The Quarterly Review of THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP for Psychical and Spiritual Studies

Winter 1983

No. 118

President's Letter - - - - - - - - - - - - 2
The Annual General Meeting - - - - - - - - - - 4
From the Chairman - - - - - - - - - - - - 10
Personal Experience - - - - - - - - - - - - 11
Groups and Branches - - - - - - - - - - - - 12
Unexplained Scentings - 2 - - - - - - - - - - 15
History of the Fellowship - - - - - - - - - - 18
Report of the Annual Conference - - - - - - - - 20
Annual Accounts - - - - - - - - - - - - - 22

The Churches' Fellowship for Psychical and Spititual Studies

(FOUNDER: LT. COL. REGINALD M. LESTER, Ç.J.I.)

St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA

Telephone: 01-626 0306

President: The Rev. Dr. Martin Israel
Vice-President: Miss Margaret Brice-Smith
Chairman: Mrs. Barbara Bunce
Vice-Chairman: The Rev. Michael Shrewsbury
Honorary Treasurer: Mr. Jack Holmes
General Secretary: Mr. Julian Drewett
Editor: Dr. Elizabeth Bowen

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, Mrs. Patricia Patey, Dr. Ian Pearce, Canon John Smith, Mrs. Beryl Statham, Mrs. Dorothy Warren, Mr. Geoffrey West, Mrs. M. Williams and Regional Representatives ex-officio.

AIMS AND OBJECTS

The aims and objects of the Fellowship are summarised below, but can be read in fuller detail in the official prospectus.

The Fellowship, an Ecumenical body of Christians founded in 1953, exists for the study of the wider reaches of the paranormal and extra sensory perception in their relation to the Christian faith. The field of study includes psychical phenomena, mysticism, creative meditation and spiritual healing. The psychical includes such phenomena as telepathy, clairvoyance, clairaudience, precognition and psychokinesis.

There are two classes of membership: full and associate. Those eligible for full membership must be practising members of Churches which are members of or affiliated to the World Council of Churches, or must themselves acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of the World. Others are eligible for associate membership as the council may from time to time determine. Associate members cannot vote or hold office.

The Fellowship is entirely dependent for its funds on the generosity of its members. The subscription is £8.00 per annum; £12.00 for combined husband and wife subscription; pensioners, students, clergy, ministers of religion and their spouses £5.00 each. Life Membership £75. Subscription includes the Quarterly Review and The Christian Parapsychologist free. Those who can subscribe more are asked to do so, and covenants are greatly appreciated.

The Fellowship is registered as a Charity and so qualifies for income tax rebate on all covenanted subscriptions.

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Editorial

Living things are not static and our Fellowship is no exception as we now welcome a new president and a new chairman, both already known, beloved and trusted. Happily, we need not say goodbye to our dear retiring president; at least, those of us in London will still benefit from his presence at healing, prayer and study groups and services.

Words from our new president and chairman, as well as our secretary, in this issue will give a flavour of the new person that we may grow together to be. But vision and inspiration from the head is not enough; it is the members that must grow.

There is a story about the return of Jesus Christ to Heaven after His Ascension. He was met by some anxious angels; "You haven't left your Church with that lot, have you?", they wanted to know. "Yes, I have," He replied, "They'll be all right." "But those ordinary working men! Those women! They've never been out of Palestine; they didn't understand half of what you said; they all ran away. How can You be so sure?" "Because I've trusted them," He answered.

So faith is a two-way thing. How amazing that God should have faith in us. If that is so, then we cannot, in the end, fail, even if the way looks dark at times.

What vision and hopes do you have for our fellowship? What would you like the Quarterly Review to be? Please tell us; we need to know.

A blessed and happy Christmas to you all, and God be with you through the coming year.

NOTICES

Please note that **Head Office** will be closed from December 22nd until January 4th.

The **South East region** will be holding a one-day conference on May 5th 1984 at St. Mark's Church, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The speakers will be the Revd Michael Shrewsbury, Vice-Chairman of C.F.P.S.S. and Mr. Julian Drewett, General Secretary of C.F.P.S.S. The day will begin with coffee at 10.30 a.m. and the theme will be 'The Paranormal and the Christian'.

ABOUT BEREAVEMENT

This new booklet, published by CFPSS, is now available price **£1** plus 15p postage and packing.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Bishop Otter College, Chichester, W. Sussex on Saturday 10th September 1983 at 11 a.m.

The President, Chancellor Garth Moore was in the chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss B. Gadd, Mrs. M. Butler, Mrs. I. Garrod, Miss P. Pease, Miss R. Plant, Revd. C. Harrington, Mrs. S. Lewis.

The minutes of the last annual general meeting were received and signed as correct. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman's Report (Revd Dr. M. Israel)

'The past year of our Fellowship has, on one level, been rather unspectacular. Nothing tremendously cataclysmic has happened, but it has been a time of slow, unobtrusive growth. We seem to be more consolidated and integrated, and aware of what we should be doing than we have before. Two small things have been published by us: an improved prospectus and an important statement on mediumship. Neither of these is very weighty but they are both very important as they give our considered view of our work and the very difficult and intricate subject of sensitivity. We are attaining a more truly spiritual understanding of what the psychic dimension is about. This I believe is what those on the other side inspired us to do originally, not simply to make spiritualism acceptable to the Church, but to teach the truths that were revealed through the psychic developments of the last century and make them more available to us in our Christian tradition. Speaking personally, in what is my last statement as Chairman of the Fellowship, I am very glad that the Fellowship is moving in this direction. We have had our difficulties and they are still with us on some levels. Indeed, if everything were harmonious it would probably spell the advent of death about us. In my own experience, it has often been the dark forces that united those of the light together and made greater strength for the forces of good. The story of Job is indeed the classical example of the power of darkness bringing in the light fully to manifestation. I am extremely grateful for the way that the Fellowship has developed during my period of Chairmanship, and particularly over the last year. I am grateful for the support of the Chancellor, our President, and our not so new Secretary, Julian, who has followed marvellously on from Maurice Frost, and I look forward to great things in the future."

