

## **Peggy Bridges's diaries Volume 2**

### **October 1958 to August 1967**

By 1958 much had happened for Mike and Peggy. Mike had transferred to the British Army at some point prior to Indian independence, and they lived in Aldershot for a while, I believe. Not long after that he resigned his commission altogether and seems to have had a succession of jobs while their two sons were born (Paul, 23/8/48, and Andrew, 2/6/51).

They planned to emigrate to Canada in 1955, but Mike, having 'gone on ahead' to Canada abruptly called off the plan and returned, and they lived in Lostwithiel, Cornwall for about two years. In 1957 they bought a general store in a Somerset village called Charlton Mackrell but within about a year Mike needed to sell it and move on – Mum told me in my late teens that this was when he had become almost suicidal with depression, though of course at the time we young boys had only been aware of our father being "moody" or "bad tempered" at times, especially in the mornings. Most of the time we were away at boarding school.

In the summer of 1958 the family had rented a property in Freshford while purchasing and renovating a house then called High Beeches on Claverton Down, on the rural outskirts of Bath. By now, Mike has mainly become "Michael".

Tues 7 October:

It is the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1958. – not the beginning of a year, or a month or yet a week, but nevertheless today I decided to start keeping a diary again. I decided this after I'd read an article in this month's 'Here's Health'. I've read lots of articles like it before – articles urging you to improve yourself, think positively and be assertive, but this time I thought I'd really try and do something about it, and keep a diary of my progress or lack of same!.

The first thing I decided was about food – adequate but simple food, mostly fruit and vegetable, and I shouldn't mind if I was criticised or thought a crank. Better to be a crank than have no clear ideas at all, or to believe something to be right and then not do it.

I am also going to learn to think positively and to keep checking on myself that I'm not tensing up or being anxious. I am very tense at the moment – biting my lips and my nails continuously. I also have much too great an appetite which I hope to reduce!

We are moving in 'High Beeches' on Claverton Down on Thursday (9<sup>th</sup>) so today I have been working up there with Michael. Thea came and helped this morning too.

This evening I feel a little depressed about this effort of mine and am afraid it will all fall through in about a week, but perhaps this diary will help me to continue, and anyhow such feelings must be instantly replaced by a good thought

so I will remind myself that we all have a great Power in us by which "all things are possible" so I will draw on this, lean on this, and be freshly resolved!

Weds 8 October:

Michael and I worked very hard up at High Beeches today. I washed floors and he started painting the bathroom. We were tired and dirty when we returned to Springfield Place at about 6.45.

Started a deep breathing "ritual" today taking in 'Love', 'Courage' and 'Peace'. (Heavens! I feel proper cranky – yet... I think it's a good thing to do, so may be it's just the fact of writing it in this diary that makes it seem queer. It's rather too personal a thing to talk about.)

The Pope is very ill and not expected to last the night, poor man.

Thurs 9 October:

Today was the day for moving into High Beeches. The men were meant to arrive at 10.30 but at 12. As they hadn't come we rang up Pickfords at Yeovil and found they had made a mistake their end with the date, however they rang back later to say they could be there about 4. Mike and I did some gardening and we had lunch out at the Gay Heart. I also washed several curtains. (Of course the line had to break as the last but one was being pegged out!) The men eventually arrived at 6.25!!! But with four men working hard, and Mike and unpacking cases, everything was in the house by 8.10! A record by any standards! We all had tea and cake. Mike and I went back to Springfield Place about 9. The Pope has died.

Fri 10 October:

Had an enjoyable day up at High Beeches starting to put everything in its place. When we [sic – we?] came back to Springfield Place, Granny had a simply super supper of chicken for us, complete with about 4 veg. Thea joined us and told us how entertaining Mr Henwood had been while filling her teeth!

I'm reading a simply smashing book by a Professor Hans Selye called "The Stress of Life" – coming round to the Nature Cure ideas yet completely medical and scientific, Very interesting. (Still keeping up my deep breathing routine!)

Sat 11 October:

This is our first night in High Beeches. We still have no stair carpet, only one pair of curtains up and a towel over a wire to screen the bathroom window, but the lounge is beginning to look comfortable and we are gradually making headway. Michael seems better these days – pretty ticklish till about mid-morning but after that he seems to take things fairly easily and we have a lot of

fun. Nothing interesting on TV so I wrote the boys' letters, and also to Mrs Tomlinson. Reception seems quite good here [probably TV aerial 'reception']

America launched a rocket (Pioneer) to the moon today. It is now way out in space but rather off its course.

Sun 12 October:

It was a great joy to see Mrs Davis Harold and Walter again today after what must be about 3 years, and to hear that Jane was getting married at Easter. Lovely Service at church – Harvest Festival, and what do you know? The dinner cooked itself? Yes, I actually got all the dials and switches right. This new cooker is very luxurious. We fetched Tiffin [cat] and Kimmy [budgerigar] up here today. Tiffin was rather restless and curious about his new home.

Quite a good play ("Gracie") on TV tonight.

Mon 13 October:

Had a nice letter each from the boys – Andrew asks if the playroom is ready and Paul is full of the number of marks each of the school teams has up to date. Mummy wrote and seems to have had some osteopath treatment for her arm which had stiffened up. Auntie Vi is away on holiday.

We went onto town this morning and I bought kitchen curtain material. Spent the afternoon making the net ones for the kitchen, but a flaw in the material necessitated my having to do a bit of manoeuvring and it took me the whole afternoon to do them. After tea I made a pie for tomorrow, a raisin cake and a small loaf.

America's moon rocket has fallen back to Earth only having gone about 1/3 of the way.

Tues 14 October:

Today was spent cleaning up a bit and making curtains.

I'm still very interested in this book *The Stress of Life*. It is mostly about endocrinology and as I said before they have come to the conclusion scientifically that it isn't the germ which causes disease but one's bodily reaction to it. This is much the same as nature Cure which says if the soil is right and good, bad things cannot grow in it. Neither of these theories, however, seem to take the mind into consideration ... but I am only 2/3 way through this book, perhaps I am wrong.

Michael has been painting the bathroom today and it looks very nice.

We saw a good rather moving play on TV about the Army in Burma during the war.

Weds 15 October:

Today Michael worked all day in the bathroom and I started to paper Andrew's room. About 7 I went down and did a bit of cooking. After supper and clearing up it time to go to bed.

Thurs 16 October:

Finished papering Andrew's room today. Phew! 2 walls of patterned paper. Felt quite exhausted! Also made a curtain for his wardrobe fitment from a bedspread. I'm very pleased with the mobile butcher's shop which comes 3 times a week and makes a noise like a boys brigade member practising on his bugle. There is a good variety of meat and even lites for the cat. Nice letter from Michael Hill. Life is hectic for him with a new house, child of 2½ and new twins. What fun. He seems to think so too.

