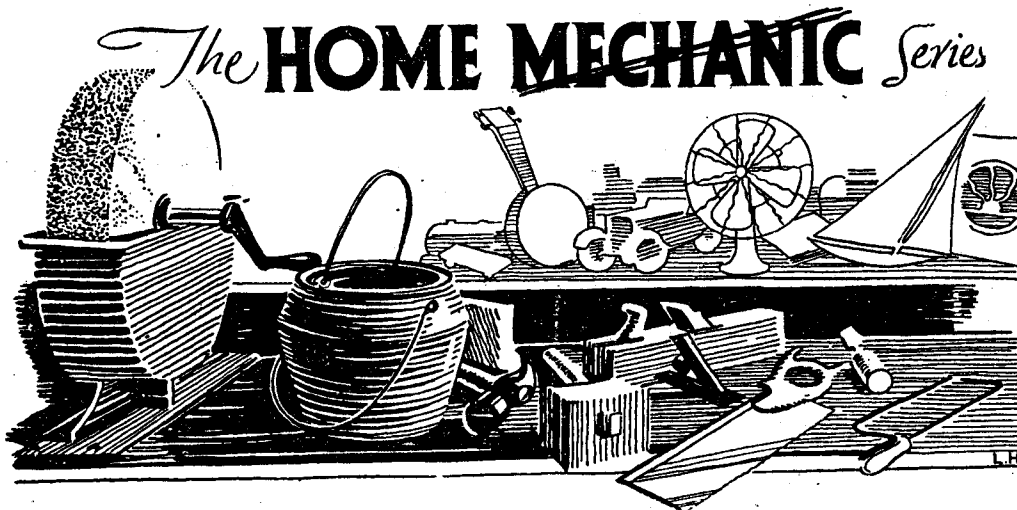


The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts





Thank you to John Whyte and family this month for their years delivering 40 copies of the Chronicle every month. Their round has been taken over by "volunteer" Margaret Kent to whom we are also grateful!

Advertisers will note that we are keeping 1993 prices into 1994. Rush to place your bargain ads now with...John Whyte, who is still the Treasurer!

A very happy New Year to everyone.

Caroline Lane *Gordon Smith*

Please let us have material for the February issue by Friday 21st January. Bring, send or telephone to 2 Church Row (681373).

Published by Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith
Printed by the SQUIRREL PRESS at Waddesdon School
Distributed free to all households in the parish of Aston Abbots

Cover illustration by Rosemary Franklin



What's on

NEW DAY & TIME

Wednesday 5th: Toddlers
Church Room, 1.30-3pm
(note change)

Thursday 6th: Whist Drive
Church Room, 7.30pm

Wednesday 12th: Ladies Club
outing to Oxford, coach
departs The Green 1pm. No
meeting on 13th.

Thursday 13th: Bingo, Church
Room, 7.30pm

Tuesday 18th: Floral Class -
basics of flower arranging,
Church Room, 7pm, all
welcome

Wednesday 19th: Toddlers,
Church Room, 1.30-3pm

Thursday 20th: Whist Drive,
Church Room, 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd: Coffee
morning, bring & buy, Church
Room, 10.30-12 noon

Thursday 27th: Ladies Club,
Church Room, 2.45pm. Mr
Dorrance - talk and slides
on Tasmania

Friday 28th: Parish Council,
Church Room, 8pm

Sunday 30th, Rambling Club
meet Mursley at 2pm

BOOK THIS DATE
Sat 5th Feb, Jumble Sale,
Church Room 10.30-12.30

RUBBISH
There will be a SKIP on The
Green from Friday 28th to
Monday 31st Jan.

Bin collections in Jan:
Friday 7th not Tues 4th
Thursday 13th not Tues 11th
Wednesday 19th not Tues 18th
Then Tuesdays as normal

REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day (but see
above)

Tuesdays: The Trawler mobile
fish shop, The Green, 1.40-
2pm

Tuesdays: mobile library
Wingrave Road, 9.30-9.45am
The Green, 9.50-10.20am

Tuesdays: mobile butchers,
about 3-4pm, will deliver to
door, ring 0296 75220

Wednesdays: fish & chip van
outside Bull & Butcher,
about 8pm; rings bell first,
can be up to 30 mins later

Thursdays: butcher as above

Fridays: free bus to Tesco
Aylesbury; depart The Green
10.06am, gets back 1.40pm

DAILY PAPER DELIVERY

A replacement newspaper
delivery person has still
not been found. If you are
aged 13 or over and would
like to do this please ring
Alec on 681696.

