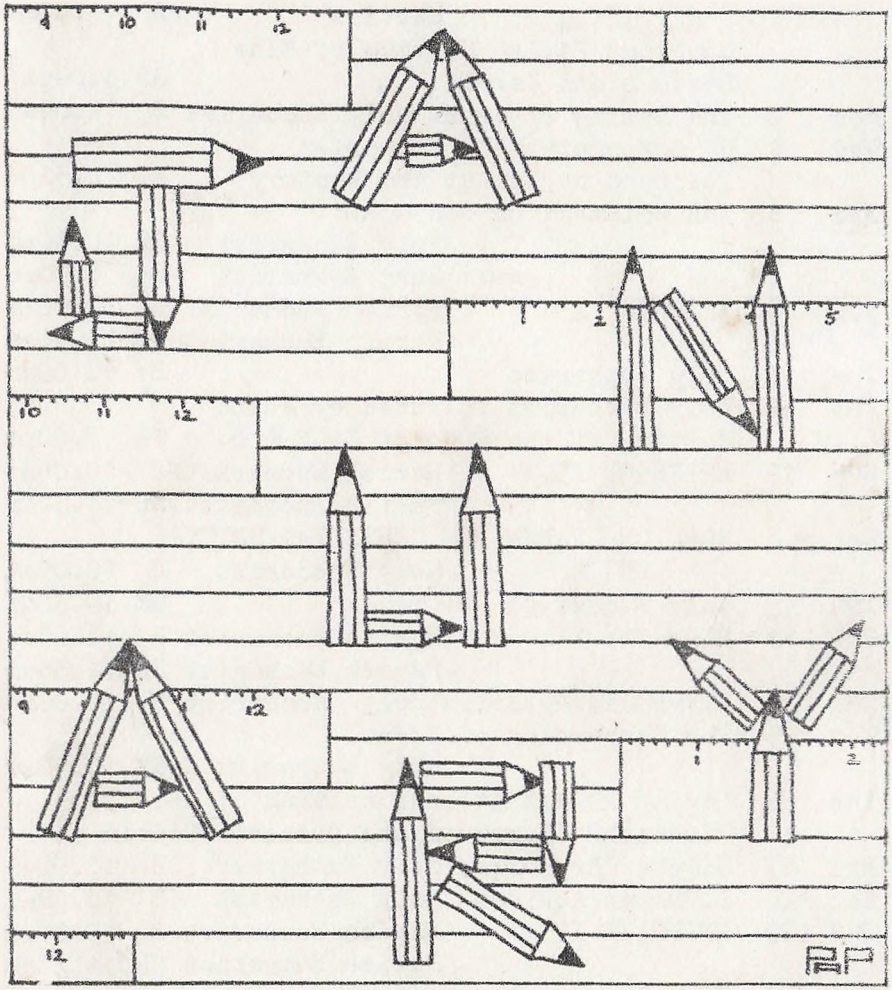
Bousfield

BLISLAND with TEMPLE and ST BREWARD

JANUARY, 1984. No 46. 12p.



Priest in charge: The Rev. Prebendary Edwin G.J.Stark MA
The Rectory, Blisland. Bodmin 850249

Churchwardens

Blisland	Brig. Edward-Collins	Bodmin 850620
	Mr G.Masters	Bodmin 850331
St Breward	Mr C.Greenaway	Bodmin 850435
	Mrs S Hutton	Bodmin 850761

KALENDAR & ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1984.