Fri 17 October:

Up earlyish to get 8.31 bus down to town. There's a bus back about 11.35 and that was fine. Spent afternoon doing still more curtains and after tea cleaned the blanket cupboard and put away the spare ones. Have finished reading *The Stress of Life*. He did get around to talking about the mind's influence on the metabolism, but I didn't quite agree that 'gratitude' should be the ultimate aim in life, especially as it included the aim to make other people grateful for what you had done. This was his philosophy. He agreed it was rather selfish but saw nothing wrong in that. I suppose most of us do most things to earn the gratitude of someone else, but I think it is usually a wrong motive. Am now reading a book by Fulton Sheen called "Lift up your heart".

Sat 18 October:

Worked mostly in the garden today as it was a really lovely autumn day. Granny Bridges and sister Mary cam up to tea. They were very generous in their praise of our efforts in the house and garden. For myself I feel that progress is very slow considering the time given to it. There seems very little of real interest on TV these days.

Sun 19 October:

We left the lunch to cook itself again today. Michael went to Springfield Place to help Mary pack her car with small furniture items given her by Aunt Eleanor. He therefore took me to Argyle and fetched me later. Rev Murray gave a good sermon about not working for immediate results and being resigned to the fact

that the fight against Communism and like ideologies may go on for a long time but every little progress counts. Also that the frontiers of this age not in far off battlefields and mission fields so much as in our immediate surroundings. The afternoon was spent in the garden and it was enjoyable. We had a big bonfire. The Brains Trust was quite interesting. In the evening after mending and supper – read some old diaries of mine. The 1936 one was very interesting but I was horrified to see how often I was either sick or unhappy. My mother must have had a dreadful time with me! Even the war entries are full of headaches, but I expect the wartime diet has something to do with that. How thankful one feels now for a large choice of food. For breakfast we have fruit or fruit juice followed by either egg, bacon, fish, porridge, Frugrains and milk, Froment and mild etc then toast butter and marm. Michael has coffee. Meat and 2 veg for dinner as a rule followed by either raw fruit or some kind of fruit pudding. B & B and cake for tea. For supper Michael has something cooked eg Kipper, rissole, soup, macaroni cheese etc followed by a salad, cheese and biscuits. I have cheese and salad followed by Marmite and biscuits. Last thing I have a hot lemon and Michael a cup of coffee. Afraid I usually fall for some chocolate after lunch!

Mon 20 October:

Actually put most of the pictures up today at last. Also sorted books. A sweep came too. Michael went round to see if his friend Roy Weymouth could give him a job in his garage on Odd Down but he has only just taken it on and couldn't afford to employ Mike, The kitchen curtains are now up and look nice.

Tues 21 October:

The balloon went up good and proper this morning about my taking on knitting for Elsie Edwards. I could have done with a suit of armour, however, what goes up usually comes down and all seemed pretty much as usual by lunch time. Went to See Aunt Eleanor. Her mind is so clear and her poor body very weak now. After that I had tea with Elsie Edwards. She was, as usual, an understanding and generous-hearted person to talk with. Was just about to bus home when Michael came up in the car and very kindly took me home. We went out to Newton Park to see Thea's students doing a half-term 'concert'. Then was a "spirit of inspiration" in a Cinderella skit the staff put on. It was all quite a hoot, especially the men lecturers.

Weds 22 October:

We 'did' the hall-cum-diningroom today and Michael polished his car and did some hedge-clipping etc. The builders have come back to start the outside decoration. Spent evening winding Elsie Edwards' wool. There was an excellent

documentary on the National Health Service on TV. Far more, to my mind, should be spent on education for health under the MoH in each town. If people were taught more on sensible food and sane living, there would be far less illness.

Thurs 23 October:

Michael laid the stair carpet and also eased the lounge door to go over the Indian carpet. I had quite a big bonfire and also did some curtains. Mrs Hancock next door gave me some lovely wallflower plants which I put in, and also some Chrysanthemums for the house and 2 lettuces. It was kind. Mummy came in the afternoon and stayed about an hour, then went ton to Aunties Marnie leaving us some cream. It was jolly cosy sitting down to toast, and bread and cream for tea by the fire after the day's efforts! Knitted and watched TV but there was little of interest.

Fri 24 October:

Went shopping with Mummy this morning and persuaded her to buy a coral pink hat which cost 4gns! [4 guineas] She was staggered at the price but I told her it was jolly good and she wouldn't need any others in a week or two's time! She kindly took Auntie Marnie Michael and I out to lunch at Colmer's – at least, that was the idea but Mr Bunt came over to talk to us and when we'd finished the very excellent meal we found that he had paid for it!! He is very generous. [No idea who he is] Mummy insisted on buying some floorcovering for Andrew's room so we chose a red linoleum to match the rug on his bed. Today is United Nations Day. I intended going to a meeting but there were several difficulties and I decided it was just as important to get on with Elsie Edwards' jumper, so I knitted the back on the machine after supper.

Sat 25 October:

Michael hasn't felt too good today and only had Bovril for lunch. In spite of this he did quite a bit of 'preparation' in Paul's room – easing door, filling and sanding. I did other odd jobs. Mummy and Auntie Marnie came to tea. Sixpence (Auntie M's dachshund) and Tiffin were very funny together. Made quite a successful milk loaf, but forgot to put the baking powder in the raisin cake so it is very 'sad' – shame on me! Did more of Elsie Edwards' cardigan in the evening. Read all the old conveyances and deeds of the house. Apparently it was built about 1908 and used as an investment till 1916 – that is 1 & 2 Farley View. Then No 2 (High Beeches) was sold to a lady from Bathampton who resold for about double her money (£750) in 1924. A year later a Captain Reeder bought the property and

lived here till 1948 selling for £2,500. The builder who bought it sold for £200 profit a year later to a Post Office Engineer. He made the alterations making kitchen into lounge etc and sold to Mrs S Anderson in 1951 for £3,470. We bought it this year for £2,650.

Sun 26 October:

We didn't hurry to get up this morning. Wrote the boys before going to Argyle by bus. Rev Filey from Bexhill preached on "Be ye perfect". Home by bus to lunch of boiled ham etc which was nice change. Michael had spent morning sanding in Paul's room and I helped him for a bit in the afternoon. Then painted the ceiling and I went for a short walk exploring the nearby fields. Back in time for tea and most of the Brains Trust on TV. Carried on with Elsie's cardigan and saw an excellent religious play called "Deadline" on ITV and a good comedy later in which Brian Rix starred, also Dora Bryan. Michael worked until nearly 8. He seems much better again today. The beeches are looking lovely now – everywhere the autumn colours.

