday in Paignton, and then I had a week home with Em at Penvorda Cottages, as I usually spent my holidays with her, Jack and Edna.

In February 1941, I had news that Emmie was ill, but I got home too late to see her. It was a terrible blow as she had been like a mother to me.

In 1942, Fan and I went to Chichester and stayed with old friends of Fan. Then we went to Windsor for a week with Marjorie, who was employed at the Royal Dairy.

While we were there, the Duke of Kent was buried, and a few days after it was a National Day of Prayer. Princess Marina wished to sit amongst the congregation in St Georges Chapel, Windsor. We were able to attend as well.

NATURE TITBITS.

Shortly before Christmas we filled wire containers with peanuts and hung them in a tree outside the windows. After a short time they were visited by bluetits and great tits. Coal tits also fed from the baskets, but they were shyer and only appeared at dusk.

A day or two later we were quite excited to see a greenfinch feeding on the peanuts. We were slightly less enthusiastic about the third and fourth greenfinch, and when they began to flock in numbers of twenty or more we discovered definite symptons of hostility in ourselves!! The greenfinches drove off all the members of the tit family, who retired to the bushes, disconsolate.

We pondered the problem, and the outcome was that I drove into Bodmin and bought another basket, and several pounds of peanuts. We had decided that warfare among the birds might be resolved by a superfluity of economic resources! So far, I am glad to say, we have been successful. The greenfinches are returning to the baskets in ones and twos, with an expression on their faces which definitely indicates the sentiment "Oh no! Not peanuts again!" The tit family comes and goes once more, unmolested.

One can't help feeling that there is a moral in this, somewhere.

We should be very interested to learn what species are noted on other local bird tables and similar facilities, and any other interesting sightings.

Sheila Larson, Tumrose.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions for 1983 are dropping through our letter boxes, thank you very much. May I make one small plea though, If you should pay by cheque will you please make it payable to the Blisland & St Breward Parish Magazine, and not to any one individual. This equally applies to St Breward when their subs. are due. It will save our Treasurer a few grey hairs and allow the cash to flow faster.

SMV

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Comment on Christmas cards from long-lost friends; "I always think that it's a terrible disappointment when you get a missive from the blue and all that's written on it is 'love from' ..... and that's all there is no matter how many times you turn it over, squeeze it, and hold up to the light. " (This was received in a letter from a friend of ours in Mallorca, not seen for two years!)

SL

FOOLS CORNER.

The utter inhumanity shewn to fellow humans in the IRA and ILA outrages makes one wonder about what to do, and how to combat the terrorists. The scriptures have two alternatives, turn the other cheek - until one becomes punch drunk?, or, an eye for an eye?.
There has been critisism of the Israelis in the Lebanon, but if the PLO who were taking refuge there, were training terrorist factions of all nationalities, who in turn come and wreck our peace, then can one honestly blame the Israelis, who are so much nearer and in daily contact with these destructive forces, for taking such actions. One should feel for the Lebanese whose hosting of these factions has been at a devastating cost.

Our Forces have recently taken to task a similarly undemocratic regime. The difference being that at least we knew who the enemy were, they wore a uniform to state their side. What a pity the IRA don't wear their uniform daily and not just when they're firing a volley over a grave, and then under the protective aprons of local matrons.

The massacre of men and beasts going about their peaceful duties, sickens one, but when you see the bent 6" nails which were part of the armament one wonders how warped their minds can get..

Dogs found savaging sheep are shot down. Beasts doing far worse to innocent people are allowed to live.
Have we got our priorities wrong?.

Now you will be wondering why I should go on at length about catastrophes which seemingly are over the hills and far away from our pleasant parishes. But none of us are far away from these deplorable actions.

After Midnight Mass I chatted to a Mother who was so thankful that her WRAC daughter was on duty at Ballykelly the night of the Droppin Well outrage, otherwise, we too might have been attending a military funeral.

But for the Grace of God.....

Change of subject.. I've recently had two lovely letters from readers, with ideas, contributions, suggestions, and I do thank them, also the Christmas cards from appreciative subscribers. Thank you one and all.
Thought for today - A critic can be a friend!

SMV

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

ST BREWARD.

The December Meeting held early in the month heard with pleasure the Treasurers report that the Nov. Fund event raised about £86, and increase on '81 and the stallholders are to be congratulated, also the donors of the splendid array of goods.