THE POPPY APPEAL

The Poppy Appeal for Aston
Abbotts, Wingrave, Long
Marston and Rowsham raised
£1,018.94 this time. May I
thank everyone who helped in
any way to raise this, the
best ever.

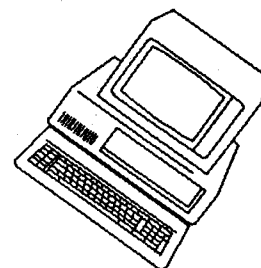
D.E. Waite
Hon. Organizer

NEW TIME

* SCHOOL ASSOCIATION EVENT : SEE P.10 *

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PARISH CHURCH

Church news

**TAIZÉ EVENING WORSHIP
SUNDAY 16 JAN, 6.00 PM**

(starting at Church Room)

TAIZÉ EVENING WORSHIP

BEAUTIFUL

CONTEMPLATIVE

DIFFERENT

BEAUTIFUL

CONTEMPLATIVE

DIFFERENT

BEAUTIFUL

CONTEMPLATIVE

DIFFERENT

December was quite a hectic month. Our cheese and wine evening was as popular as ever, and Mrs Christine Townsend created a lot of interest with her floral arrangement demonstrations. The concert on the following Sunday by the Leighton Buzzard Salvation Army was very well appreciated by those who attended, and it is hoped we shall be asking them to return in the near future.

The decision by members of the parochial church council to invite the children to decorate the church for the Carol Service created a good result and it was decided the children had done a good job, so much so the arrangements were good enough to leave for the entire Christmas services.

Our Christmas morning family service was well attended with many visitors and the children again bringing their toys for other members of the congregation to enjoy, and at the end of the service all the children were given a present off the tree.

Our 100 Club winners for December were Miss Nash/Mrs McKelvie, Mr J. Ford and Mr L. Scutchings.

We shall be arranging more fund-raisers during 1994 so look forward to seeing you, and finally may I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Colin Higgs

St James's Church Services in January

9th Jan	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	<u>Sidesman</u>
		Epiphany 1 (p.465) Eph 21-10; John 1.29-34	Colin Higgs
16th Jan	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Gillian Wyer
		Epiphany 2 (p.469) Gal 1.11-end; John 1.35-end	
	6.00pm	TAIZE STYLE SERVICE	Alison Ford
23rd Jan	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Michael Hasler
		Epiphany 3 (p.474) Phil 4.10-20; John 6.1-14	
30th Jan	<u>10.00am</u>	BENEFICE EUCHARIST	Colin Higgs
		9 before Easter (p.488) 1 Cor 2.1-10; Lk 8.4-15	

Methodist Church Services

16th January 6pm Rev Ireland
6th February 11.15am Family Service

RECTOR'S REPORT

Firstly, many thanks for all the cards and good wishes we received at Christmas.

Well, that was 1993! Another year has passed, a year which had some highlights and some less memorable times. There were times of happiness, times of sadness, times of joy and times of frustration - and times about which we remember nothing.

Some people seem to think that we should be constantly looking back. I am not sure that I would agree with them. For, it is a very small step from looking back to trying to relive the past. The past is gone, and we must live in 1994. We cannot undo history. Maybe all we discover from looking back is that many of the 'Mountains' were actually only 'Molehills'.