SUN	1	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS		
		Parish Eucharist	B	10.00am
		Mattins	SB	11.30am
		Combined Parish Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.	SB	3.00pm
Mon	2	The Naming of Jesus.Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am
Wed	4	MU Corporate Holy Eucharist followed by Tea at the Rectory	B	2.30pm
Fri	6	THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD		
		Holy Eucharist	SB	10.30am
		Sung Eucharist	B	7.00pm
SUN	8	EPIPHANY I Parish Eucharist	B	10.00am
		Parish Eucharist	SB	11.30am
Tue	10	Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am
Thu	12	Holy Eucharist followed by Joint Meeting of the PCCs of St.B & B.	SB	7.00pm
SUN	15	EPIPHANY II Parish Eucharist	B	10.00am
		Parish Eucharist	SB	11.30am
Wed	18	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am
Thu	19	Holy Eucharist	SB	10.30am
SUN	22	EPIPHANY III Parish Eucharist	B	10.00am
		Parish Eucharist	SB	11.30am
Tue	24	S.Frances de Sales Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am
Wed	25	The Conversion of S.Paul Holy Eucharist	SB	10.30am
Thu	26	Parish Priest attends meeting of the Bishops & Clergy of the Diocese: Bodmin am		
Fri	27	S.John Chrysostom Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am
Sat	28	S.Thomas Aquinas Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am
SUN	29	EPIPHANY IV Parish Eucharist	B	10.00am
		Parish Eucharist	SB	11.30am
Mon	30	King Charles the Martyr Holy Eucharist	B	10.00am

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

My dear Parishioners of Blisland, St Breward and Temple,

'Nineteen Eighty-Four' is the title of a book written by George Orwell (pseudonym of Eric Arthur Blair 1903-50) which was a hair-raising prophesy for mankind in the year which has just begun.

We do not know what is in store for us but we must hope for the best. Faith, hope and love must motivate our lives in the year which lies ahead. We must continue to persevere in saying our private prayers and in regularly corporately worshipping together publicly. We know for whom and for what to pray in the community in which we live and throughout the world in which we live.

May I thank all those who have welcomed Sister and me to our three parishes in which we have now resided for six months. I refer, of course, to the whole community and not least to those who come to Church. There are two people to whom I would like to express my thanks on your behalf. One is a priest and the other is a layman. The priest is Father Michael Browning of St Breward who is always ready to assist me when the need arises, whose friendship and that of his wife I value and has kindly contributed an interesting article which appears in this month's magazine. The layman is Harold, the Village Blacksmith of Blisland, who has kindly fashioned a thurible stand which was used for the first time at the Christmas Midnight Mass at Blisland.

Looking ahead, in a few days' time we shall keep the great Feast of the Epiphany when Christ was manifested to the Gentiles and received those symbolic gifts of gold (kingship), frankincense (worship) and myrrh (death). In two months time the penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 7th. During Lent I hope to arrange for a series of House Meetings to take place each week alternately in Blisland and in St Breward. At these meetings we shall have a subject for discussion with a view to deepening our spiritual lives and we shall end each meeting by saying Compline (Night Prayers) together. All will be welcome.

May God Bless You and all whom you love,

EDWIN STARK.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Editor, 8th Nov.

I have just received my copy of the Nov. issue of the magazine, and, as usual, I have enjoyed reading it. However I am annoyed by the statement made by your Treasurer's Report, about the financial situation that "Mrs Lumley-Smith obviously subsidized the magazine" Mrs Lumley-Smith did no such thing. As the accounts for the period will show the printing and other expenses such as postage to subscribers outside the parish and overseas, hire of equipment, envelopes and so on were paid for from the magazine's bank account, or from petty cash. The one possible exception being the cost of the carbon ribbon which I used on my typewriter.

The money required for the running of the magazine was raised by subscription, donations (some of these were generous 'thank you's' from old friends overseas) and voluntary efforts such as Open Days, Mrs Walford's coffee mornings and St Breward's coffee evening all of which were well patronised. Webber brothers also contributed £30.00 per year for their half page advert. I notice that this sum does not show in the current accounts. It should be collected in December for the year, so you have perhaps two years to collect. I am sure Keith and Evan will not mind paying it.

There is no blame attaching to the present management for needing to raise the subscription. Costs have risen since the magazine started in 1980, and I'm sure no-one will mind paying another 2p, but I should like it to be made quite clear that the magazine was <u>never subsidized</u>.