Mon 27 October:

Seem to have evolved a 'routine' by which I do housework till 10, work on the house (painting in Paul's room) from 10-12. Cooking 12-1. Work on house 2-4. After tea machine and handkitting. Tues afternoons and Friday mornings shopping with a visit to Aunt Eleanor also on Tuesday. Letters from the boys today, both priceless. Poor Paul has had the same germ as Andrew but it was short-lived, thank goodness.

Tues 28 October:

Aunt Eleanor seemed just the same as ever when I saw her. She told me how she had made her hay box which was useful to know. After tea at Evans & Owens etc I went to Library and on to Ref Library to read Som. Countryman Vogue, Discoverry and Amateur Gardening mags. Church meeting at 7.30. It was mostly about the Bath & Keynsham Moral Welfare Association of which our minister is chairman. The Free churches are asked for support but it seems slow in coming forth – largely because, it seems, the Vigilance Society, mostly run by the Free Churches in the past is doing nothing now from lack of money and this Association, started by the Anglicans at a later date is resented by many. They think the Anglicans should have backed the original Vigilance society instead of starting a new one on their own and then inviting Free Churches to join them. The grievance is just, but oh so petty. The minister handled it very well. We are also to buy Mr Murray a new car (or rather a 2 year old one – A50 for £600)

The new buildings (still in course of erection) are very nice. The meeting was in Percy Hall on the ground floor. Very nice.

Weds 29 October:

Another lovely day and I was glad to have a card from Mummy to hear she was having the same weather in Brighton with Auntie Dee. We worked on Paul's room curtains etc. TV in evening and knitting.

Thurs 30 October:

Had a baking morning – cake and honey crunchies turned out OK but the bread wouldn't rise (made the dough too hot – but have a solution to this problem for next time) so had to cream more yeast and add and re-prove and result was not as good as usual. Pity, because these loaves are for taking to Fowey tomorrow. We took Tiffin and Kimmy up to Springfield Place and had tea with Granny Bridges. Elsie Edwards also looked in. When we left at 5 o'clock we found the scene of a major accident near the Lansdown Stores. It looks as though a lorry had perhaps run away, completely demolished the Lansdown Stores van (which had been outside the shop when we went up) and then turned on its side. It's such a busy time of day I am terribly eager to learn if anyone was hurt. I do hope the Lansdown Store delivery man was not in the van. A nice little man, and said to him yesterday "See you in a fortnight". I'm hoping now, I will!

Fri 31 October:

Sat 1 November:

Didn't make an entry last night as on the way down to Fowey I began to feel not too 'hot'. We fetched the boys at 4, and by bedtime I felt very queezy. 2 sea-sickness tablets seemed to settle me eventually. Today I felt better. Mummy had ordered us a lovely chicken. The boys bought their fireworks and spent afternoon with Michael while I had a rest. Michael couldn't have been kinder and the boys were happy and helpful. This evening I feel most uncomfortable in the stomach again although I have eaten very little today.

Sun 2 November:

It was wet – mizzly [?] wet all day which was rather miserable for the boys. As I still didn't feel too happy inside I didn't even take them to church – however this did not seem to upset them too much!! Paul went on the beach for a short while but Andrew was content to play with his Bayko all day. TV was quite good, especially "Meeting Point" at 7. Michael was kind and helpful. He applied for a job with the SW Elec. Board in the stores.

Mon 3 November:

It was a better day today so after lunch we went in the car to the Luxulyan valley. I got some ferns etc for the garden. We wanted to walk across the viaduct but every attempt to get there failed as it was so wet and muddy. We found a bridge over the stream, but there was a stream running over the bridge. The children got across and Michael gallantly took my bags of plants etc but slipped and I called them back. We never reached the viaduct which was a pity as I should have like some heather etc on the other side, but we had a pleasant afternoon. We had frozen strawberries for tea as a treat and the children stayed up till 8.30 to see Bilko on TV also as a treat. It is sad to think they go back to school tomorrow. Paul seems pretty strong these days and is sensible and thoughtful for the most part. Andrew does everything very methodically and carefully but takes ages. He went back to school at beginning of term sucking his thumb continuously, but during the whole weekend he hasn't put his thumb anywhere near his mouth. I do hope the habit is broken at last. He is rather pale and doesn't look half the boy he looked in June but it maybe because he has lost his sunburn now. I have bought some 2ply wool in mauve from Auntie Vi to make a twin set.

Tues 4 November:

The boys were duly delivered back at school and Michael and I 'wandered' back to Bath via Camelford, Bude, Bideford, Barnstaple (lunch at a very unimaginative café – Bromley's) and on over Exmoor via Lynmouth, Cloutsham, Dunkery, Wheddon and Raleigh Cross, down into Williton and home via Bridgwater Wells etc. We fetched Kimmy and Tiffin from Granny Bridges who also gave us a piece of carpeting which we think will look fine on the landing. We took Mrs Hancock next door a spot of Cornish cream – she has been very kind to us with gifts of butter and flowers. It's nice to be back home. Mummy rang up from Auntie Marnie's and we're meeting her tomorrow. The Pope was crowned today.

Weds 5 November:

We did some shopping and met Mummy and Aunties Marnie at 12.15. Mummy treated us to lunch. When we came home Michael put down the carpet in Paul's room which included easing the cupboard doors, while I planted the things we'd brought back from Cornwall. In the evening I knitted the back of my mauve cardigan on the machine. Also saw a part of an Irish play on TV about the last hours in a prison before an execution. I hope it helped to make people realise how barbarous this legalised murder is. We have no business to expect these people to commit this crime for us even if it is to release us from another criminal. If as a nation we fail, by producing criminals then we should bear the

responsibility of trying to re-educate them and protecting the public from them.

Thurs 6 November:

After a bit of housework and ironing spent most of the day making a pinafore frock out of an old coat. I think, however, it doesn't look very nice so I shall give it away. Some one may be glad of it whereas the old coat was no good as all the lining had worn out. (It fits me well but the style I had to choose is not becoming on me.) My inside is still playing up a bit – most unusual. Michael applied for a job at Horstmanns today.

Fri 7 November:

Quite a bit to do in the house this morning and also sized the wall in Paul's bedroom. Down to town on the 4.51 bus and did a little shopping, went to the Library to read "Amateur Gardening". Went to Writers' Circle at the Tech College to rejoin, and was made very welcome. There was an embarrassing row between the chairman and secretary. I hope they settle it in committee as it was all over misunderstandings and should never have become the 'mountain' it appears to be to Miss Braithwaite (the secretary). There was a fascinating person opposite me – she was about 65-70, silver hair tied at the nape in a wide black ribbon, an ashen face with blue eyeshadow, black embroidered scarf and lace cravat, for all the world like an eighteenth century footman. She had an almost expressionless face and together with the colourlessness of it, you felt she was almost 'not of this world'. Imagine my surprise when she read a MS called "Have we lived before?" putting forth the theory that if a person is most interested some period of history they have probably lived in it before. (She was most keen on the 18<sup>th</sup> century! – She needn't have told us.) I'm dreadful about names – I can't remember who she is.