Secretary's Report (Mr. J. Drewett)

'This year is a landmark in our Fellowship, for this is the thirtieth year of our existence. We have had a quiet year. It has been a year of looking back and learning, a year of looking forward and planning and also a year of living in the moment and consolidating. I always think at these kind of annual meetings, members like to hear a little of what has been going on in the Fellowship, so that the word 'fellowship' begins to mean something to every member. To some of you, membership is in reading

our publications, to others it is meeting together in a closer fellowship, to others it is in correspondence, and to others it is a way of learning about a particular vocation. In fact, the particular role of the Fellowship itself, is the role it has to play in the life of the Church. It is a role in which some people find their home. They become members for many years, and yet others find, in the Fellowship, a resting place for a time when they realise that these things which we discuss are actually in the heart of the Church itself.

It has been my pleasure during the year to visit several groups and branches of the Fellowship, and the greatest pleasure came when my wife and I visited Bagborough House. We have also been to Chelmsford, Chislehurst, Lyme Regis, Coventry, and into East Anglia, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have given us hospitality throughout the year. I am sure that this is an important activity which keeps us close together and helps members to feel that headquarters is not a far away place. I can only repeat what our Chairman has said that our application form and prospectuse have been revised and that our statement on sensitivity in a Christian context has been finalised and published in a four page leaflet. Some of you will recall how at this meeting last year, questions were asked about the future headquarters of the Fellowship, and following that meeting a special Premises Committee was set up by the Council to look into this matter. The Committee looked at four options for the future of the headquarters, but in the final analysis the Council in July made the decision that the home of the Fellowship should remain at St. Mary Abchurch and it is the intention of this Committee to make recommendations for the improvement of office equipment and redecoration of the office in which we do our work. It has also been the pleasure of the Council this year to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Bowen as editor of the Quarterly Review. I am very grateful for this as it has allowed one or two people to come into this side of the Fellowship's work to draw together material and to prepare it for the printers. I look forward to working closely with her in the next few years. As you know, the death of Revd. Alun Virgin just over a year ago meant that we had a spare place on the Council, and Mrs. Beryl Statham was elected to fulfil Alun's time on the Council. It has also been the work of the Council to discuss the mission of the Fellowship. Several ideas have been brought forward and one in particular is to liaise with overseas members, particularly in the United States where parapsychology has a home of its own. Next year, we are having an International conference on Christian Parapsychology which will follow the Churches' Fellowship Conference at Digby Stuart College in London and we are inviting six or seven Americans to join us for both of those conferences to strengthen these ties. Mr. Leslie Price has made two journeys to the United States in the last two years and he is fostering these new relationships.

On a local level it is good to announce that the South East region of the Fellowship will now have a new Council to manage its affairs and Mrs. Patricia Patey, who has taken over sending out the magazines, and her

husband Rodney, and one or two other people, are going to form this Council and we hope that the South East Region will be able to be served in a better way.

I report that next year's conference at Digby Stuart College from the 7th - 9th September, will be called "The Mystics' Experience, past and present." Revd. Dr. Martin Israel will be talking to us and we hope also that the Revd. Paul Higgins, a methodist minister from the United States will take part in that conference. From the 9th - 11th September, there will be the International Christian Conference on Parapsychology and the call for papers has been published in the "Christian Parapsychologist". The Revd. Martin Israel has been appointed Chairman of a small committee to read these papers with the Revd. Dr. David Hicks and Emma Shackle. They will be reading and choosing the papers for those two days.

It is also the hope that we will be able to hold a teachers' seminar on Parapsychology in Education and this we envisage taking place in early 1985. So as you can see, we are looking quite a way ahead at the moment.

Finally may I offer my sincere thanks to the Chancellor, to our Chairman, to our Vice-Chairmen, to our Treasurer for all their help and support throughout the year, and also to our helpers who come in on Wednesdays throughout the year, Alice, Dorothy, and George, and also a new friend, Caroline Tinkler, who now comes and helps with the correspondence of the Fellowship. We are very grateful to them all for all the work they have done."

Treasurer's Report (Mr. J. Holmes)

"First of all, may I thank the Council for the totally undeserved if not unexpected providence they displayed in appointing me Treasurer, with fairly thin evidence to support my capabilities. Last year, Mr. Robin Gold felt obliged to resign due at that time to the ill health of his wife. He set a very high standard in looking after the affairs of the Fellowship and I will endeavour to continue on the same level. This has only been possible through my patient and thorough indoctrination by the General Secretary. Without Julian's attention to the day to day income and expenditure, my task would be infinitely greater if not impossible. I really would like to express to our General Secretary my heartfelt thanks for all his help and support during my induction period.

Not necessarily due to this close co-operation, but very satisfying in the event, I am pleased to say that we have had a most successful year on the financial side, largely due to some very generous legacies and some good investment, apart from the increase in subscriptions."

The Treasurer then went through the published accounts raising the following points: (see accounts p. 22)

Income

(a) The rise in subscriptions had not caused a loss in membership, and that with the leveling out in inflation, he felt there was no need to raise the subscriptions this year.

(b) He recommended the covenanting system to the membership as it was worth a lot in income to the Fellowship, while not affecting the actual amount given by a member.

Expenditure

(a) The figures relating to salaries have risen due to an increase in the salary given to the General Secretary and to the honorarium given to the editor of the Christian Parapsychologist.

(b) He raised the question of an improvement in the answering service installed in the office to cover the increased activity there.

(c) He pointed out that there was an increase of over £5,000 over the 1982 figure in the net surplus.

Summary of Funds

The Treasurer pointed out how indebted the Fellowship was to the legacy left by the late Miss Vera Staff which had been very generous.

The Treasurer finished his report by pointing to the total assets which showed at £161,642.

Editor of Christian Parapsychologist's Report (The Ven. Michael Perry)

"This report covers the four issues of CP from December 1982 to September 1983—a total of 144 pages. The first of these issues completed volume 4 and contained the indexes to that volume.

