ISSUE 178■ FEBRUARY 1995 17P

BLISLAND with TEMPLE and ST. BREWARD

Rector: The Rev'd Frank Harris — **The Rectory, Blisland Bodmin 851020**

Churchwardens:

Blisland	**Brig. Edward-Collins**	**Bodmin 850620**
	Mr. R. W. T. Lee	**Bodmin 850993**
St. Breward	**Mr. H. C. Hawken**	**Bodmin 850294**
	Mr. T. Durston	**Bodmin 72964**

Sunday Services for February

The Parish Eucharist will be celebrated at Blisland at 9.30 am. and at St. Breward at 11.10am.

Sunday School meets in the Village Hall at St. Breward at 11.00am.

Weekday Services

Eucharist will be celebrated at Blisland at 9.30am on Wednesdays.

Important Holy Days in February

February 2nd - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Eucharist at St. Breward at 11.00am and at Blisland at 7.00pm.

February 9th - Feast of St. Branwalader - Eucharist at St. Breward Parish Church at 11.00am.

Revel Sunday - 12th February - Celebration of our baptismal faith at 3.00pm at St. Breward.

March 1st - Ash Wednesday - Eucharist at St. Breward at 11.00am and at Blisland at 7.00pm.
Please note that Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.

Marriage
Please note that no celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony can take place between Palm Sunday and Easter Day. This is because the church is celebrating the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord, thus making such a celebration incompatible with Christian sentiments.

WOMAN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm at St. Breward Parish Church.
Speaker Mrs Jenny Matthews of St. Ervan.

Letter from the Parish Priest

Dear Parishioners,

Making choices is part of everyday life and such choices invariably affect our material, mental and spiritual well being for better or for worse.

The question thus arises; how can we make the right choices? How can we make correct judgements? These are for the most part determined by the beliefs and values by which we live and these in turn have been forged by enviromental, religious and social forces exhibited by the community of which we are part. Such beliefs and values will, if they are found to be relevant in daily living, remain part of our moral code and will thus determine our conduct in our relationship towards all and sundry as we pass through life.

However, such beliefs and values will only be of universl benefit should they prove helpful in dealing in the whole area of life from birth to death. For unless our philosophy of life embraces the whole of human existence, it cannot be said to be wholly helpful.

The intelligent person must ask certain fundamental questions then, if one is to understand life's journey with its accompanying difficulties and problems. Thus we need to ask the questions: 'Who are we?'; 'Why are we here?' and 'Where are we going?' Failure to ask such questions will make us less than human and certainly inadequate as we seek to deal with life in all its changing scenes.

In seeking to deal with such questions as these, I believe that the Christian faith does provide us with an intelligent and satisfactory answer. For in Christ we are offered the Way the Truth and the Life. For those then seeking meaning to life it might well be spiritually advantageous to ask the question 'What think you of Christ?' But be warned: Many a life has been radically challenged by the answers which redound. However you can be well assured on the testimony of countless millions that in Christ, you will have understanding of the meaning of life and of its fulfilment.

Yours sincerely,
Frank Harris

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

The funeral Service for the late Ronald Alfred Dowrick took place on Monday, 9th January at Blisland Parish Church. Cremation followed at Glyn Valley Crematorium. His ashes were interred in Blisland Churchyard.

The funeral service for the late Vera Margaret Letitia Edwards took place on Wednesday, 11th January at St. Breward Parish Church. Interment followed in the Churchyard.

The funeral service for the late William Steven Boundy formerly of St. Breward took place at St. Breward Parish Church on December 17th.

Lorna Parsons of St. Breward died on December 9th at Mount Edgcumbe. Her funeral service took place at St. Breward Methodist Church on December 16th followed by cremation at Penmount.

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them".

The family of the late Mrs Lorna Parsons would like to say thank you for all cards, letters, phone calls and callers during their recent bereavement. Thanks also to the bearers, all who attended the funeral service and to Jennifer for receiving the donations.

I would like to thank all the people who contributed towards my wonderful presents at the end of my term as a Churchwarden. There is the person who had the idea of a commemorative plate, Ara Cardew who made it, and all those who contributed to that and my very generous book token. Thank you again.

Sue Hutton

At the Coffee Morning held in St. Breward on 7th January in aid of Parish Magazine funds the grand total of £113 was raised. The event was very well supported and thanks must go to all who helped in any way but especially to Mr Peter Nottle who organised the morning.