Had an invitation to Jane Davis's wedding on Nov 29<sup>th</sup>.

Sat 8 November:

Started papering Paul's room today, but what with other housework, ironing etc to do, I didn't get very far. Michael put towel rails up in the bathroom, dealt with some draught excluding and as the coal arrived today, he lit the stove in the hall. He also started putting some shelves up in his workshop because his tools are all in a muddle and he wants to sort them out. We watched the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall this evening on TV. Michael says he will come with me to Argyle tomorrow, so I'm very pleased. Having partly read the book on

'How to dowse' I find that the pendulum doesn't seem to work for me, I am now reading 'Living Magic' by Ronald Rose – about Aboriginal telepathy, witch doctors and the like, and is very interesting indeed.

The Americans have had another shot at sending a rocket round the moon, but it came down after 45 mins. There is still a lot of trouble in Cyprus. 5 civilians shot by terrorists this week. Strategic as Cyprus is, I really think we should move out and let the Greeks and Turks share it. If only there was a United Nations police force! They keep talking about it and I can't think what is stopping them forming one. It could save bloodshed in 1001 circumstances these days.

Sun 9 November:

Went to Argyle for the Remembrance Service. Afterward we saw Esme Williams, and Mrs Smith (who used to be at the Day Nursery) and she asked me to join Argyle Young Wives and I said I'd like to. After lunch I had a rest. Granny and Thea came to tea. I feel much better today so hope my inside is right at last and that shan't eat again what ever it was that had such a poisonous effect. The TV programme was quite good.

Mon 10 November:

Housework. Wallpapering, machine-knitting Wrote Mummy. This is the extent of today's activities. Michael seems to be developing a cold. I don't remember when he had one last – it must have been the one he had at Charlton Mackrell.

Tues 11 November:

Michael's cold is much better today. He mended my bicycle. I did a bit more wallpapering. This afternoon I posted off Elsie Edwards' jumper, visited Aunt Eleanor who said the cold made her feel very frail, but she talked about gardening and was very interesting. Gave the grocery order at Lansdown Stores (I was glad no one was hurt when the lorry demolished their van!) and did some shopping in town. Library. Home on the 5.15 bus and read and watched TV. Having finished the book about aborigines, I am now reading "Indoor gardening on a small income" by Violet Stevenson. The men are still working on the outside of the house.

Weds 12 November:

Finished the wallpapering in Paul's room at last. It is the longest effort in wallpapering I've ever made and the result is about the worst as the paper was so awkward. There are far too many bubbles and creases for my liking, though a

superficial look at the room is quite satisfying. – It's rather like an attack of the measles – (the wallpaper) but it is light and also warm in colour which is what we wanted. Knitted a sleeve to my mauve jumper in the evening. Michael laid the lino in the lavatory and blocked the fireplaces with asbestos sheets to prevent draughts.

Thurs 13 November:

Spent the morning cooking and washing. Michael's birthday cake looks as though it has turned out well. Also made bread an apricot flan etc besides the dinner. It was beautifully fine today (though very cold) and the washing dried quite well. Green Bros have changed one of our new electric radiators for a Belling Princess bar fire which is much more effective. Michael started work on the balustrade in the loft. I spent the afternoon mending and machine-knitting. Evening – hand knitting. Nothing much on TV.

Fri 14 November:

This morning I accepted an invitation to coffee at Miss Cooke's at No 3 Flatwoods. She had invited two Miss Morrisons and a Mrs Jackson as well. Mrs Jackson has recently bought the 'gamekeeper's cottage' in the fields below the main road overlooking Conkwell. They asked me to join the WI and I said as I belonged to UNA, Writer's Circle and was about to join Young Wives at Argyle I didn't think I would belong to anything else, however it seemed as though I was being unsociable and I could see their point about the WI keeping together the 'Down', keeping everyone in touch, so I accepted an invitation to be a visitor in January. Machine-knitted in the afternoon then went to Writer's Circle. Mr Yates spoke on his visit to Poland. He is very interesting and easy to listen to but as I'd heard him talk about his at the UNA meeting I wasn't overkeen.

Sat 15 November:

I have just looked back to Oct 7<sup>th</sup> when I resolved to turn over a new leaf and think positively etc. What a poor effort I'm making if it! Most of the time I completely forget this resolution – no longer do the breathing exercises and only have a very little salad (another resolution) at tea time now since I wasn't very well a fortnight ago. Still, I suppose there is no harm in carrying on 'trying'! At least I haven't had any chocolate or sweets for a fortnight!! Michael has practically finished the balcony and gate in the loft. He has worked very hard. Mummy sent me a lovely lot of plants and cuttings today so I planted them, did some raking up of leaves, hung some pictures in Paul's room, did some washing,

washed my hair, knitted tec. Finished my library book so am studying the Gardening Encyclopaedia.

Sun 16 November:

Michael's birthday and he's 38, Mummy and Granny gave him money and Thea some chocolates and 'after shave'. I gave him 'Montgomery's Memoirs'. I was sorry he didn't come to Argyle with me, however he heard Leslie Weatherland on TV which much have been interesting. At Argyle we had the Rev Cullum from Rush Hill who was very good. For lunch we had some large thick rashers of gammon the Lansdown Stores sent. I asked for 2 thickish rashers but never expected any thing like these which cost 5/7!! All the afternoon we were terribly thirsty as a result! I raked some leaves, and cooked a few things for tea – peach tarts topped with meringue, some oatmeal pieces made with black treacle and some current drop scones. The birthday cake I made earlier in the week turned to be nice. I didn't ice it but topped it with almonds. Granny and Thea came. I heard that the cardigan I made Elsie Edwards is too small and as I took such copious measurements I am very depressed about it. I can only think that the jumper I measured from had more stretch than the new one. Spent the evening hand knitting – still my own twin set.

Mon 17 November:

Did housework and wrote some letters. We lengthened Paul's curtains and hung them. After lunch I started making up my twin set and made Granny a hotwater bottle cover. Nice letters from the boys and was very relieved to hear that Andrew's asthma had only been one day and he was now OK again. Paul had gained his Cub second start and leaping wolf, and his team was running top at school. The men are starting on the final coat on the outside of the house.

Tues 18 November:

Had a pleasant morning cooking and turning out my handbag. Packed up a bedjacket for auntie Laura and wrote her a letter. We were both very touched this morning to get a birthday card to Michael from the boys. Michael wrote them. Directly after lunch we went into town and bought a large hot water bottle to fit the cover I'd made for Granny and a tablet of bath soap and some other things. Met Jane Davis – she said her mother who has not been very well was better. Gave the grocery order then we went to see Aunt Eleanor. Frieda also came. When we left we went to Granny's and had a lovely tea with crumpets etc for her birthday. Elsie Edwards also came so at 5.15 I went back with her and re-measured her and we had a nice chat. I left at 10 to 7, went to Library and then to Electricity Centre for Young Wives' cookery demonstration. I found

them very friendly although I only knew 2 and was not sitting next to either. The demonstrator was a jolly sort of woman and not too too efficient – gave lots of tips and was economical. Left early to catch 9.23 bus. Home, but not to bed till 11.30.