I wish you every success in the future and enclose a small donation and postage costs. I call this a donation because , as your founder-editor, I receive the magazine free and I should like to feel you are willing to continue with this very pleasant privilege.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Lumley-Smith.

P.S. The REAL subsidy we editors make - as you well know- is the incredible amount of time we put into the magazine - if that was "paid" time you could work out a phenomenal subsidy!

Dear Readers,

I contacted both parties with regard to the financial statement; on the one hand our books were balanced with all the available information, including Webber's contribution-I hasten to add.. on the other hand running the Open Days at Lavethan incurred various expenses - which quite probably accounts for the sum we cannot reconcile.

At least I can be assured that the magazine is well and truly read and inwardly digested.

May I take this opportunity of reminding our readers that (in the main) our annual subscriptions are due for the Blisland readers. £1.44p. Plus £1.50 if it is posted to you.

Our St Breward friends would also like to bring the subscription date to a Jan-Dec basis, and also to encourage an annual subscription - it would make it easier for us to budget. We have already allowed for the fact that many St B. have already paid up toMay for their magazines.

And finally, dear friends, please note our front cover for this month. It is not only the work of my young friend, Paul Pierce, but hopefully it will inspire you to do likewise - pick up your pen and contribute a little something. I'm still waiting for some more recipes!!

SMV.

Blisland Parish Council used to have a regular write-up. The Editor has asked for a correspondant, so far without much success. A new Council has been elected; one resignation; the possibility of a by-election; certain controversial planning applications - turned down by Blisland but upheld at District;the closure of the Wenford line with all the added hazards of heavy transport. And what have we read about these?- not a flipping word!! As Jimmy Edwards was wont to say "WAKE UP AT THE BACK!!"

Ed.

ST BREWARD PARISH COUNCIL

December meeting. Job Creation have renewed the fence, cleared around the play area and in front of the seat at Lyland, well done. Also a lot of energy has been put into giving the Cemetery a much needed 'face-lift' (back to the days of "Hi-5").
Several complaints have been received regarding the number of dogs straying around the Village, inquiries are being made as to whether pressure can be put on owners to keep them under control.
The Parish Council Road Safety Team gained third place in a recent Road Safety Competition, an improvement on last time.
The Parish Council does not always get consulted by the District Council when a Council House becomes vacant, we don't know why? but we would advise anyone who is even remotely interested in a house or exchange to get their names on the Housing List, also keep the details up-to-date.
The De Lank footbridge is in need of repair. Blisland P.C. have also been asked to look into this.
It would be nice to bring the Christening Roll up-to-date in the Church.
The Council has decided that a 4p rate will cover the expenditure for 84/85.

M.Hunt.

WENFORD CLAY LINE

The meeting held in Blisland Village Institute on 7th December was attended by 19 persons, its main purpose was to try and find a way to retain the clay lines. The proposed Cornish Rail Society hoped to carry clay for a regular income plus carry tourists in the season, but the cost of buying the track and stock from B.R. would be the main snag, plus repairs to a track and rolling stock that has been allowed to deteriorate.

S.C.L.P. are only interested in getting their clay hauled at the cheapest and most reliable method, which hasn't always been B.R. The extra traffic going via our parish's lanes will be to our detriment, so failing

Cont. P7.

ST BREWARD SILVER BAND.

The Band has been accepted to play in the Radio Cornwall Brass Band Competition for 1984. It will compete with Indian Queens on Thursday evening 19th January in the Foster Hall, Bodmin. This recording will go out on Radio Cornwall on the 28 & 29th January. It is a knock-out competition and 16 bands will compete, the top eight going into a second round. So we wish them well. Many young players are now busy practicing for the Wadebridge Music Festival in February.

The A.G.M. report for 1983 proved that the Band had great success in contesting and engagements. The Treasurer also reported record profits of over £3000, the income was over £6000. £2963 has been earmarked for new uniforms in 1985.