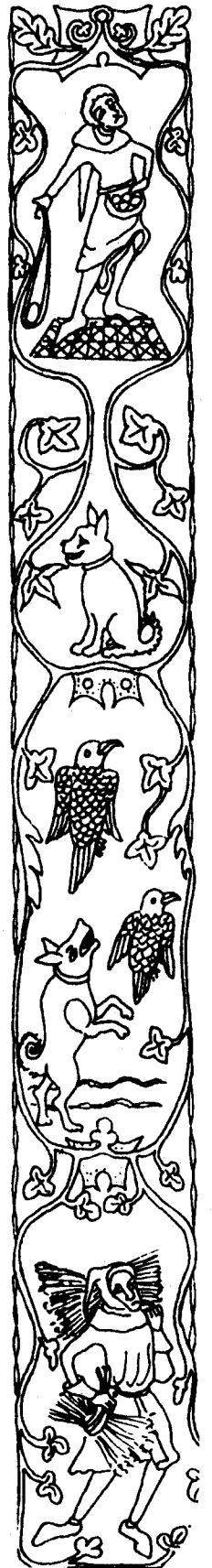
Looking back can help us on our journey through life. We need to put the past into perspective in order to map out which way we need to go next. But, whether or not we look back, we always need to be ready for the unexpected situations that arise. Those situations that demand a rethink of our planned route and itinerary.

Those three Wise Men who followed the star to Bethlehem and, in doing so discovered the Son of God lying in a manger in a stable, were told not to return to Herod, but to find another way home. They were to abandon their preconceived plan and start again.

Perhaps we could use their example at the turn of the year. Mapping out for ourselves a new route starting from the discovery that God has taken our human nature - that he knows all about the ups and downs of life.

Let us take God with us as we journey into 1994.

Bob Willmott



PARISH VISITS

Let me introduce myself. I am Siv Tunnicliffe and I am a Reader in the Church of England. I have been licensed by the Bishop of Oxford to do most things related to church services and pastoral work in a parish. My work is in many ways like that of a deacon or a minister though I am not ordained.

During the last few months I have visited every house in Aston Abbotts. As I am mostly around in the day-time I have only talked to some of you, but even so I have become very fond of your village and I have met some lovely people and made new friends. Thank you for being both kind and courteous.

If I missed you and you would like a visit let me know please.

Bob Willmott our Rector, Peter Binns our N.S.M.(non-stipendary minister) and I make up the ministry team for the parishes of Aston Abbotts, Cublington and Wingrave with Rowsham. I don't know what your New Year's resolutions for 1994 are going to be but ours is that we will try to give you one evening service a month that is non-denominational and can be understood by church people and non-church people alike. After all, God created all of us and Jesus came to give us all an opportunity to choose His way of life. No-one is excluded from His love.

And of course there is also the family service on the first Sunday in the month when we all become children and have fun and learn together.

As I walked about the village and spoke with you one thing kept cropping up: people would like to have a Sunday School again. Probably the best thing would be for all those who feel they like to give some time and effort to getting a Sunday School started to meet and discuss how this could best be done, and how the resources that already exist in the village could best be used for the good of everybody. If you want to be involved please give me a ring and we'll find a suitable time to meet.

You can reach Bob Willmott on 681623 and me on 681374.

Lastly, I wish you a GOOD AND PEACEFUL 1994.

Siv

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People

edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

9

GOOD LUCK Laura Whyte who starts school this term!

BIRTHDAYS

Jane Plested.....7th Jan
Sarah Plested.....7th Jan
James Clarke.....10th Jan
Tony Hinds.....13th Jan
Ben Price.....13th Jan
Zoe Judd.....25th Jan
Rosemary Franklin..25th Jan
Clifford Price.....28th Jan
Richard Plested....29th Jan

WE WERE VERY SORRY to hear of the death of Mrs Martin recently. Our thoughts go out to her family and friends.

We have been asked to print the following letter to Mr Philip Goldney from the Florence Nightingale House: "Thank you so much for passing to us donations totalling £175 made by friends and family in memory of your dear Father. Please will you pass our most sincere thanks to all who so kindly contributed to this gift which is greatly appreciated." Ann Nash, Clinical General Manager, FNH, Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the public meeting in December, PC Yabsley (area NW officer) and our local PC Griggs gave a talk and showed a film demonstrating how easy it is to break into houses and cars - and what a deterrent those little yellow stickers are. A NW scheme can also arrange the marking of your property with ultraviolet pens so that if valuables are stolen they can be identified easily. We have a new list of coordinators who are going to a special info session in January prior to

getting the scheme running again. They are:

Jean Barnett
Janet Biddle
Roy Malin
Richard Plested
Christopher Fox
Rosemary Franklin
Les Smith
Chris Brandon

At the time of writing someone was still needed to cover a section of The Green (roughly from the shop to the Abbey gates). If you live around there and are interested in helping please let one of the above know ASAP.