Weds 19 November:

Did some housework, washing, leaf-raking etc then unpicked Elsie's jumper and knitted most of the back and front.

Thurs 20 November:

The men came and laid the linoleum in Andrew's room today. It looks very nice. Made a couple of cushion covers in some ted cowboy material backed with some curtain stuff from the play room at Charlton Mackrell. Also made a runner (all for Paul's room). Am getting on quite well with Elsie Edwards' jumper. The Bank rate has been reduced to 4% - I think I will sell my Bristol & West Building Soc shares and re-invest in something else – they only produce 3½%. Lloyds Perm Building Soc give me 5% so I shall leave those.

Fri 21 November:

Spent morning cooking and washing. Had quite a successful 'cook' as made a large and small loaf, a fruit cake, some jam flapjacks and a sponge roll! (The latter a result of the Y.W. dem on Tues.) The large loaf and a few flapjacks Michael took into Mrs Hancock next door as a little present. After lunch we went down town but went our separate ways. I had quite a nice wander round and also bought Jane's wedding present – a dustpan and brush in red alkeathene[?]. Ended up at the Ref library soon after 6 and found a book on traditional recipes to copy but in the end I continued writing a synopsis for a short story and in fact became so carried away that it was 7 o'clock and I was unaware of it! Tore to Writers Circle but they hadn't started. They had some MSS read so I read the said synopsis of a story about a woman who refused to have her pregnancy terminated when it was learned that she had heart trouble and who died soon after her son's birth. The son was not told this until 17 and then changed from a wayward boy to a worthwhile man. His father had turned him out and told him not to return while he was a 'no good' but later would have liked to have found him yet feared scandal. When he retired he move away to a retired 'home' and resolved to race his son but imagine his surprise when he finds that his son is Warden! There were some good MSS read by other members.

Sat 22 November:

We went down town and to Auntie Marnie's. She gave me some cotoneaster[?] plants and also a lampshade which was just what I wanted for the table lamp in the hall. In the afternoon I knitted the neck of Elsie's jumper and sewed it up in the evening. Michael fixed some hand rails to facilitate getting into the loft and also started distemping the workshop. There was an excellent play on ITV called "Tall Headlines" featuring Flora Robson, Mai Zetterling and Michael Dennison about a family in which one member had just been hung for murder. Wrote 3 letters. To bed late.

Sun 23 November:

Went to Argyle. It was Bible Sunday. Good address by Mr Murray. When I came back Michael had begun cooking the lunch, which was nice and he said he had written Mr Gilmer to ask to see him re possibly learning how to mend jewellery and watches. I had a delicious afternoon resting and reading. Down in time for the Brains Trust also heard a religious discussion on ITV at 7 on Heaven Purgatory and Hell. There was a quite enchanting sister (Nun) from Portsmouth talking about her work. A really good woman yet so humble and humorous. 5½ hours of the day are spend in prayer – the rest in going out and helping people. Did knitting in evening. (still my mauve[?] twin set as there is a lot of fine hand-knitting in the finishing of it)

Mon 24 November:

Spent morning trying to re-organise the pantry a bit as it is very muddly. Had nice letters from the boys. It seems that Andrew is a bit wheezy again and Paul rather catarrhal but this damp foggy weather has affected most people and so feel I must be thankful they are no worse. Wrote letters in the afternoon. Made Granny's bed-cape for Xmas after tea (the machine-knitting part) and started the nad part after supper. Am reading "Vitamins in Nutrition and Health" by Audrey Z Baker.

Tues 25 November:

This morning while doing housework I fell and hurt my back. Having washed the kitchen floor I tried to step lightly (!) across it and tip away the dirty water. I tipped it away alright, but not in the sink. I felt so faint at first I called Michael to help me clear up the mess, then realised the bottom of my back hurt. Rested a bit and got lunch but decided I'd have to cancel my visit to Aunt Eleanor and Mother Bridges also the Church Meeting as it was agony to sit in a conventional manner or to stoop or go upstairs. Michael went shopping and paid the visits for me while I stayed at home and cut out and copied out bits about

food, herbs etc for a scrap book I'm making. This evening the back is easing a little – I hope it's better for Friday when I have a perm!

Weds 26 November:

Stayed in bed all day. Dr Walmsley came and said I'd bruised the sacrum and must rest completely till the weekend when if it wasn't better he'd get in a portable X-ray apparatus to see if the bone was damaged. This has put paid to the perm and attendance at Jane's wedding which is a blow. Feel a little easier this evening and still cannot sit or stoop. Michael has looked after me well.

Thurs 27 November:

Granny Bridges came up today and cooked lunch which was very kind, I thought. Michael too, nobly did washing and ironing and got meals. I wrote a couple of stories but it is still difficult to get comfortable and the pain hasn't eased much. Michael has heard from Mr Gilmer that he cannot help him.

Fri 28 November:

Bed all day.

Sat 29 November:

Jane Davis was married today. Sorry not to be able to go. In bed all day but doctor said I could start getting up tomorrow if I don't stoop at all. Did writing and typing(!) – very difficult!

Sun 30 November:

Got up after breakfast. Typing in morning. Knitting in afternoon also walked to post. Granny and Thea came to tea. Made Christmas list – trying to cut it down a bit this year.

Mon 1 December:

Wrote letters and made shortbread and flapjacks when I got the lunch. Rested in afternoon and knitted in evening. Michael has applied to Stothert and Pitts for a job in the office which is advertised. My back still troublesome. Nice letters from the boys.

Tues 2 December:

Did really very little but odd things about the home and go for a short walk. It is still very painful to go upstairs or get up from a chair and I can't pick anything off the floor or stoop more than a little. The most restful position is standing. My mother apparently phoned Granny Bridges this morning to know if she should come up. We're trying to put her off doing this as it doesn't seem necessary. Had 2 puzzles and short bit of verse accepted today that I sent off

on Sunday – quick work! Only 15/- but better than a rejection. Auntie Marnie had a long chat on phone with me.

Weds 3 December:

Michael went down town and started the Xmas shopping today. I did the silver and a bit of other housework (without bending!). Started making calendars in the afternoon and made a 'little book' for Adam in the evening. Mummy rung up to know how I was and I was glad to say that I felt better (but progress is oh so slow). Had the three stories I sent to Robin rejected today which is a nuisance as they are the wrong length for other markets.

4 – 11 December:

Saw Dr Wohlfield [?] on 10<sup>th</sup>.