BLISLAND METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday February 12th at 2.30pm	Preacher Rev'd Williams
Sunday February 26th at 2.30pm	Preacher Mrs Wilkins (Holy Communion)

ST. BREWARD METHODIST CHURCH PREACHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday February 5th at 9.30am	Preacher Mrs Grundon
" " " 6.00pm	Fellowship
Sunday February 12th at 11.00am	" Mr C Philp
" " " 6.00pm	" Rev'd Williams
Sunday February 19th at 11.00am	" Mr G Brown
" " " 6.00pm	" Mr Penna
Sunday February 26th at 11.00am	" Mr. R. Hoskin
" " " 6.00pm	" Mr B Parkman

ST. BREWARD CHURCH

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of St. Breward would like to thank all those who responded to the Parish Letter in October. As well as many other contributions seven covenant forms have been signed by those not already covenanting money to the Church. This is a tremendous boost to the funds as we can reclaim the tax. A covenanted payment of £20 means we can claim a further £6.66 at no cost (except possibly a small bank charge) to the person who gave the £20.

Thanks too to those who have offered to help, and do help, in other ways, most notably with the cleaning which is organised by Mrs. Bousfield.

Several of you ask, "Why pay our Quota?" The money we pay is used to finance the Church in the Diocese as a whole, including running Church Schools and training new clergy: it is not used only to pay salaries. The response to our Parish Letter has meant that we have paid our contribution to the Diocese for 1994, although at one time it looked as if we would be unable to do so. This means we are paying our part in the organisation and work of the Church of England in Cornwall.

We now have to look forward. The scale of Parish Church finance is changing year by year, not least because of the huge decrease each year in the payment made to the Diocese by the Church Commissioners. Our Quota for 1995 has increased accordingly. With a continued concerted effort we can meet it and our other expenses and keep the Church alive in St. Breward.

ST. BREWARD CHURCH

A good congregation attended the first mass of Christmas and were welcomed by the candlelit church where Father Harris led the Eucharist. Grateful thanks to those who helped to provide the flowers and to Sue and Pippa for tastefully arranging the colourful results.

Our thanks go to the Harper family and friends, also Darren for decorating the tree, and to Pat and Brenda for supplying same. Thanks to Clifford for his assistance and to Bill for his help in maintaining the lights on the Tower, visible for many miles.

The Service of 9 Lessons and Carols was truly well supported. Readings from the Scriptures were given from members of various organisations. Well done to Anna and Stephen from the Sunday Club, who both read so well. Thanks must also go to Mrs J. Greenaway who played the organ at both services. The collection, totalling £56.00 will be donated to the C of E Childrens Society. Everyone was invited to the Village Hall afterwards for a cup of tea and mince pie. Here we were to see a locally produced video of the Nativity portraying local artists and moorland scenes and lambs. It was obvious that much time and work had gone into this production and Father Harris' conclusion warmly thanked Pat and Brenda Bennett, the children of the Sunday Club and anyone who had helped in any way.

At the end of the Carol Service Father Harris presented Mrs Sue Hutton with a commemorative plate and book token in recognition for her services as churchwarden over a number of years.

A THANK YOU RHYME

ST. BREWARD DAY CENTRE

You know when you enter, it's there for our pleasure,
We ladies of leisure and gentlemen too, but far too few.
We are all a bit slow, to get up and go,
But once we are there we get every care,
And to take home for Christmas they gave to each one,
A sackful of presents all beautifully done
In the prettiest paper and such useful things.
It is nice to have Christmas and all that it brings.
My thanks to the kind folk who give so much time,
And that's why I've written them, this little rhyme.

Nora Wills

BLISLAND & TEMPLE CHURCH APPEAL

Our grateful thanks to the 10% of households who have already responded so generously to the appeal, although to date we have achieved only 20% of our target.

It may well be that a month or so before Christmas is not the ideal time to be making an appeal, although the counter argument is that Christmas is a time for giving and one might have hoped that any thoughts about the true meaning of Christmas would have embraced the church. However, the appeal by its very nature is on-going and if December was not a good month and February or March is, we shall be very pleased to hear from you.

The most disappointing aspect was the total lack of response to our plea for some voluntary labour. We have just had the 5 year inspection of our two churches and there are numerous jobs which need to be carried out to keep the buildings in good order. These would cost hundreds of pounds to have done professionally, but most could be achieved by a small team of enthusiastic D.I.Y. amateurs! If willing and able please contact Ray Lee on 350993.

BLISLAND CHURCH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

We have found a first class calligrapher and shall be ready to get the book under way next month. The book will be on display in the church, open for the appropiate day of the year. Every Sunday prayers will be said for those whose names have appeared during that week.