17th Annual Christmas Show

Many thanks to all those who took part, came to see it, gave raffle prizes, and so on. Thanks also to Peter and Paul for transporting the stage. The best ever sum of £400 was raised, which has now gone into the Show Fund (any village cause in need of help can apply to the Fund - contact Parish Council Clerk Margaret Chesher, 681201).

EXPERIENCED RIDER

9st 7lb, 5ft 7" (just moved to Aston Abbots), ex-owner and last 3 yrs had ex-Grade A show jumper on loan, wishes to exercise, school, compete in return for help (mucking out, turning out, groom at shows etc.) and contribution towards keep. Would consider share of right horse. Tel. 688693 (Jo-Anne Wright)

RECREATION GROUND

First, a big thank you to Vic Scott and Dean Wiggett for all their work in clearing, digging and planting the new hedgerow; and to Peter Knight for taking his tractor in!

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FISH 'N' CHIPS

CHICKEN 'N' CHIPS

VEG PASTY 'N' CHIPS

As usual - pre-arranged teams welcome or just come along and we'll sort you out.

General News

A huge thank you to all who supported the Christmas Fayre on 4th December. We raised over £850 which will be wisely spent to benefit the children of the school.

Look out for details of the *CABARET EVENING* in the next issue. We are looking for budding stars so if you can sing/dance/juggle/make people laugh or whatever share your secret with us - who knows it could be the start of something big!

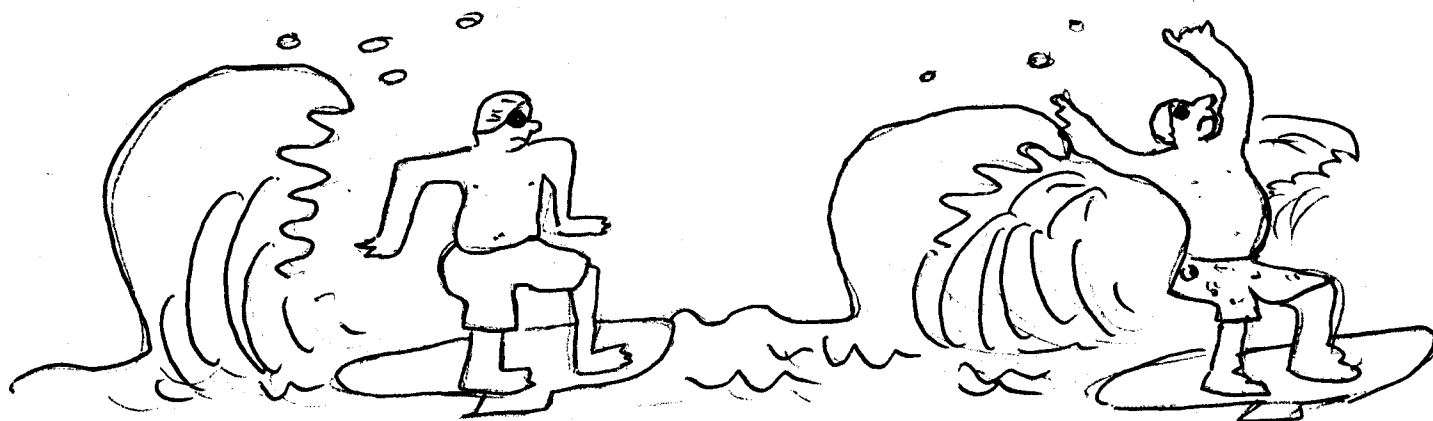
The theme - Australian outback, Yes folks another show disappears on the horizon leaving a trail of mixed emotions and for some members of the cast a brief spell in the sanitorium. The tone of the show was set from the moment compere John Whyte walked on stage with a set of false teeth which were so loose people sitting in the first three rows were in danger of getting a real soaking. Rolf Harris alias Vinny sang "Two Little Boys" but due to first night nerves or perhaps too much "amber nectar" forgot the words leaving members of the audience to fill in where necessary. After a while the teeth came out, it was much easier to speak "American" no sorry "Australian" without the falsies. Organ playing, songs and sketches came thick and fast. Hector Stott got his yearly mention whoever he is? There was a reference to a certain fish, which if was brought out as a film would make interesting viewing. Andy and Alison did an Ode to Aussies (very exciting). The main sketch was well rehearsed as usual and centred around a local bar and a well placed dunny,* with a huge spider terrifying unsuspecting customers. Some characters shone, especially Mathilda played by Bridget, whose Aussie accent was so good you'd think she had just stepped out of "Prisoner Cell Block H". The Flying Doctor was brilliant, played to perfection by John Brancker. He was more English than an Englishman. Other stars were Skippy, played by Paul Turnham, Anne Brancker as Madge and who was that man in the mask? Overall though performances were very polished. Sheepshearin' Sheila the drunk played by Margaret Kent seemed to be too realistic for my liking, perhaps she had been at the sherry before the show! Danny played by Chris Brandon had a voice one decibel above the norm! possibly due to a well placed cork swinging, probably to keep the flies off!