The Band will have been in existence 85 years, so perhaps something should be done to mark the occasion, such as a photograph in the Bandsman. There is now a firm which produces C60 tapes and Mr Hunt proposes that the Band will record a cassette in time for the summer season.

WENFORD LINE cont:

the use of the railway what can we do to ensure our own safe passage? The County Council will need to provide better and more adequate passing places as up to five lorries can go in convoy within three minutes, also notices are required warning everyone of the hazards, and what of pedestrians? and the disturbance to our hedges, walls and property by these juggernauts?

The meeting hoped that they would be able to come to some agreement with BR.

I was contacted by an interested party who wanted information regarding this meeting, and we discussed the alternative uses of the disused track. Footpaths and nature walks are the obvious. But whilst thinking this problem over I wonder if anyone, including E.C.L.P. has thought of using the railroad as a lorry road, as they did around St Austell?) and we could walk it as well!

ed.

THE LITTLE CHURCH OF ST PIRAN.

From Ireland he came, crossing the sea on a stone; or so they say. But 1,500 years can give a strange distortion to a story. Saint Piran was his name. Certainly he brought his altar stone. What is was like can be seen in the travelling altar stone set in the Holy Table of Saint Columb Minor Church. No doubt Saint Piran's stone, because it was treasured, produced the tale that on it he rode the waves.

In those days paint was unknown. So ships did not lie at anchor in harbour but were beached to dry. For this the three mile long beach at a place, now called Perranporth, was ideal. Here Saint Piran landed. Near the shore he built his cell and his little church. There he began his mission. Not that he came to teach Christianity. The good news about Jesus had been brought to Cornwall long before by people from the Mediterranean who came to buy tin and copper. Then in 430A.D. the Roman Army was withdrawn and all sorts of hairy people came to plunder.

All Britain was over run except Wales and Cornwall. They were saved by a traditional hero called King Arthur. He may have been more than one chief. No one can know. But the true fact is that Christianity in the far West was never lost. It was, however, cut off from all other influence and needed fresh air. So when Saint Augustine was sent by the Pope as a missionary to Briton he found in the far West Christians with peculiar differences. His appeal to the Pope brought the reply that those who were Christians should not be bothered by details such as the date of Easter or the precise detail of a monk's tonsure.

Near to the beach Saint Piran and his monks built their little church. The walls are of the roughest workmanship. There are no long and short stones at the coins for strength. Here, Celtic style, each monk built his little cell. No fine monastery was theirs. No doubt they built near the sea because fishing. And obviously they built near a spring of water. That was sensible. Also it was fragile. The church was about

twenty feet long: quite large enough for a few monks. Just what Saint Piran did is not known. All that is known is that the effect of his work made the tinners claim him as their patron saint, and for hundreds of years pilgrims came to the little church to gather spiritual strength from this holy shrine. For a thousand years they came. Such were the numbers that a step was built round the walls on which people could stand and see over the heads of others. Upon the altar would be displayed the monk's little copper bell and other relics, shielded for reverence by a baldachine. The only ornaments were three stone carved heads set over the arch of the doorway. One we can assume represents the saint. One is of an unknown human. The third presents a mystery. It is the head of a cat. A similar head is set high up on the tower of St Breward Church. What a cat's head can signify is not known. One suggestion is that the Cornish for 'cat' makes a pun with some Cornish religious word, but a letter published in The Cornish Guardian brought no response.

About 1,000A.D. a double tragedy struck. A great storm drove ashore a multitude of sand which threatened the little church and choked the spring. The sand could be shovelled away but the water became then, and ever after a serious problem. All they could do was build a yard wide dam against the West wall. How the sand accumulated is shown when they made a second door for the better ordering of the pilgrims. This door's threshhold is on eighteen inches of sand. Later when they rebuilt a wall of the parish church nearby this wall was built on sand nine feet deep.