The total cost of producing the book will be in excess of £300 and we shall be paying the calligrapher for each entry. We are therefore proposing a fee of £7.50 for each persons name. If you wish to have a loved one's name recorded please send full details of date and year of death together with christian and surnames to Ray Lee, Carbaglet House, Blisland. In cases of hardship we will be pleased to waive the fee.

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday 25th March, three youth orchestras including the very popular Clarinet Choir, will be presenting a Musical Evening in the church. This promises to be a really splendid event. Full details next month.

ST. BRANWALADER (cont.from last month)

Branwalader must have been a man of similar vocation. Son of a Cornish king, he must have joined one of the monastic communities to learn about the religious life. Then, perhaps feeling the call to embrace an austere life of self-denial, he chose a particularly exposed moorland hill where we are now for his hermitage.

We can easily picture the scene. There would be a group of beehive huts, surrounded by a stone enclosure, such as we can still see nearby on Ladydown. In the middle might be a little oratory of wood or stone, the other huts being shelters for Branwalader and any who came to listen and learn from him. He himself would be dressed in a white tunic with a rough coat of fur over it and a wallet hanging by his side. In the wallet he would keep his Latin service book or psalter. When he travelled about he would carry his staff and a small bell made of metal sheets bent round and riveted. His appearance would immediately proclaim his calling, as he would have a Celtic monk's tonsure; his hair would be shaven in front of a line drawn from ear to ear, with remaining hair hanging down long behind.

So our saint may have set up his preaching cross here, calling people to listen to the gospel of salvation and offering them the sacrament of baptism, maybe using the water that now runs into the shute below us here. There may well have been no church building here for another five hundred years until the Norman period. Not only were baptisms held out of doors, but it was allowed for Confirmations and Masses to be held "in the field" as it was called, so that many places had no church, but a cross where services were held.

Some of our Celtic crosses have sadly been moved from their original positions, but two which are thought to have remained in the same place are Middlemoor Cross, half way to Roughtor, and the cross in the churchyard, which is a very early one, much older than the church building itself. It could indeed have been carved and set up between the sixth and ninth centuries; so it is not too fanciful to suppose that it was Branwalader's preaching cross or one set up as a memorial to him after his death. The cross-head was broken and found in the boundary hedge of the old churchyard in 1853; for a time it was set up in the wall dividing the girls' and boys' playgrounds at the newly built school, until its importance was recognised and it was rebuilt with a new

shaft in its present position. As you leave the church and cross the lane into the middle section of the churchyard, over to the left its impressive size and height mark it out. The section of ornamented stone set up outside the Old Inn may be a surviving fragment of the original shaft.

Like Samson, Branwalader must have been a considerable traveller for the faith, crossing to Jersey, where the lovely church in the bay of St. Brelade bears his name, and to Brittany where his name is found in the parishes of St. Broladre and Loc Brevalaire as well as at Kerlouan where he is the patron saint of the church. St. Branwalader is thought to have succeeded St. Samson as bishop of Dol. In the great church at Dol is a delightful stained glass window depicting the arrival of St. Samson in a small boat and we like to think that his companion in the boat is St. Branwalader.

There are other depictions of him showing him as a bishop with mitre and crook, both in Brittany and also here in St. Breward on the splendid banner worked by the children of the school for a parade of parish banners in Truro cathedral on the occasion of its centenary in 1977. In Brittany he has a dog by his side; referring to the legend that he was able to save from rabies those bitten by a mad dog; here he is advancing towards Brown Willy and Roughtor, with the raven for which he is named perched on a rock.

In the days of St. Branwalader, relics of the saints were treasured and were the objects of pilgrimages. Some of the remains of St. Branwalader were kept in Dol, but later brought to Milton Abbey in Dorset and Leominster Priory in Herefordshire. Other places where he was especially revered were Winchester, Salisbury, Hyde Abbey and several churches in France. There was also a chapel dedicated to him at Burlawn in St. Breock, of which nothing now remains.

As we have seen, a common way of life of our Celtic saints was early training in a monastic community, followed by periods of retreat into remote places, interspersed with missionary journeys. Their zeal and ascetic way of life aroused the awe and response of the converts in the district in which the saint had his cell. It was the veneration inspired by these men and women that resulted in their being revered as saints. There was no official canonisation of these early Christian heroes, pioneers and missionaries, but the strength of the reverence accorded to them can be judged by the faithful celebration of Revel Sunday in honour of St. Branwalader on the nearest Sunday to February 14th, but no later, over fourteen centuries until to-day.

Some words of St. Branwalader's friend St. Samson are very apt:- "Dearest brethren, take it to heart that, while you reverence the saints by celebrating their honour at yearly intervals, you reverence them also by following them steadfastly in the paths of divine truths and goodness".