Fri 12 December:

Housework in the morning. Did a little sewing after lunch then shopping and up to Granny Bridges for tea. She hasn't been too good this week but is better now, though still careful over her diet. Went to Writer's Circle where Peter Pagan of Bath Libraries gave us a questionnaire to fill in and also enlightened us in many ways about the Library. I am reading "Put off thy shoes" by Elizabeth Hamilton being about a visit to modern Israel.

Have changed my meal routine to the following: - Lemon juice and 2 cups of tea at 7. Breakfast – Fruit only (usually juice ½ orange, some stewed fruit and grapes or a banana). Mid morning – tea. Lunch – veg broth and ½ slice wholemeal bread, meat or fish or egg etc with 1 or 2 vegs followed by fruit and possible evap. milk. Tea 2 or 3 items of b & b or cake or bisc etc. Supper – jar of Yoghourt with dessertspoon of Bemax, biscuit and cheese or marmite, and tomato, dates, raisins or salad. Michael doesn't have the same – he has cooked breakfast and usually cold meat for supper.

Sat 13 December:

Spent morning and afternoon sorting and packing presents which was good fun. In the evening I made a Dorothy bag for Bindy's sewing and wrote a letter to the boys. Michael is obviously pensive about the job situation and not easy.

Sun 14 December:

Went down to Argyle. Some people who have just moved into a house by the bus stop were very friendly and on the way back insisted on paying my fare! Mr Murray gave a good sermon about family life. In the afternoon Michael and I went for a short walk then saw the film Elephant Boy – I missed it as a child so

was glad to see it. Made a doll's sponge bag for Rene's little girl and started knitting an elephant for the toy service next Sunday.

Mon 15 December:

Odd jobs in morning, shopping in afternoon and finished the toy elephant in the evening. Letter from Mummy to say that she has to come up to Weston and will bring boys with her. We had hoped they would taste a little independence by coming up to Bristol by themselves by train. Michael was so cross about it that the day was quite fiery! I know only too well how he feels but it is easy to get unreasonable in one's attempt to be completely in charge of one's own affairs.

Tues 16 December:

'Got cracking' today and made a cake, some shortbread and strawberry flapjacks then did our Christmas cards. After lunch we called at Aunties Marnie's for her Weston parcels and had a glimpse of Bobby who had just broken up and looked tired. We collected our groceries then went on to see Aunt Eleanor. To Granny Bridges for tea. She is still not quite herself. The doctor has given her a settling medicine. Thea came in. She had been very busy all day cleaning the art room but looked amazingly fresh. Diffidently she told me how Mary-John was much more careful about Ian now and begged me not to be too keen on "hardening off" my boys. Both she (MJ) and I had been allergic to fussiness and gone to the other extreme. Poor Thea, I felt it was an effort for her to tell me this – I must be a very sensitive 'flower'. On thinking it over I think I have been much too proud of the children's health instead of grateful for it and so when they have shown slight signs of ill-health I have tried to pretend to myself that nothing is wrong and carry on as usual as their ill-health hurts my pride. I hadn't realised this till recently. It will be hard to think differently, I don't really think I have done any "hardening off" like neglecting to put the necessary clothes on etc or bathing in a cold room. Cleared the kitchen of Christmas present wrappings etc and did a spot of mending. A good programme on Australia by Aidan Crawley on TV.

Weds 17 December:

Cleaned the house pretty thoroughly and made ready for the boys. Early lunch then off to Weston-S-Mare to collect them. We took some parcels to Claudine from Auntie Marnie. Their newish house in Arundel Road is very nice. Auntie Dee gave us an early tea. Mummy had brought the boys up by train, not car, owing to the doubtful weather with fog problem. We set off back about 3.15 and when we got back the boys explored everywhere. We had another tea. Evening with TV – good Welsh play called "God rest you merry".

Thurs 18 December:

The children enjoyed finding toys and books they hadn't seen for nearly a year. It was a busy day but a happy one. Andrew learnt French knitting and Paul enjoyed doing the general knowledge questions prepared a few weeks ago. Andrew also made 1 or 2 decorations. They both have come home with thick catarrh which I hope will soon clear.

Fri 19 December:

We went down town this morning. Paul seems quite keen to be on his own a bit but Andrew clung to me most of the time. I had a curious but satisfactory feeling of calm and unhurriedness which I haven't felt for a long time. Was very grateful for it because Christmas these days can get one in such a flap. With money given the boys Michael bought an electric train set. After lunch Paul and Andrew made shopping list pads for the Grannies. Andrew was painstaking but Paul had no heart in the task and of course he wanted to see Michael setting up the trains. As Granny Bridges is coming to lunch tomorrow and going away on Tuesday, the presents had to be done today. I felt cross that Paul could not spend a short time doing this – but later I realise it was rather much for any boy! Later in the afternoon they played with the trains. Michael said Andrew was more reliable than Paul at working them.

In the evening I went to a Group 'do' at the Southbourne Hotel which was a send-off for Thea. There was a Mr Cecil King (RAF Padre) there, who is a great man. He spoke a little about Cyprus and was very interesting. He was so different from some of the others who spoke on a more personal note – so much so that it made one squirm. Why? – I don't know. Perhaps there's nothing wrong with it – I like the people, but so much of what they say would (to me) seem only suitable for individual and not public conversation. It is not more noble to apologise about something in public – it is harder and not so self-inflating to do it to the person concerned. Susan and Eddy took me home in the car.

Sat 20 December:

Michael and boys played with the trains while I made the house ready and cooked the dinner for Granny and Thea. Granny had given us the money to buy a joint and we had a very nice joint of lamb preceded by soup and followed by fruit salad and cream and coffee. Hedley and Juliet Smith called at about 12. Granny and Thea left soon after 2.30.

Sun 21 December:

Michael took us all down to Argyle. It was the Christmas Family Festival and we took toys which the children took up, there were also mimes etc done by

children. The church looked nice – red lanterns above the choir stalls, candles placed ready for the candlelight service tonight. In the afternoon the children played with their electric trains and I made some shortbread etc, and iced the cake. At about 3.30 we went up to Granny Bridges for tea. Cecil King came as well. We asked him to join us on Christmas Day but I don't know if he will come. Poor Granny has a cold – it is so trying for her when she particularly wants to be well. They are doing "The Nutcracker" ballet on TV tonight. I've seen half of it and Michael is seeing the rest but I had "itchy" feet and felt too tired to see the whole of it. Why do they put all the best things on so late in the evening? The Americans sent up a satellite yesterday and President Eisenhower's recorded message has been received from it.