About 1,000 years after Saint Piran built his church came the Reformation. Monasteries, convents and pilgrimages were suppressed. Gone was the spiritual life of the monks and nuns. Gone was the divine peace found by the pilgrims. Gone was the loving care for those in need. Gone was the cloister scholarship. A heartbreaking picture is given of the monk's desparate effort to save the little shrine. They took off the slates and stored them against the wall. Then the sand would fill inside and the walls would not be pushed over by pressure from outside.

Perhaps they prayed for the old days to return. It would be odd if they did not. For three hundred years the little church was lost. Never was it forgotten. Gale after gale swept over the mighty sand dunes: each gale changing their position and shape. Then in the year 1840 or there abouts, Mr Michell turned aside to a pool to slack his thirst. There he saw the top of a wall. Wild with excitement he ran to the nearby mine. He shouted his news. Leaving their work the miners rushed in a delirium of joy to see the find. Joyfully they dug out the little church. But three hundred years had changed religious habits. People came only out of curiosity and for souvenirs they stole the stones until nearly half the wall was gone. If only they had thought of saying prayers in the little church. Even if only someone had replaced the roof and used it as a cowshed. No one did anything until seventy years had passed. Then at the Diocesan Conference a whole morning was given to talk. The decision was to build a concrete shelter round, and tragically, under the little church. The building was locked.While the thieves were excluded the water from the spring was trapped inside. So they laid pipes to drain away the water to a lower level. This worked only while the pond so made remained below the church's floor level. With more rain the level rose and rose.

The door that locked out the thieves has its own story. The encroaching sand increasingly threatened the parish church which had been built two hundred yards away. They strewed stones to prevent the sand blowing. They built hedges near the windows to prevent the weight of sand pushing in the glass. In the early seventeenth century they petitioned the Bishop for permission to move the Parish Church to a place for safety. The Vicar succeeded in preventing the move, using every reason except the real one: that he lived nearby and did not want to move. But a hundred years later go they must. Some of the old church was used to build the new one two miles away. Never used was the door, it was kept, when the concrete shelter was built someone remembered the old door.

The tale was told by Mrs Knowlson whose family home was near to the little church. Further evidence came from a visitor who asked the age of the door. The answer was expressed as a question and his date was the same as that given by Mrs Knowlson.

Before the 1939/45 war Mrs Knowlson came to live in retirement near her old home. She spent much of her time by the little church acting as a guide; also using her many years experience as mental counsellor helping those who came, perhaps idly, but certainly leaving strengthened by the spiritual help given by Mrs Knowlson and by the little church. By her persuasion the Vicar each Sunday said Compline. Came a Sunday when, during the service, someone stole one of the heads over the doorway. The other two were taken for safety to the Truro museum where already were the casts of the originals. Then came the war. The whole area became a battle training ground and the little church was cut off from all who loved.

Five years later when affairs were again normal, Mrs Knowlson was too old to attend the little church. The Vicar who said Compline had gone. His successor had one thought about the little church: to take the money from the alms box and include it in the income of the Parish Church: no small sum. Then came a curate who listened to all that Mrs Knowlson had to tell. He read the thesis that earned Dr Dexter his doctorate and finding the parishioners frantically busy with summer visitors he wrote a summary of the thesis which described the little church. This pamphlet cost five pence(old money) to print and sold for a shilling. Many people gave half-a-crown and refused the change. This money also went into the Parish Church's coffers.

Twenty to forty people came every afternoon and evening to see the little church, and listen to the curate preach a sermon; dressed in cassock he explained the spiritual and material details. All admitted that their walk from the road made a pilgrimage. Once an idiot, crippled boy came carried in turn by the family. How much spiritual help was given? Who can tell.

The young man came and stood still. Then he said 'Yes, yes, this is a pilgrimage' Soon he said he must hurry back because he could not keep waiting a bad tempered wife. How much did the prayers help him and his wife? And all the time the postcards, the guide books and even the priced tickets were stolen until it became obvious that nothing could be left unguarded. How much the Devil must have hated the goodness!