Pamela Bousfield

The cover for this month's magazine was sent in by Miss Kathleen Tucker who formerly lived in Blisland and receives a copy of this magazine each month. It shows a group of 'moss pickers' and was taken some time during World War I. Miss Tucker writes, "The moss being 'picked' in the cover photo was sphagnum moss which was widely used in hospitals throughout the country as a dressing for war wounds, because of its healing qualities.

Lavethan was then a very large estate (with it's Coat of Arms engraved on Jubilee Rock). The ladies of Lavethan drove in their pony and jingle, armed with a huge wooden rake, to drag a quantity of moss on to the bank of the bog, to be allowed to drain, while the existing pile was taken back to the village for the attention of the 'pickers', as you see them in the photo.

At that time we lived in Pope's Cottage, facing the Village Green so it was a matter of minutes for my long legs to take me to my mother and the pickers after school. My aim was to find a sundew plant and keep it to watch its tiny spoon-shaped leaves catch and digest small insects.

At another time I picked a small bunch of lilies-of-the-valley in the wood (none left now) and they were sent to hospital with the moss. I was thrilled to receive a 'Thank You' letter from the soldier who was given them. It was one of my treasures for very many years. Could he still be with us?"

Thank you Miss Tucker for the photo and the interesting article about the moss pickers. I'm sure that most of our readers had no idea that moss could be put to such good use.

ST. BREWARD METHODIST CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS - these start again on Wednesday 1st February 10.00-11.30am.
Join us for coffee and a chat.

It is with regret that I have to say that Mr. Dowrick has recently passed away. However his family wish me to continue his memories each month in the magazine, so I thank them for allowing us all to be able to keep on reading his interesting life story and we send them our condolences on their sad loss.

MEMORIES OF MY LIFE IN BLISLAND AFTER MY RETURN - R.A. Dowrick

After leaving the army and now living in Blisland once again. fulfilling my childhood dream, with my wife, stepson, and father-in-law, I had to make up my mind what to do with my life now I was in civy street. I had four months paid leave due to me so I had a while to think things over.

Civy street was strange for a while after being in the army for 12 years and it took a bit of getting used to. Anyway, after a while a part time postman was required in the parish and I was offered the job being an ex service man. But I knew that wasn't enough to keep a family. So my father-in-law suggested to me would I like to take up farming in a small way, then the two together would make up a full time job.

Mount Villa. our home had 12 acres of land complete with hay shed and buildings for cattle, poultry and pigs. So I thought it would be a good idea and also my wife Lillian thought so too. I didn't want to work indoors, I wanted to be out in the fresh air. I didn't know a lot about farming, but I knew a little though after being on a farm for two years out in Canada helping my father out and I could always pick it up as I went along and I was very keen to try it out. I was accepted for the post round which was more or less 12 miles each morning around the parish with a push bike, along the lanes, through fields, over stiles and in and out of farms in all winds and weathers. I had to get in touch with the Milk Marketing Board to tell them I wanted to sell milk and was accepted for this. So we started off farming, buying three milking cows with their calves and several hens, fi_ty or so and some young pigs to fatten. So we soon started selling our milk and eggs and that with the postround kept us going comfortably.

In time I got my milking herd up to six milking cows and reared a few young bullocks and over a hundred hens. I had to start early mornings as I had to be down the post office at 7.30am and cows had to be milked before I went. I used to milk half and my wife the other half. I would carry out the milk in churns when I reached my place during the post round and have a quick breakfast, fried mostly, to help me on my way. So that is how my working life started and I was happy and satisfied with it.

.....to be continued

ST. BREWARD A.F.C.

Entertainment for February

Saturday	4th February	Wild Country
"	11th "	Tim Keat - Disco
"	18th "	The Buick Boys (not to be missed)
"	25th "	Peter Falks

(Please note: 4th March - Ellen Van Day)

The clubhouse was the location for much enjoyment during the month of December as many people attended a variety of parties for the festive season.

In addition to those for the players and members the club was also pleased to welcome about forty people from Priory House on the 13th for a dinner and then a disco by Jumbo. This was followed on the 14th by the Football Club bingo which raised around £400 for club funds. Then on the 15th the Senior Citizens received their Christmas Lunch, provided free by the club thanks to donations from several people. Paul Heywood also donated hampers to all those present. Morley Puscombe again provided the entertainment which was throughly enjoyed.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped the Social Club throughout the year and all those who have enjoyed its facilities and to wish you all a happy new year.