With Council's approval, the price was raised at the beginning of volume 5 from £3 to £4 *per annum*. That may sound a big rise, but the price had been held unchanged since 1978, so an increase was justified. In any case, it only affects that small minority of subscribers who are not members of CFPSS. It does not, in any case, seem to have affected the number of subscribers—they know they are on to a good thing! Indeed, at the beginning of 1983 I sent a free copy to a number of friends and acquaintances and asked them if they would like to become subscribers. There was a gratifying response. I wish a lot of other readers would do the same—I can always let you have spare copies of back numbers, and subscription forms, for this purpose.

We maintain our geographical spread—America, India, Australia, and other parts of the globe. Leslie Price was in the USA strengthening our links with SFF—the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship. In December 1982 we carried his account of the SFF Annual Conference and of the doings of its "Academic Affiliate", the Academy of Religion and Psychical Research. In December 1983 we plan to have Leslie's account of their 1983 conference. SFF and the Churches' Fellowship share common ideals, though we are—and I unrepentantly insist on it—closer to the concerns of the mainline Christian churches than SFF is. That way we can (I believe) carry out our mission, part of which is to make the Churches more aware of what they miss out on when they ignore the psychic dimension of life. We can only do this from *within* the Churches. They will not take any appreciable notice of peculiar outsiders, I fear.

Leslie Price is also planning another International Conference on Christian Parapsychology to follow the CFPSS Conference at Roehampton this time next year. I hope that some papers from that will find their

way into the pages of CP, though they may well have to join a queue—we are not short of material to print, though I need always to be on the lookout for good stuff.

The ecumenical stance of CP remains important. In the last few issues I have been pleased to print a number of contributions about Emanuel Swedenborg, or contributions by members of the New Church—the body which exists to propagate Swedenborg's teachings. Other contributions have come from Roman Catholics, Quakers, and writers of many intermediate hues of the ecclesiastical spectrum.

I very much enjoyed a visit to Lampeter during Holy Week, where I was invited to lecture the philosophers and theologians on the staff of the University of Wales. The occasion was a symposium to launch their new MA course on "Death and Immortality in Western Thought" in which the insights both of religion and parapsychology will be integrated. Two of the papers read at that colloquium should appear in future issues of CP.

Also looking ahead, we expect to print the lecture which the Chancellor gave to the Society for Psychical Research in July on "The Frontiers of Religion and Psychical Research"; to continue our series of book reviews—Lord Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, has once more promised to write for us; to have a lively correspondence section; and to keep abreast of anything of particular interest to Christians in the general parapsychological literature. All in all, I think we have had a good year, and I believe I can promise as stimulating a one to come."

The Ven. Michael Perry finished by appealing for help from anyone who could read Italian or knew someone who could translate from Italian, as he had received a paper from Italy on Mysticism and Parapsychology which he wished to use if it could be translated.

Discussion

From the floor, a member asked more members to covenant their subscriptions as it brought considerable, free income from the Inland Revenue. It was asked that a notice informing members of this should be put in the Quarterly Review with all information necessary.

A need for a well manned office was expressed by some members, especially as the Fellowship was becoming more well-known.

Gratitude was expressed from the floor for all the legacies received throughout the year.

Questions were asked about the future policy of the use of funds as a decision had been taken to remain at St. Mary Abchurch rather than seek separate premises. The General Secretary pointed out that the £161,000 was in the *General* and Headquarters Fund, and that the sum collected for Headquarters some years ago was only about £3,000 which he felt was a sum similar to that being spent to re-equip the office. He said that the Council had not yet made any decision as to the use of the legacies received yet.

The Reports were then formally received, and the accounts adopted.

The auditors, Hereward, Scott, Davies & Co. were elected for a further term.

Any Other Business

Various members told of events coming in the regions.

Mrs. Beryl Statham said that Dorothea Cartmel, who had recently died, had left a large number of tapes which she would use as a tape library for the South West region and will be available on loan.

Election of Officers

The Chancellor announced that there had been an uncontested election and therefore on single nominations the results were as follows:

President:	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Chairman:	Mrs. Barbara Bunce
Treasurer:	Mr. Jack Holmes
Council Members:	Dr. Ian Pearce
	Canon John Smith
	Mrs. Dorothy Warren

The Chancellor invited the newly elected people to take up their respective functions and then declared the meeting adjourned.

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK

Now that the Conference season is over, the time has come for reflection and consolidation as far as office life is concerned. The Annual Conference must have been something of a record with the attendance of over 170 people throughout the weekend in Chichester. We shall in future have to book more places in the various colleges where our conferences are held. The 1984 conference will be held at Digby Stuart College, London and it is hoped that the 1985 conference will be held in York.

By the time you read this journal the Rectory Room in St. Mary Abchurch will have been re-decorated and re-carpeted and our new office equipment will be in place. One new item of office equipment is a telephone answering machine which you as members will be able to use to leave messages for me when I am away from the office. The equipment is so advanced that with a small pocket sized controller I am able to hear any messages by dialing in to St. Mary Abchurch from any telephone in the country! Your requests will be dealt with quickly.

I have recently visited Taunton where a most successful one-day conference was held and Cheltenham where a flourishing branch exists. We must never forget that these local groups and branches are only possible through the continuing hard work of local members. Thank you for all you do.

Please note the last dates for copy to be sent to the Editor of the QR. They have changed from the 15th to the 8th of the months.

The membership of the Fellowship now stands at 1271 an increase of 38 on this time last year. This is an encouraging new trend.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Now it is my turn to write those words, used as an introduction to Martin Israel's first Chairman's message in September, 1975. It is no easy thing to find oneself taking over an office from such a person as Martin, but I am strengthened in the knowledge that as our new President he will continue to share with us his spiritual genius and leadership just as he has done so generously and brilliantly as our Chairman. Therefore there will be no gap for me to try to fill, which would obviously have been an impossibility. Yet I must still make some personal contribution to the life and growth of our Fellowship, and needless to say I have given some thought to what this can be.