The curate moved on to become a vicar. The old door was burnt only because the old is not so nice as the new. The Vicar denied the age of the door. The water incresed until it stood six feet deep all through the year. The new Vicar cared but could think only that the fire brigade could pump out the water. This they did, but the next day the water was as deep as ever. The former curate wrote suggesting a syphon, or better still a bulldozer. It would be easy to cut a deep and wide channel through the soft sand which would drain the water into the old bed of a stream which was lost through mining. The bed of the stream was there. Cutting the channel would also give the opportunity of finding the cells of the monks and who knows what other treasures? One cell was already just visible and never explored. The Vicar said it could not be done. The world was told there was no money to finance any project. The Diocesan Conference was asked for permission to bury the little church. The motion was rushed through with skillful chairmanship. So they buried it.

Can they bury spiritual power?.

PARISH REGISTERS.

George Smith of Churchtown, St Breward, died aged 93 at the home of his daughter and was cremated. He was a renowned gardener, working at his garden until he went away, with a reputation for really excellent vegetables. May he rest in peace.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

ST BREWARD

The President, Mrs A Holmes, welcomed Mrs N Sleep as a visitor to the November meeting when 17 members were present to discuss the final arrangements for the annual Fund Raising evening on the following Thursday when £66 was realised by the combined efforts of stalls, raffle and sale of coffees. We have already held a spring fund raising for our chosen charity of the year which also produced about £66, and have sent various sums to charities during the year so this is a good result when there are so many calls on our pockets.

Four members will enjoy an outing to a party at St Teath in the New Year, and two teams will have competed in the first round of the Darts contest in November, but most of the other opportunities for "outings" were unable to be taken up because there are just not enough evenings in the week.

Our speaker, Mrs Meek of Wadebridge, did not actually quote the W.I. as grounds for divorce but several members feel that it may be! It was very interesting to hear of the progress made in the last few years regarding divorce law after it had been almost static for several hundred years and the prerogative of the upper classes.

The competition for a Craft item suitable for fund raising was won by Mrs J Teague with a colourful clown, and Mrs J Greenaway won the flower of the month.

The meeting on January 17th will be a Social Evening with games and supper provided by the Committee, it would be lovely if all our members could come and also bring any interested friends to see us with our hair down!

Anne Holmes.

POPPY DAY APPEAL

The Earl Haigh Collection in St Breward amounted to £144.50. (The house-to-house collection raised £104.30 and £40.20 was donated in Church.)

BLISLAND W.I.

We had a lot of fun last month after Mr Bridge's talk on'Practical Dowsing' trying to put into practice some of the methods he uses with rods he so kindly brought along for that purpose. Mr Bridge is quite an authority ondivining water and minerals & and has been consulted on numerous occassions by various Water Board Authorities & was kind enough to offer his services to anyone who has a problem well. Mrs Sharp at Temple who relies entirely on well water for all her supplies is availing herself of this offer & it will be interesting to hear the results.

Mrs Miller, Mrs Masters & Mrs Vause visited Newquay for an enjoyable Victorian evening based on 'The Good Old Days' & duly dressed for the part. They had a very entertaining time. This was a show put on by the Music, Speech & Drama Committee of the C.F.W.I. & all the acts were from W.I.Members- quite a stupendous effort.

Mrs Vause won the November Competition with her tinopener 'The most useful article in the kitchen'. The excellent refreshments were made by Mesdames Webber & Sharp.

Next month would you like to be bored stiff by a talk from me. January 1983 I was fortunate enough to join my husband in Singapore for a holiday during which we took a trip to Bankok & Chiang Mai in Thailand, so at the request of members I'm going to try to share that wonderful holiday with them. If you could bear it, do come along.