To change tempo, Andy Ford performed his usual routine but seems to have lost his way in the entertaining stakes, bring back Wobert and Helen, all is forgiven. The highlight of the evening must have been when Alan Kempster** was dragged from his seat and taken into the dressing room cum kitchen, only to emerge with Chris Brandon and John Whyte half naked, pretending to be bronzed He Men Surfers, what muscles! what bodies! Mr Blobby eat your heart out. These three specimens would look more at home propping up the bar. Hilarious. To close my account I'd just like to mention Andy Bystra whose artistic talents in the make up at the set were absolutely brilliant.

A View from Row 7

* The loo, for the uninitiated.

** Clifford Price was an equally sporting victim on Saturday.



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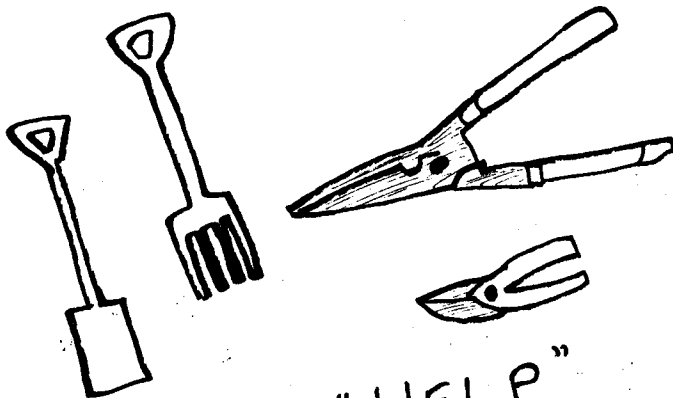
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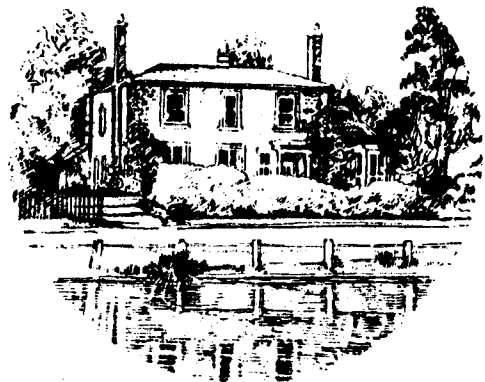
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MARGARET KENT'S VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

I flew from Gatwick to New Zealand on Oct 24th for the holiday of a lifetime and a reunion with my sister Frances who I hadn't seen for 20 years.

After a most enjoyable flight I landed at Auckland at 6.30am on Oct 26th then caught a smaller plane for the flight down to Christchurch in South Island. As I came down the escalator and through the doors I saw a group of people waiting. I looked for a moment, hesitated and then realized it was my sister, her husband Bob and Steve (who was out there on holiday). We flew into each other's arms; it was wonderful seeing her again. She and Bob had lived in Kenya for 16 years where Bob had a large farm. They moved to New Zealand 20 years ago where they had a smallholding growing kiwi fruit and other soft fruit in Nelson. They retired six months ago and moved down to Banks Peninsula about 40 mins drive from Christchurch. On the way home we hardly stopped talking and in fact during the whole holiday it was "do you remember when" and looking at dozens of photos. We had so much catching up to do. I had visited them once in Kenya and Frances had come to England 20 years ago when our father died, so it was only the third time we'd met in 36 years! but it was as though we'd met yesterday. We think, talk and act alike.