During my time as one of your Vice Chairmen, I have been able to encourage and promote the setting up of sub-committees of the Council so that the planning and creative work of the Council can move forward between meetings more positively than would otherwise have been possible; and in this and other ways I have done what I could to supplement and support the splendid work of our General Secretary, Julian Drewett; and this, of course, I hope to continue to do even more effectively as Chairman. Although I live in Devon (and there is a good precedent for this as Reginald Lester, our Founder-Chairman, lived in Torquay where in fact I first came to know him and Grace), I have been and will be able to keep in touch with Head Office; and equally I know that my base in the south-west region keeps me in touch with the "grass roots" of our work, and much of value comes to me through my involvements with the local churches and C.F.P.S.S. groups.

It is this involvement which continues to impress upon me how much our work and individual experience can do to flesh out the bones of so much of current church teaching and practice, and also to impress upon me how much we continue to need the churches' teaching and ministry to keep us safely in the Way as followers of Christ. We have, perhaps, in our need to work out this subtle tension within the framework of the Fellowship, a demonstration in miniature of something from which a valuable contribution could be made to a new branch of theology for which our times call.

My own experiences and development in knowledge and faith over more than 30 years in which I have been drawn into our type of study and thought, serve to keep me rooted in the conviction of the worth of our work, whether in comforting the bereaved, healing the sick, or helping to deepen prayer and faith. Therefore, as I offer my service as your new Chairman I hope that to begin with members will feel that they can always approach me with their thoughts, suggestions or needs. I shall be listening, I hope intuitively, to all that is said, and seeking to be a truthful link between members and Council. Then, too, I shall be listening to what may be given to me in guidance and inspiration for whatever development of our work God may put before us in the years ahead. Thus I trust I may

be a support to Martin in his continuing leadership as our President, and a link with members so that we may continue to grow as a family in the service of Christ.

Barbara Bunce

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Irene Belcher, now in her eighty-second year, kept a small-holding with her husband, she writes:-

I had a fruit canning machine which my husband had always serviced. One day about four months after he had died, the machine needed a new cotter pin which I had sent for. The fruit was all ready but the new pin was too large for the hole. I went out to the garage; there was an old dresser there in which my husband had kept his tools. Putting the pin in the vice I said: "Oh I do wish you were here, dear, to help me with this," and at once his voice said: "Look in the middle compartment of the right drawer and you will find a file." There was, and I used it. "Now take it in and try it," which I did but it was still too large to go in the hole—so I took it back. "Well, look in the end compartment and you'll find a finer file—but mind you don't take too much off." So I found and used this file and when I went in and tried it, it fitted perfectly. Going back to put the files away, I said: "Thank you, dear, for helping me," and my husband said "I will always help you when you really need me, but don't ask me too often, as I have other work to do where I am now," and then it was as though he 'signed off' which didn't seem at all strange. I went in and said to a friend in the kitchen: "I've just been talking with Harry." Showing no surprise, she just said: "Oh, that is what is called the Communion of Saints," "Well, I'm no saint," I said, and got on with the fruit canning. It had all seemed so completely natural.

DOROTHEA CARTMEL

Those of us who looked forward to meeting Dorothea at both the South West and Annual Conferences will be very sorry to know that she passed over at the end of August but glad for her sake because she had been ill for a long time. We always remembered her as an absent member of our study group at the Sanctuary, and we always kept in touch.

Dorothea had been a devoted member of the Fellowship for many years. She had a gentleness of spirit and an enquiring mind which made her someone one always looked forward to meeting. Her funeral took place at St. Albans on September 2nd.

PROGRAMME OF GROUPS AND BRANCHES

LONDON GROUP

Place of meetings - St. Mary Abchurch
First Tuesdays—Bible Study at 5.45 p.m. (NB Change of day)
Fourth Tuesdays—Intercessions at 5.45 p.m. followed by meeting at 6.45 p.m.
Second Mondays—Healing Service at 5.45 p.m. followed by meeting at 6.45 p.m.

Monday January 9th
Dr. Martin Israel on "The Problem of sin and evil".

Tuesday January 24th
Captain Hugh Corbett on "Reason for Belief". Captain Corbett is Regional Representative for East Anglia and is a Council and Executive Committee member of C.F.P.S.S.

Tuesday February 7th
Bible Study.

Monday February 13th
Mr. Peter B. Clarke will speak on "New Religious Movements". Mr. Clarke is a research fellow of King's College, London and is in charge of the Centre for New Religious Movements, recently formed there.

Tuesday February 28th
Open discussion.

Tuesday March 6th
Bible Study.

Monday March 12th
Mr. Nick Clark-Lowes on "A Role for Parapsychology in Religious Education". Mr. Clark-Lowes is a retired schoolmaster with a diploma in Theology. He taught chemistry and religious instruction and is at present the librarian of the Society for Psychical Research

Tuesday March 27th
Miss Gwyneth Pritchard on "Experiences of Parapsychological "Training" in America - pros and cons". Gwyneth is an associate member of the C.F.P.S.S. and regularly attends the London Group. She is a clinical psychologist.

The Reverend Basil de Mel states that his interest in parapsychology does not include special experience in the field of malign influence. We apologise for the recent misinformation.

CASSETTE TAPES

Cassette tapes of the 1983 Annual Conference are now available at a price of £2.70 (inclusive of postage).

Immortality and resurrection: 1. The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel.
Immortality and resurrection: 2. The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Progress in heaven: The Revd. Donald Bretherton.
Reincarnation—a Christian option?: The Venerable Michael Perry.
The active dead: The Rt. Revd. George Appleton.
Any questions panel.

These titles are also now available from the tape library at a hire charge of 50p per month inclusive of postage. Please ask for a complete catalogue if you have not already got one.

1984 NORTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Gibson's Hotel, Scarborough
Friday 18th May to Sunday 20th May

Theme: 'Building Bridges'

Friday
7.45 p.m. Mrs. Joan Hodgson 'Building the Bridge between the Two Worlds'.