ST. BREWARD SNOOKER CLUB

On Sunday December 4th a Snooker & Darts Fun Afternoon took place at the snooker club. 12 members took part with Dean Hill winning the snooker with 272 points and his dad Bob winning the darts with 8,825 points. Special thanks to Mike Sutton and Bob Hill for organising this event.

I would also like to give special thanks to Dick Walsh who recited the 9th Lesson "The wonder of Christ's birth" at the Methodist Hall for the service of 9 Lessons & Carols.

A reminder to any Juniors from 11 years upwards that they can go to the snooker club on any Saturday morning from 10.00am where Dean Hill is kindly giving his time to let you practise and give you some coaching on the way.

M. Yeo

BLISLAND W.I.

Our monthly meeting was held in the school institute rooms a cosy place to spend the afternoon for this was to be our Christmas Social. Before all the hilarity began the business meeting was opened by our president, Mrs E. Walford. Apologies were sent in from a few of our members. The annual dinner planned for Blisland W.I. in February will again be held at the Trelawney Garden Centre Restaurant. March 13th is the National Coffee Morning, when Womens Institutes hold a coffee morning in aid of a charity. Members were to attend the Carol Service and Readings at the Liskeard Parish Church on the 16th December. There is also a possibility of a visit to Heligan Manor Gardens in the spring.

The meeting moved on to the entertainment by the members this time, with poetry reading, limericks, Christmas poetry, many of which we knew from our school days. Mrs Walford read Pam Ayres' poem 'Oh, I Wish I'd Looked After My Teeth', very funny and enjoyable to hear, the Somerset accent was a delight. Then the ladies relaxed over a cup of tea and beautiful refreshments supplied by members. It was agreed by all that it had been a lovely afternoon's meeting. Wishing members Seasons Greetings we departed to our homes.

Our next meeting will be held on January 13th at 2.15pm when Mr D. Ellery will speak on 'Cornish Wanderings'.

J. George

Thank you to all those who attended our Open Day on December 3rd. £98.75 was raised for the Air Ambulance.

Our next Open Day will be on February 4th. Refreshments and raffle proceeds will be to support the Mid-Cornwall Multiple Sclerosis Support Group.

Joy's Pantry, St. Breward 0208 850662.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway with our Whist Drive either with prizes or donations to make it the success it was. We raised £152 for equipment for Dr. Richardson and Dr. Garrod's surgery. Thanks everyone.

Hazel Northcott & Maura Yeo

ST. BREWARD W.I.

Our January meeting took place in Squires Restaurant at the Trelawney Garden Centre when thirteen members enjoyed a luncheon there, with a former County Chairman, Mrs, Goldsworthy, as our guest. As usual the community bus was in use, collecting members along the route, and others arrived by car.

Advance notices were given of the Barbara Reed Trophy for the Royal Cornwall Show, a County Lunch at Trenython Manor at Tywardreath, a day school at Probus on March 24th about garden care, etc. There were no firm offers to take part in the public speaking festival as part of the County Council Music Festival at Truro.

One of our members had received a letter from County replying to her criticisms of this year's diary with regard to the thin quality of the paper which allows the previous day's entry to show through. The Torvill and Dean Show in Plymouth is already fully booked, but extra performances would cost £35 per person so those who had provisionally put their names down withdrew owing to the excessive cost.

Although not a W.I. effort the secretary gave out the telephone number of a Helpline formed by British Gas requiring good secondhand furniture to be recycled to needy families - this number is 0872 - 76222 if you wish to contact them for this worthwhile cause.

A letter of thanks was read out from a members's friend who came as a guest to the Lanhydrock afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit this stately home with a friendly group of people.

As all the current committee members were willing to stand for a further year, no more nominations were taken. After the W.I. business, members took advantage to look for bargains in the sale taking place at the centre, leaving with many bargains after a very enjoyable outing.

The next meeting will be back in the Village Hall on 7th February at 2.30pm when the officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting; there will be no competitions at that meeting.

Anne Holmes

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BLISLAND W.R.V.S. CLUB

On the last meeting of the year, 20th December, we held our Christmas lunch. The village hall took on a festive look with decorations and fairy lights around and on the tree. A glass of sherry helped to stimulate our appetite for the meal which was soup, cold ham and smoked turkey with a jacket potato, mince pies and trifle followed with that always welcome cup of tea.

After lunch we pulled our crackers, read out all the jokes and with a little appropiate background music we spent an enjoyable afternoon. I must express my sincere thanks to my wife and Mrs Audrey Pierce for all the work and support they give to ensure the members have such a happy time.

Tony Ham

BLISLAND with TEMPLE & ST. BREWARD PARISH MAGAZINE

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Copy for March issue in by 10th February please.

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