By the time you read this we will have put on our effort for the Concert organised by Mr Brian Moon in aid of Village Hall Funds. We had a lot of fun practicing our Widdicombe Fair & we hope this is the first of many such ventures.

A Very Happy & Prosperous New Year to you All.

Eileen Walford.

W.R.V.S. OVER SIXTIES CLUB

On Nov 15th we welcomed 9 visitors to meet Dr & Mrs Barron, who kindly showed slides of China and gave a talk on the way of life there. This was the first time we had slides on China & found it very interesting indeed & members enjoyed meeting Dr & Mrs Barron again.

Dec 6th was a joyous occasion when we invited friends to our Christmas Tea Party, to hear a talk by the Rector on Cockneys and Cornishmen. This proved to be very humorous & well received.

Several gifts were brought including three raffles & with the sale of surplus food flowers, etc. over £7 went into funds.

Names were taken for the New Year's dinner in January & a Thank you letter of acceptance sent to the school for their annual entertainment & tea.

We couldn't have our usual carol singing as the piano was being repaired but our team of handbell ringers gave a Christmas atmosphere & everybody enjoyed their tea & chat.

Our next meeting is Jan 3rd when we hope to welcome Mr Bousefield and the New Year will be here. We hope that it will bring new members and a Happy New Year to Everybody.

G.M.Masters.

Nature Titbits.

My coconuts have been well visited since September. A present they are working their way through the third. Just recently a Nuthatch joined the tits and robins and became a very regular visitor. And what a beauty .. for the first time I have really been able to observe them; their pinky/buff front and slate grey back with 'coach lines' of black with a touch of white around the throat make a real picture and their streamlined body truly finishes off a work of creation.

The great-tits with their black, white and mustard suits look really brash fellows beside the chic Nuthatch.

I have also treated myself to a little nut-cage which hangs outside the window. At the moment it seems to be the tits only that venture so close to the house. It is lovely to be able to observe them so closely. My Cat is well and truly choked, he can see all that lovely fresh bird less than five feet away from his cushion - and he can't do a thing about them!

SMV.

Potatoes at very competetive rates. Contact Ashley Masters on Bodmin 850331.

WEBBER TRAVEL

THE GARAGE, BLISLAND, BODMIN, CORNWALL

Tel: (STD) 0208 850236

WEBBER'S TOURS 1984.

JANUARY 7-8th HOLIDAY ON ICE Wembley.
Coach to Ice Show, overnight at Royal Scot Hotel, return after sightseeing tour of Central London.
Per person inc. VAT £28.

APRIL 20-23rd. EASTER PARADE LONDON.
Stay at Tower Hotel. Visit London Palladium to see Tommy Steele in 'Singing in the Rain'. View Easter Parade. Per person inc. VAT £59.50

APRIL 30th -MAY6th. SPALDING FLOWER PARADE.
Stay at Anglia Hotel, Spalding. Daily trips to beauty spots also to Springfield Gardens. View Spalding Flower Parade. Per person inc VAT £120.00

JULY 20th-23rd. INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL.
Stay at the Atlantic Tower Hotel, Liverpool.
Full day at International Garden Festival.
Per person inc VAT £74.00

JULY 27th-30th. VISIT BLENHEIM PALACE & RIVER CRUISE.
Stay at Golden Valley Hotel, Cheltenham. Cruise on River Severn. Visit Blenheim Palace. Shopping in Bristol. Per person inc. VAT £82.00.

AUGUST 10th-18th. ISLE OF MAN. from £146.00

AUGUST 24th-27th. MEDIEVAL BANQUET AT LUMLEY CASTLE. Newcastle on Tyne. £89.00

SEPT 30th -OCT 6th ISLE OF WIGHT. £136.00.

OCTOBER 22nd-25th. HALF TERM IN LONDON £57.00.

See Brochure for full details of all tours.

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BLISLAND with TEMPLE & ST BREWARD PARISH MAGAZINE.

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