A group of three members went to a day class,to learn about Rag Doll making with the energetic Mrs Eddy. Complete with packed lunches about 11 of us stitched, stuffed and gossipped, learnt about plaits, fringes and expressive eyes. Mrs Holmes is hoping to arrange a day class at her home in the Spring, again with Mrs Eddy as tutor, so lets have a good response to a good opportunity!

Mrs Bousfield ably took over in the absence of Mrs Blake; the details of her three visits to Denman Coll. made interesting listening, enhanced by excellent slides supplied by County House.

Mrs J.Greenaway won both the flower of the month and the shortbread competitions.

On February 15th we have our Annual Meeting to elect officers, with Mrs Dyer VCO present.

Ann Holmes.

BLISLAND

An enjoyable time was had by all at our Christmas Party in December. Several prizes were won by members and visitors from the various competitions and after a delicious supper the evening concluded with a relaxing game of Dominoes.

In the County Competition Freda Quin and Stella Vause have a bye in the first round.

In February we welcome Mr Holland to talk on 'Plants for Dark places' The comp. is three homegrown bulbs. I'm hoping to enter my hyacinths and crocus bulbs which are just coming into flower.

The Annual Meeting will be held in March, drawing to an end the present committee & the programme for the past year. Naturally membership is foremost in our minds.

The Institute always welcomes new members.

Mary Price.

YULE LOGS.

My thanks to the Gentleman who left a Christmas bag of logs at my door.

I was told they were being distributued to the 'old folks'. As Ronnie Corbet is wont to say 'I know my place'. Thanks anyway boys. All your efforts are much appreciated.

SMV.

W.R.V.S. OVER SIXTIES CLUB

The tea party and entertainment at the C.P.School on Dec 15th was much enjoyed & we owe thanks to the staff and children for their kindness in inviting us.

We are hoping the weather will be kind to us on Jan 18th when we have arranged to go to St Moritz for our Annual New Year's dinner.

The series of Whist Drives held by Mrs Billing in her home raised the grand sum of over £30 and brought loud applause from members for her hard work and hospitality.

A short session of table games ended the first meeting of the New Year & best wishes extended for a speedy recovery to Mr Parnall & Mr Parkhouse while in hospital.

Our Annual Meeting is on Feb 1st when we hope all members will be present.

G.M.Masters.

CARPENTER, PAINTER and DECORATOR
available now for all types of work indoors or out. Please contact Stringer, Wall House, Blisland. Bodmin 850124 for estimates and further details.

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BLISLAND PARISH COUNCIL.

Notes from the Chairman.

During November I had a visit from a Trustee and Representative of the Woodland Trust, Mr K.Watkins MBE You all probably know that Mrs Lumley-Smith (ex-Editor of the Parish Mag.) gave Lavethan Woods to the Trust and Mr Watkins called to tell me that the Public were very welcome to use the Woodlands for walks. This is a very lovely area and I'm sure lots of you will take advantage of this kind invitation.

E.J.W.

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CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

There were about twenty entries, from young and old, all of them correct except one. The prize was won by Mrs N.A.Hawken, Treleaven, St Breward.

The anagrams were:- CAROLS, CRACKERS, REINDEER, PARTIES, MINCEPIES, DECORATIONS, CINDERELLA, MISTLETOE . The spare letters forming HOT CAKES.

D.G.B.

Our thanks to Mr Bousefield for that little mind-bender, I am so glad that he had a good response to it.

SMV.

WEBBER TRAVEL

THE GARAGE, BLISLAND, BODMIN, CORNWALL

Tel: (STD) 0208 850236 Head Office

WEBBERS TRAVEL 1983.

Llandudno, Wales. 8 days, June 4th-11th, to include three day tours, three evenings of entertainment, with full-board. £115.

Bournemouth.8 days, June 25th-July 2nd. Three day tours. Boscombe hotel that includes bed, breakfast and evening meal. £96.

Scotland. 8days, July 9th-17th. Staying at Edinburgh University with three day tours. Full board with packed lunches on the tour days. £165.

Brighton. 8 days, August 13th-20th. Sea front hotel, Three day tours. Bed, breakfast and evening meal.£130.

Shanklin, Isle of Wight.8days Sept.10th-17th. Three day tours. Bed, breakfast & evening meal. £135.

Blackpool. 4 days, October 7th-10th. See the illuminations and have a tour of the Lake District. £68.

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Blisland and St Breward Parish Magazine.
Editor Stella Vause, Beechtree Cottage, Blisland.
Tel. Bodmin 850512.
Treasurer Mrs E Walford, Tor, Blisland.
Distributor for St Breward Joy Cheeseman, Barn Park
Tel. Bodmin 850662.