Saturday
8.15 a.m. Meditation led by Mrs. Hodgson.
9.45 a.m. Professor A. E. Roy 'Psychical Research - the Cinderella Science'.
11.30 a.m. Rev. T. Graeme Longmuir M.A. 'Bridge over Troubled Waters: The Spiritual Hunger of Youth'.
5.00 p.m. Mrs. Joan Hodgson 'Healing by the Spirit'.
7.45 p.m. Any Questions Panel: Mrs. Joan Hodgson, Professor A. E. Roy, Rev. T. Graeme Longmuir, Mr. Julian Drewett.

Sunday
8.15 a.m. Holy Communion: Rev. T. Graeme Longmuir
10.00 a.m. Professor A. E. Roy 'Food for Thought— Some Significant Cases'.
11.45 a.m. Mr. Julian Drewett 'Fragile Structures'.

The Speakers:

Mrs. Joan Hodgson, daughter of Grace Cooke, through whose mediumship White Eagle Lodge was founded, now shares responsibility with other members of her family for a devotional and healing community originating from spirit communication.

Professor A. E. Roy, Head of the Department of Astronomy, University of Glasgow, scientist and psychical researcher and author of widely read science fiction thrillers which explore the nature of time and the social responsibilities of scientists, is a former Chairman of the Scottish C.F.P.S.S.

Rev. T. Graeme Longmuir is Church of Scotland Chaplain to Strathallan School and a member of the Iona Community; last year visited Father Roger Schulz's ecumenical and international community of young people at Taize; formerly Collegiate Minister (United Reform) of Christ Church, Morecambe.

Conference Fee £33.00. Application Forms from Miss M. E. Butterfield, 4 Highfield Crescent, Baildon, Shipley BD 17. Tel. Bradford (7274) 581265.

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

The annual one-day Conference, 1984, will be held on Saturday, May 19th at the Old Bishop's Palace, Worcester, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Speakers: Mr. Malcolm Lazarus
The Revd. Keith Denerley
The Revd. Dr. Paul Badham

To apply, please send £3 deposit (enclosing S.A.E.) to: Mrs. M. Gallimore, 222 Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, West Midlands. DY1 2EL.

CROPTHORNE SILENT RETREAT MAY 18th - 20th 1984

The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel has undertaken to lead a Silent Retreat, Open to All Members, at Holland House Pershore, Worcs., Friday 6 p.m. 18th May to Sunday afternoon, 20th May 1984. Cost Approx £35.

At a meeting of the Hereford Branch, rather out of the usual run, The Revd. Gordon Barker's talk in June was followed by a "Bring and Buy" which raised £63 for his work with the Chiswick Family Refuge. A considerable amount of clothing and household goods was collected for despatch to the Refuge.

CASSETTE TAPE LIST

Christ, Son of God	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
The Right Time to Die	Chancellor Garth Moore
Christ, The True Light	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Christianity and the Psychic	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Eastern Orthodoxy (The Desert Fathers)	The Revd. Hugh Martin
The Charismatic Scene	The Revd. Michael Vonberg
The Holy Spirit	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Is Mediumship a Gift of the Spirit?	Barbara Bunce
The Spiritual Work of the Fellowship	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Healing and the Church	Chancellor Garth Moore
The Mysticism of A. E. Waite	Robert A. Gilbert
Does Re-Incarnation Conflict with Doctrine?	Dr. Homer Sewell
The Place of the Paranormal in the Christian Life	Beryl Statham
God's Power in Holistic Health Paradigm	Dr. C. T. G. Rogers
Creative Mind	D. N. Clark-Lowes
Therapist using 'Rolfing Technique'	Robert Ouradnik
What Dying is Like	The Venerable Michael Perry
The Place of Grief	Miss Peggy Hartley
The Spiritual Dimension	The Revd. E. H. Robertson
Mysticism in Daily Life	Father Christopher Bryant SSJE
Joy and Healing in Simple Poems	Mrs. Lilianne Rich
To Faith—Add Knowledge	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
The Christian's Use of Silence	The Revd. Alan Paice
A Panel Discussion	
Does the Church Need the Fellowship?	The Revd. Michael Shrewsbury
Children and the Psychic Realm	Mrs. Marie Williams
The Communion of Saints	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
The Sacrament of the Present Moment	The Rev. Dr. Martin Israel
Living or Existing?	Mr. Julian Drewett
A new heaven and a new earth	Fr. Eric Doyle
Aspects of The Communion of Saints	Canon A. M. Allchin
Recital of poetry and music	1981 Conference
The Road to Discovery	Mr. John Wilson
The psychic dimension of healing	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
The story of Lourdes	Fr. Martin Haigh O.S.B.
The spirit of counsel	The Revd. Dr. Martin Israel
Any Questions Panel	Capt. Hugh Corbett in the chair
The story of Burrswood	Miss Primrose Cooper
Healing	Fr. Martin Haigh O.S.B.

Recital of words and music given by the Brookland Singers directed by Julian Drewett with Catherine Drewett and Kenneth Waller.

The above are available through Head Office at a price of 2.70 each (inclusive of postage)

(A catalogue of tapes connected with **'Health and Healing'** is available on request from Headquarters)

Unexplained Scentings

by Enid Case

PART II

"Powers there are
That touch each other to the quick - in modes
Which the gross world no sense has to perceive,
No soul to dream of. . . " Wordsworth.

One quite unexpected development of my inquiry into preternatural scentings was the unexplained and unconscious contact between strangers. Here is an example. I sent a small preliminary booklet to a B.B.C. producer whose work interested me. She wrote back: "You will not be surprised to hear that when I first picked these up in the office, there was a most noticeable smell of flowers in my usually stuffy room."

There are many examples of this unexplained scenting, but I never expected that it could be connected with me. I am not at all mystical, but certainly my contact with the poet Paul Roche was very fourth dimensional. I never met him, but I was impressed with his poems, "All Things Considered", and the penultimate poem ended with the line:

"The perfume which is God".

This was very like the sentence I had heard in a personal experience:

"Heaven is fragrance"

I sent him the duplicated booklet of letters (of scenting episodes) saying how much I liked his poems. He replied that the letters fascinated him, and offered to send me two out of print books of poems. About two nights before these arrived, for no special reason I began thinking how delightful old age was:

"Beauty is never seen, till it is late
and one is dying. . ."