Mon 22 December:

We went down town for a short while in the morning and took the boys to the Swiss Café for ices (I had coffee). After lunch I made a malt loaf and washed my hair. Michael was out so the boys played in the loft and also decorated the Christmas tree. I watched a TV woman's programme. After tea the boys saw their programmes. In Panorama there was a film about the Jehovah Witnesses – what a pity they study the letter rather than the spirit of the Bible. How can they imagine that they, only, sincerely try to follow the Divine Will?

Tues 23 December:

The boys and I went down to take Bobby out to coffee but it ended up that she took us which was bad management on my part! She bought the children most expensive presents then we said good bye and after various other shoppings the boys and I bussed home for a quick lunch before all of us went to see 'Auntie Thea' and Granny off on the train to Southampton. Thea sails for Southern Rhodesia tomorrow and Granny goes to sister Mary. I hope all goes well for Thea – I'm glad she can be completely independent for a year, and the warm climate may clear up her catarrhal condition. We collected our groceries and went and saw Aunt Eleanor, then home for tea and usual evening with TV knitting etc.

Weds 24 December:

Christmas Eve and the children are pretty excited. Spent the morning washing and cooking mince pies (which boiled over untidily) and a Christmas Log which was more successful. In the afternoon Andrew and I played our recorders. Odds and ends of Christmas preparations in the evening. Michael has bought us a

lovely turkey. We have a lovely lot of cards and presents but somehow Michael doesn't feel happy about Christmas.

Thurs 25 December:

I suppose it was a quiet Christmas Day but pleasant. Michael kindly got the breakfast (just fruit juice and toast). We put in the turkey then opened the presents. We joined in the TV Service at 11. The turkey was lovely and we followed it with fruit salad and cream and mince pies. It was so horrid and foggy we didn't go out but watched TV most of the afternoon and evening and the children played with their things.

Fri 26 December:

Housework and a spot of washing, then we all sat round the kitchen table and wrote thank you letters, polishing off quite a few. After a lunch of soup, cold turkey and hot Xmas pudd. the boys and I went for a walk in Bluebell woods, the Avenue and back across the fields. Did I say fields? The mud was so thick I nearly lost my shoes – it was like wading about in a bog! Anyway we had a good laugh. Michael slept off his dinner by the fire. Tony Hancock was on TV in the evening and was very funny. I mended Andrew's trousers and did some knitting. Paul thinks he's lost his purse with his Xmas money in it. I hope we find it tomorrow.

Sat 27 December:

We went down town this morning and Michael and the boys bought a few more things for their trains which kept them busy all the afternoon. I did some washing and ironing and spent quite five minutes convincing a Jehovah's Witness that I didn't need any of her literature. In the evening I did some patchwork on the machine and saw a good play on TV call "So many children" – about a woman who kept a boarding house for people on probation. To bed late.

Sun 28 December:

We didn't wake up till 20 to 9 and didn't get up till about half past but nevertheless we had breakfast, made beds and washing up and the boys and I left at 10.30 for the bus to Argyle. Paul asked me on the way how people know when they're going to have a baby which was a ticklish question to answer, especially in a public place! The boys negotiated the going to Junior church with the other children half way through the service very well. It was a helpful sermon. We got home about a quarter to 1 and we had soup, turkey in a sauce with grated carrot, tinned peas and braised tomatoes followed by a choice of cold Xmas pudding or stewed fruit or mince pie. In the afternoon I bake 2 loaves and wrote 8 thank you letters and posted them. I only managed to hear

some of the Brains Trust which seemed good this week. Also only heard a part of 'About Religion' at 7 which was also good. Trains are still the rage with the boys. To bed about 11.

Mon 29 December:

Went steadily through the house this morning giving it a pretty good clean. Andrew decided he had better stay in bed! He was only very slightly asthmatic but he gets very worried about himself these days, so I thought it best for him to have his own way. I kept him on fruit, soup, etc for the most part. After lunch I caught the bus into town and hurried to the Bank. Did a little shopping and then had a perm at Mackways. They are careful but quick there and was out in about 2 hours. Home on the 6.15 bus. My feet were wet – not a nice day. Came on to bed before Michael (at 9.20).

Tues 30 December:

Andrew in bed again today. He seemed pretty fit all day but certainly rather asthmatic this evening poor chap. Paul has lost his appetite today too so I hope he's not sickening for anything. Did some washing and cooking this morning. This afternoon went to see Aunt Eleanor and did some shopping.

Weds 31 December:

Paul had one of his giddy and nausea attacks but it was relatively slight. We kept him in bed of course but by the afternoon he was playing with Andrew (who was up today) and asking for a marmite sandwich. I took Andrew out early in the afternoon to try and ride his bicycle. About 4, Aunt Edie and Cousins Frieda and Mildred came to tea. They admired the house. When they left about 6, we watched TV and I knitted. The last day of the Year – a funny sort of year to look back upon – the anxious early months when we were trying to sell the store at Charlton Mackrell; the move at the end of May, followed by about 4 weeks in Fowey with the boys down with measles, about 4 weeks with Michael at Granny Bridges and Michael not well and having treatment; 10 days in Fowey; then 3 weeks in the borrowed house in Freshford; about a month in Fowey again till the boys returned to school; a fortnight at Granny's, and finally our move into High Beeches on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. Michael is still without a job, but he is better in health – my New Year Resolution is to try to live one day at a time and if possible one minute at a time and overcome any feeling of rush or panic, remembering that as the day is, so is our strength, if we are not too proud to accept it.

Thurs 1 January 1959

Had a dream in the night that Paul was calling me and woke with a feeling of implication. I went to his room but he was asleep so I lay in bed wondering about

it. I decided that I did not give the children, and especially Paul enough of myself. I'm too busy cooking and making things for them, planning etc and not being with them "in spirit". When I'd finished the housework I spent an hour with Paul (who was better but still in bed) and as he wanted to play cards we enjoyed several games then I got the lunch. In the afternoon Paul came down in his dressing gown and we all made up a dice game about policemen going after a thief. (Michael was busy in the playroom fixing train rails to a board.) A little time with each of the boys before their bedtime. TV and knitting and mending in evening. Michael and I die to have a puppy or kitten but I can't decide if we should or not.

Fri 2 & 3 January:

Yesterday morning I wrote letter when I'd finished the housework and after lunch had a card game or wo with Paul before he and Andrew went to a party with a boy called Geoffrey who lives in the Rockery practically opposite. Michael and I went down town and bought some pants windcheater and jeans for Paul in a sale. The boys returned at 6.30 having enjoyed the party. Andrew had very little sleep as was troubled with a cough and slight asthma. Today Paul had Geoffrey in and the three boys played with electric trains. I started to bring our photo albums up to date. After lunch the boys looked at the albums and were amused, then Paul and I went down town. Paul got some stamps and I had a good look round and bought a small cactus and primula, a magazine and one for Michael. Paul got some comics. Andrew me a story. He is sleeping quietly at the moment so I hope he has a better night.