New Zealand is about the size of the British Isles but with a population of only about three and a half million people most of whom live in North Island. The Southern Alps run the length of South Island and are covered in snow the whole year, the highest being Mt Cook at over 12,000 feet.

Frances and I went by coach to Nelson to visit two of my nieces, then I went by ferry to Wellington in North Island then a seven hour coach journey to Rotorua, a fantastic place with a smell of sulphur everywhere. I visited the Te Whabarewarewa Thermal Reserve where the geysers shoot steam high in the air, bubbling mud pools and the thermal pools where the Maoris bathe and do their washing. There is even steam spouting out from under their houses! I spent a couple of days around Rotorua then returned to Wellington, back on the ferry, met my sister at Picton and we travelled home on the Coastal Pacific Express. Around Kaicoura we saw four seals on the rocks. Back home Frances and I prepared for our "safari". First we drove to Mt Cook National Park and I took a scenic flight in a little 7-seater plane over Mt Cook, Mt Tasman and ten glaciers. The views were absolutely fantastic, the jagged peaks covered in snow and not a cloud in the sky. The next day we did some walks up to the Tasman Glacier and in the foothills of Mt Cook. After leaving there we drove to Queenstown and I did a Bungy jump 145ft from a bridge into the river below, an exhilarating experience!

We stayed at a motor camp just outside Queenstown by Lake Wakatipu with the snow covered Remarkable mountains alongside. We had booked to walk the "Milford Track", reputed to be the "finest walk in the world"; it's a four-day, three-night 55km walk from the head of Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound



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Margaret Chesher,
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John Ford, 2 Ross Road,
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Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road,
681358

John Whyte, 14 Bricstock,
681865

George Fox, 1 Church Row,
682024

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John Ford, 2 Ross Road,
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Caroline Lane (Chairman),
2 Church Row, 681373

Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road,
681358

Victor Scott, 11 The Green,
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Clerk:
Margaret Chesher,
20, The Green, 681201

District Councillor:
Bryan Round,
11 Nup End, Wingrave,
681621

through rain forest and bush. The average rainfall is 277 inches a year, but we were so lucky - we had a little drizzle the third day. We carried our own packs with our food, cooking utensils, clothes and sleeping bag. It was very heavy. We went over the Mackinnon Pass at 3700ft to the snow line. The wild alpine flowers were beautiful and the keas (mountain parrots) very inquisitive. We finally made it to Sandfly Point and crossed to Milford Sound by launch, watching a school of dolphins playing in the water. Mitre Peak was an amazing sight. It is a mile high and is the highest mountain in the world, rising directly from the sea bed. We travelled back to Te Anau by coach through the Haast Pass to Fox Glacier and then to the Franz Joseph Glacier. For years the glacier has been receding but by now is growing, hundreds of feet of solid ice. After a night at the holiday park we drove over Arthurs Pass and back to Christchurch - a truly memorable ten days.

Back at my sister's we only had a week before I was leaving so we made the most of it Christmas shopping in Christchurch and visiting Akaroa, a French settlement along the coast. The day I left, as I wasn't flying out until the evening, we went on a five-hour tramp on the mountains just nearby. So at 7.15 that evening I set off on my homeward journey after a wonderful holiday and reunion with my lovely sister and her family, vowing that we would not leave it so long again before we met.

Margaret Kent

A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

Look out, the end could be nearer than you think.

One natural end that is unavoidable, even if nothing else goes wrong, is of course the death of the sun. It will gradually use up its hydrogen fuel and, in about 8000 million years from now, it will destroy the earth. When the hydrogen has been used up, the helium that is left will burn into carbon. In response to that, the sun will expand and become only red hot. But it will have a much larger surface, so the total amount of heat will be much greater than now, and the earth will fry.

During the past 10,000 years the Niagara Falls, on the US-Canadian border have been moving upstream at an average rate of about 90M (295ft) a century.

But geologists estimate that it will take another 25,000 years at least before the Niagara river cuts its way back to its source, Lake Erie, some 28km (17 miles) away. When it finally breaks through the wall of the lake, the lake will drain away . . . and the falls will disappear.

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