And then, without regret, that no one again would write a poem for me. Then the two books came by post. In one, "To Tell the Truth", Paul Roche had marked: "Especially p. 44".

"Let us say then
That we walk towards our own
irreducible loneliness
Like the coming of the night,
Yes, and the perfume grows
as the shadows lengthen
and the scent is the scent of a distant progress
through our own garden
and a different kind of light."

This was exactly what I had been feeling - "Yes, and the perfume grows as the shadows lengthen."

Then, in the second book, "Enigma Variations", he had written a light poem for me on the forepage:

"Where is the fragrance, said she,
Sniffing at the famous rose:
I smell nothing here -
not a thing?
Ah! my dear,
the fragrance is within:
You need a supernatural nose."

for Enid Case from P.R. 1977

After getting the poems, I caught the local bus to Exeter, and started reading "Enigma Variations". I had on me some faint perfume but could no longer smell it. A perfume started to come from the open book. I was astonished and closed it. I sniffed around, but could smell nothing, and nothing from a rather smart girl sitting next to me. I opened the book and began to read: the perfume came out more strongly, and growing stronger. It came from the centre join of the book, not from the edges. I could not believe that this was happening to me, and shut the book again, and I could smell nothing, and no one else seemed to notice it. I opened the book again, and the scent grew so violent that I began to feel nausea, and was rather alarmed, so I shut it up, rather pleased that I was in control. When I got to Exeter I read the book again, and there was no scent. Later I realised that with a gap of about 30 years we had both written poetry in 38 Brunswick Sq., W.C.2 often with the same idea.

Scenting brings chance contacts, as was suggested to me, almost like radar bleeps that find their mark. At an exhibition I exchanged a few words with the representative, then she came back and rather urgently asked me what I was doing now. This was a strange question to an old woman, so I answered truthfully that I was making an inquiry into modern developments of the ancient Christian tradition of the odour of sanctity. She said, "My hyacinths." She was very busy, but we went aside, and she said she had been getting unexplained scents of hyacinths. We both thought that this might be connected with someone who had died.

At Glastonbury I stayed at the Chalice Well Hostel. There was only one other woman staying there, and we went out together. As far as I remember I had not mentioned my inquiry, but on coming back to the Guest Room she asked what the strong scent of lavender was. I could smell nothing, but later I asked the housekeeper if she had noticed any scents. She immediately said that she often smelled lavender, but her husband could not.

However it was on a visit to Norfolk that I began to expect the unexpected. We stayed a night at Bedford, and the other visitor there told me that she had lately had a wonderful fragrance while praying for healing. I gave her a booklet, and about a week later she wrote to say there had been another experience of fragrance.

The next day at a tea party a woman told me about prayers for healing, but in so low a voice I could not hear it in the general conversation. There

seems to be a consistence in the informality of this type of conversation, for the next was in the Vicarage kitchen over early morning tea telling of the fragrance of white jasmine that I have already written about.

That was a strange week: sometimes it seems as if the really important things are communicated from one woman to another over a cup of tea, or even instant coffee which is drunk sacramentally as a symbol of friendship. I can only take these experiences on trust: a scientific mind would like positive vetting, and we have seen the result of positive vetting on our national defence.

Implications

A correspondent said "I believe that more people have these experiences but keep them to themselves. I think the time has come to speak out and not be ashamed to reveal these spiritual truths. I am convinced that we are going into a new age of awareness into the higher things in life, however black things may seem sometimes."

Although one hears of an old building haunted by the smell of tobacco, or the smell of eggs and bacon still lingering round an R.A.F. station, in my experience these crude earthly scents are not said to last long. The fragrances seem to be at hand over long passed years to help some people in difficulties. I cannot believe that these scentings come from anything but a higher dimension, most compassionate towards us. We on earth may make no demands on them, but the scentings come from their generosity, and in prayer, especially at Holy Communion many people have been sent these consequences.

There are many examples of this concern: for instance, a scent of stocks came independently to two sisters when they were distressed—the scent later being identified as a favourite of a relation who had died. A scent recurred to a woman and gave her the strong impetus to see a doctor; this was just in time to prevent a serious illness that she had not suspected. Other fragrances came when there was indecision whether to choose a certain place to live, or before some happy experience. There is the delightful example I quoted in my booklet: the woman who found that if all goes well she gets "a tellingly lovely smell of flowers"—even over a lost handbag. However, she gets a bad smell if things are going to go wrong.

All this makes one wonder what is going on. We seem to be like four year olds in a Play Group, very seriously acting a play as well as we can, or sometimes obstinately as badly as we can, and quite unaware of the pushings and promptings of the kind adults behind the scenes.

The implications of these experiences were illustrated to me in a radio version of the Iliad "A man is clever, but the least of gods is cleverer than a man." The warriors as usual are bogged down in carnage, when a Goddess picks up the hero, and the corpse of Patrocles, and carries them to safety. The warriors are all heroes, and the Goddess is not Jupiter, but they can do nothing against her. She belongs to a higher dimension, and so do these fragrances. No scientist can invent them, no army can prevent them.

There is unprecedented acceleration of achievement in the technological world. People caught up in this force cannot resist it, any more than the hero could disengage from the carnage—only the Goddess could save him.

St. Therese of Lisieux tells of her fragrant shower of worthless petals What use are they? They may be straws in an evolutionary wind which show the way it is blowing.

HISTORY OF THE FELLOWSHIP

by Phoebe M. Rees

It was in the autumn of 1956, about three years after its founding, that I first became aware of the Fellowship. My play, "The White Dove of Bardon", had been rebroadcast on Oct. 16th, and the Rev. Maurice Elliott, the Fellowship's first secretary, who had listened to the play, wrote asking me to give a talk about it to the South West Conference. My play was based on true ghostly happenings at Bardon, a very old house near Watchet, in Somerset. It showed how such happenings could bring a man to realise that death is not an end but that we, our unaltered selves, go on.

I was delighted to find that such a Fellowship existed, and arranged to go with a friend to a meeting to be held in Exeter. There we were warmly greeted by the Chairman, Colonel Reginald Lester, and his wife, Grace. Their welcome made us feel we were with old friends. On the platform, besides our chairman, were the Bishop of Exeter and Frances Banks. "What does Frances Banks look like?" I whispered to my friend. "Like an Old Testament prophetess!" she replied. What a significant description. In 1969, four years after her death, Frances was to communicate, through her friend Helen Greaves, a wonderful description of life in the next phase of existence. This was published for the Fellowship by the World Press Ltd. under the title of "Testimony of Light", yet how many of those who profess to be Christians, even the clergy, still say we know little about the next world! Are we not like the people in the Old Testament who rejected the prophets? At this meeting, the Bishop of Exeter stated that he had joined the Fellowship because it was not a spiritualist organisation, but aimed at showing that science, especially Physics, offered proof of the immortality of mortal man, and that such a message of the fusion of science and religion was never more needed than in this materialistic age.

I attended the first weekend South West conference, which was held at Mamhead Park, in Devon. This was an old house that had been taken over by the diocese. It provided hard mattresses and communal washbasins, but the somewhat Spartan conditions were made up for by the friendly atmosphere. Margaret Salmons' clergyman husband opened the conference with Francis Drake's prayer, affirming that it is not the beginning, but the continuation of any project which matters. After our

evening meal, we played games such as musical chairs! It was a happy family party.

The first annual conference I went to was held at Lincoln College, Oxford, in September, 1962. Very hard seats but very interesting speakers, including Dr. Leggett speaking on "The Reincarnation Hypothesis", and Helen Greaves on "The Modern Approach to Supernormal Faculties"

In 1972, the South West conference moved to the Highmead Hotel, Torquay, set high up on Daddyhole Plain. One was greeted each morning on waking by the sound of seagulls. Frances Banks took morning meditattion based on the Invocation to Light. The impression this left was overwhelming—I still use that invocation at the start of our study group in The Sanctuary. It was at one of these Torquay conferences that I first met Margot Rundle, when she took a morning meditation. How much we owe to Margot and her husband Eric, for all they did in keeping the South West conference going for so many years.

The outstanding speakers at these early conferences were Frances Banks, Helen Greaves, Tudor Pole, Robert Crookall, and our chairman, Reginald Lester. The latter's talk on "The Power of Thought" still lives in my memory. Also, at the first London conference I went to, I shall always remember hearing Rosemary Britton's lovely voice singing Handel's song "Art thou troubled? Music shall calm thee. Art thou weary? Peace shall be thine." At the opening services at our conferences, Reg always chose the hymn "Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways!" which includes the lines "Drop Thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease. Take from our souls the strain and stress And let our ordered lives confess The beauty of Thy peace." Lines surely even more relevant for us at the present day than they were in the early days of our Fellowship.

LAST DATES FOR COPY

8th January, 8th April, 8th July, 8th October

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There cannot be a single person who attended the Chichester Conference who did not feel he or she had been on some kind of spiritual journey which gave a new insight into our pilgrimage here on earth and in the world to come. No one was quite the same afterwards.

What all the speakers emphasised was their belief that, although the possibility exists, no soul can finally be lost as this would be a complete denial of the love of God. Hell, the isolation from others through our selfishness towards them, is of our own making, not God's.

All the talks dovetailed into one another, each speaker taking up where the previous one had left off, adding more details of what the future life may be like.

The conference began and ended with Dr. Martin Israel's two talks on "Immortality and Resurrection", infused with a love not just for humanity but for the whole of the created universe which, ultimately, he believes, will also be lifted up to God. Dr. Israel began by saying that what we have grown to become in this life is what we take over into the next. The spiritual body is not something acquired at death, but is built up, brick by brick, so to speak, on earth. These bricks are the relationships we have had with other people. A life of love, service, integrity and goodness will create a radiant spiritual body. We live on a knife-point of eternity here and now and if we concentrate too much on the other side, to the detriment of our life here, our spiritual body will not be sufficient for the life of the world to come.

After dinner, the Revd Donald Bretherton took up this theme with the possibilities of "Progress in Heaven". We are not miraculously transformed at death and made perfect in the twinkling of an eye. This would be a breach of the continuity of personality and prayer, meditation and worship would count for nothing. The dead do not suddenly have superhuman knowledge. We have many things to unlearn and unload. Development is gradual and personality and character remain to adventure on in new realms of experience, providing we can respond.

Saturday morning began in the chapel with a lovely meditation on the Virgin Mary led by the Revd Michael Shrewsbury. After breakfast, The Archdeacon of Durham, the Venerable Michael Perry, spoke on "Reincarnation - a Christian Option?" He outlined the 5 main strands of empirical evidence for re-incarnation: child geniuses, the sense of deja vu, memories of former lives, hypnotic regression and evidence communicated through mediums. He then gave alternative explanations such as pre-existence of the soul, precognition and the inadequacy of the human brain to allow people to realise their full potential, child geniuses being the exception. There was no such thing as a single or simple explanation; present evidence did not permit a conclusion one way or the other, though the debate was likely to come to a head soon. But for Christians, any explanation would have to comply with the Communion of Saints and the Archdeacon saw reincarnation only as a second-best option, like re-sitting an examination before proceeding any further. It was by

no means true for everybody. In the end, all that mattered was to hold on to Christ and be totally uncommitted for the rest.

There followed the Annual General Meeting which revealed that the Fellowship's finances were in a much more healthy state than in the past.

After lunch and a free afternoon in which to explore Chichester, Bishop George Appleton gave a profoundly moving talk on "The Active Dead". Speaking from personal experience, he shared with us his grief over the loss of his wife 3 years ago and told us how he still felt her love and her presence. Rather than to be feared, death should be thought of as a release of the human spirit—a birth into a world of freedom—and it was the Church's mission to train people to be prepared for this new life.

Afterwards, a presentation of 2 historical atlases and a cheque was made to the retiring President, Chancellor Garth Moore, who replied to Dr. Israel (our new President) with his customary wit. He said someone had tried to drag him screaming into the 20th century by giving him a pocket computer, but he had resisted. The Chancellor said that over the last 20 years during which he had been President, he had seen a vast change in the Fellowship. He thought it was in finer fettle now than it had ever been.

After dinner, an Any Questions session was held with Mrs. Barbara Bunce, the new Chairman of the Fellowship, in the chair. There was a variety of questions which each speaker dealt with in his own way.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Israel gave his concluding talk on "Immortality and Resurrection", stressing that what we have sown in this life comes to roost on us afterwards. At death, we undergo personal and communal judgment. Therefore the wise person comes to terms with the darkness within himself now, in this life. It is not intellectual relationships that will count in the life to come, but the ones at the deepest soul level. After death, when our true self can no longer be hidden, endless possibilities will open up. We may be born into many different spheres, into many new relationships with people to enable us to experience things we did not have the opportunity to know on earth. We need to have these experiences in order to serve and to understand others.

Again, Dr. Israel said that no one can really enter heaven while there is even one person still left in the isolation of his own self-created hell. All must finally be raised up.

The conference then ended with a celebration of the Eucharist.

For a short while, we had all been on another plane where time no longer existed. We then had to return to the world and try to live according to the inspiration we had been given. The conference was over but we had all grown a little and the inner glow remained.

Jennifer Howard

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1983

ASSETS REPRESENTING THE FUNDS

	1983 £	1982 £
GENERAL AND HEADQUARTERS FUNDS		
Investments, at cost or gifted value (market value £160,536)	147,229	103,009
Bank current account	2,109	2,516
Regional bank accounts	1,858	1,755
Cash in hand	145	40
Debtors and prepayments	5,495	4,105
Library, at valuation	2,136	2,136
Stock of books, at cost	2,770	2,768
Office furniture and equipment, at written down value	579	193
	162,321	116,522
Less Sundry creditors	10,785	2,498
Net amount due to Lester Memorial Fund	90	438
	151,446	113,586
G. MAURICE ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FUND		
Bank deposit account	318	291
STAFF GRATUITY FUND		
Bank deposit account	2,306	2,108
LESTER MEMORIAL FUND		
Investment, at cost (market value £6,028)	5,000	5,000
Bank deposit account	2,074	1,606
Net amount due from General Fund	90	438
	7,164	7,044
LIBRARY FUND		
Bank deposit account	285	346
VERA STAFF PUBLICATIONS FUND		
Bank deposit account	123	—
TOTAL ASSETS	161,642	123,375

J. DREWETT, Secretary
J. HOLMES, Treasurer

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Country is divided into regions purely for practical and administrative reasons, and we want to stress that all members are members of the Fellowship and not of their region only. A list of branches and groups is given below in order that those who move around the country know where to find the nearest activity in which they can take part. In all cases where there is not a name given for a particular place, the Regional Representative should be contacted for further information. (Addresses on back cover).

Northern Region
Branches meet in Keswick, Hull, Ilkley and York.
Groups meet in Birkenhead, Harrogate, Lightcliffe, North Lancs, North Shields, Scarborough, Sheffield, Sunderland and Tees Valley. Contact Regional Representative, Miss Barbara Gadd.

West Midlands
Cheltenham: Contact Mrs. E. M. Percival. Arundel Lodge, The Park, Cheltenham. (0242. 22989)
Coventry: Contact Mrs. M. Warman, 2, Collingwood Road, Coventry.
Hereford: Contact Mr. & Mrs. J. Hull, 52, Hafod Road, Hereford. (0432. 274950)
Worcester: Contact Mrs. F. Small, 46 Shrubbery Avenue, Worcester. (Worcester 26306)
Birmingham: Contact The Revd. Peter Kaye, 58 Presthope Road, Birmingham B29 4WT

East Anglia
Groups meet in Cambridge, Chelmsford, Lavenham & Woodbridge and Leigh on Sea. Norwich, Brandon and Romford.
Contact Regional Representative Captain Hugh Corbett for further information.

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South East
Groups meet in Canterbury, Chislehurst, Otford, Staplehurst.
Contact Head Office for further information.

Southern Region (East)
Branches meet in Farnham and Worthing
Groups meet in Goring and Chichester.
Contact Regional Representative Mr. Peter Watts for further information.

South West
Branches meet in Exeter, Taunton, Yeovil, North Cornwall and Lyme Regis.
There are various other groups in Cornwall.
Contact Regional Representative Mr. Robert Gilbert for further information.

Southern Region (West)
Bournemouth: Contact Mrs. M. Sinclair, 1 Wesley Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2PG (Wimborne 883539).
New Forest: Contact Mrs. Bunt, Ringer's Plat, Lymore Lane, Milford-on-Sea, Hants.
Marlborough: Contact Mr. J. Joachim, 1 & 2 Wellington Place, Marlborough, Wilts.

London Region
City: contact Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, The Rectory, Wanstead Place, Wanstead E11 2SW.
North London: contact Miss Kathleen Wilkes Smith, (01 886 8048).
East London: contact Mrs. Dorothy Warren, 32 Bushey Avenue, Snaresbrook, London E.18.

Please remember to send SAE with written enquiries and quote your membership number.

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Regional Representative: Mr. Peter Watts, Heroncourt, 39 Ford Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU14 4SF.

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Regional Representative:
Mr. R. A. Gilbert, 4 Julius Road, Bishopston, Bristol 7
Subscriptions to Head Office as above.

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(Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire).
Mr. D. Houlding, 6, Sabrina Terrace, Barbourne, Worcester WR1 3JD.

For Shropshire and Staffordshire contact: The Revd. J. E. King, Lower Farm House, Westley, Nr. Minsterley, Shropshire.
Subscriptions to head office as above.

East Midlands:
(Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland).
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(Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Humberside, Cleveland, Durham, Tyne and Wear, Cumbria, Northumberland).
Mrs. A. Bilsborough, 4 Lane Top, Bradley, Keighley, Yorkshire, BD20 9EB.
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(Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk).
Regional Representative: Captain H. A. Corbett, Holly Cottage, 3 Clare Road, Cambridge CB3 9HN.
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