Sun 4 January:

Andrew had a good night. There was slight snow on the ground this morning. Michael took us down by car to Argyle and fetched us afterwards. Mr Murray gave a good sermon about making this a 'Thinking' year as a Church. Now that the building of the new rooms was nearly finished we must be sure we put them to the best uses. After lunch Paul 'did stamps' and Andrew was with him, reading, then they conducted some 'experiments' in the kitchen. I went on with the photograph album and we had Brains Trust, Children's TV and Meeting Point on the television. Andrew had quite bad asthma tonight, and the usual Franol pill hasn't helped him – just as we thought he was better too. Paul's catarrh has quite gone now and he seems quite fit.

Mon 5 January:

Andrew slightly better but I kept him in bed on fruit and milk, and Bovril at lunchtime. He came down in his dressing gown to see 'Popeye' on TV at 5.25. I

baked a fruit cake some hazel nut biscuits, honey flapjacks and a chocolate sponge sandwich, also 2 loaves. We had cups of Yeastrel followed by egg, sausage, peas and fried bread; pineapple chunks to finish with at lunch time. This morning I also took down the Xmas decorations. In the afternoon Paul and I played card. TV was quite good in evening. Had nice newsy letter from Rita.

Tues 6 January:

Odd jobs in morning. Andrew up again. Paul came down town with me as he wanted to go to the stamp shop and I suggested he returned on the 3.15 bus or 3.35. This was a new thing for him – to catch a bus by himself – I later learned that he had had to walk home from Bathwick Hill, not because he caught the wrong bus but because the conductress had said to the person behind “You have to get out here” and Paul thought she was talking to him and for some reason the bus wasn’t going any farther! “That was good exercise” I said when he told me, but I was sorry really as the day was very wet icy rain and a thick mist. Poor Aunt Eleanor hadn’t got up today and had had a poor night. She told me that she had dreamt that someone had told that Andrew was strong and well now, and when she asked if they were sure, the answer was that she was not to worry as he was a strong and very cheerful little boy now. We both hoped her dream foretold the near future. I went up to Elsie Edwards who gave me tea and I collected her jumper for alteration. Did a spot of shopping and changed the library books. Back on the 6.15 bus. Andrew seems no worse for getting up but still a little wheezy. Good play called “Nothing but barbed wire and bracken” about the danger to ‘humanity’ of army discipline, if carried out to the extreme.

Weds 7 January:

Housework in morning while the boys played with their trains. After lunch the boys and I played cards. Poor Andrew couldn’t get on at all at Devil’s Patience as he couldn’t get up any speed. He felt better when I taught him a card trick while Paul was going to post and he was able to feel ‘one up’ when Paul returned. Tea and TV. I mended clothes in evening.

Thurs 8 January:

There was a light cover of snow on the ground today and a fine clear day. The boys went out after breakfast but soon came in with cold feet. Later they and Michael set out for a walk. They called in at the Dogs and Cats Home and apparently saw a mongrel sheepdog. Even Andrew liked it. In the afternoon Michael and I left the boys with their trains and I also saw the said sheepdog. It was about the scruffiest thing you could possibly imagine but very affectionate so we said we’d like to have her. She was not available till the 12<sup>th</sup>

as she'd only been in 2 days but I said we would return her if she was claimed and when we'd signed the form we gave a donation to the society and took her home (or rather she took us!) Tiffin was interested but sat warily a good way away. We made a great fuss of him so that he shouldn't feel jealous. Michael made Jenny (as we decided to call her) a box to sleep in and we started to brush the mattedness out of her coat. It will take a long time. On the whole she seemed very good. Barked very little, and did not chew at anything. She is only supposed to be about 6 months old so she should train alright.

Fri 9 January:

... And here endeth the tale of Jenny! Michael's eyes were irritating last night and I remembered that Andrew's were too – it was obvious that both of them were rather allergic to Jenny. Added to this Michael slept badly worrying and feeling her an extra burden so I decided we must return her at once before she got fond of us (not to mention us of her!). We went down town shopping in morning and Michael and Paul returned Jenny in the afternoon. Meanwhile Andrew had had bouts of not feeling very well all day, alternating with brighter periods. He drank much more than he ate. In the evening his temperature was 100 so I fear he must have a bit of chill. It is so disappointing as he has been free of asthma for 2 days or so and seemed fine yesterday. We've take such care to warm his bedroom and bed and they have a fire in the playroom – however, I think it is up there that he probably gets cold. Did some marking and mending etc this afternoon.

Sat 10 January:

Andrew seemed better this morning but I kept him in bed and only gave him drinks and grapes till lunch when he had Bovril sandwiches and a banana dessert. Soon after this he felt bad again and was eventually sick. After tea (Geoffrey came to tea and he and Paul played cards and watched TV – I had played with him in afternoon) – after tea, as I say, Andrew wanted to play cards and seemed better though heavy-eyed and I found his temp was again 100. He was sick again later in the evening after a couple of biscuits and a drink of water. I hope it is only a chill he has – I am beginning to wonder if he will be well enough to go back to school on Weds as today is Saturday. Paul was allowed to stay up late tonight to see "The Private Life of Henry VIII. As it was fine film and of historical interest I thought it a good idea. He enjoyed it, but ... I wondered afterwards if it really was a good film for a 10yr old. (Andrew today asked me how a doctor can tell when a mother is going to have a baby. When I said it was difficult to explain as he wouldn't understand till he was older he said "Tell me – I might

understand, you never know." I said "I'm sorry, I find it impossible to explain it to you," so he then said "Do fathers know that a baby is going to be born?" Even now I can't think of suitable replies to those questions!)

Sun 11 January:

It snowed very heavily most of the day so Paul and I didn't go down to church. I wrote letters instead. Andrew's temperature was down a bit today and after early morning sickness he was better and able to have one or two biscuits some grapes and a very few tinned peaches and jelly. For supper he had a little Bemax and milk but unfortunately this didn't stay down. I have come to the conclusion that milk and fats are no good to him at present. Poor little soul, I'm afraid it will be quite a few days before he's fit for school. I would dearly love to keep him home and not send him back at all – not that he would be any healthier here, but at least I could feel and look after him better. Paul and I went for a trudge in the snow this afternoon to Rainbow Woods by the road and back across the fields. This morning the snowstorm was so heavy it was as dark as evening and we had to put on lights. I started unpicking Elsie's jumper in the evening. Paul went to bed early to make up for last night. I admire Paul, when were out his hands were so cold (he had refused to wear gloves) that he could not move them and he asked me to dry them and put on my gloves for him for 10 mins or so. He was roaring with laughter though I should have thought it must have been most painful.

Mon 12 January:

Andrew's temp was a little below normal this morning so I concluded he must be better though he was much troubled by a feeling as though there was phlegm in the throat that couldn't cough up. I was going out, but as he was rather anxious about himself I didn't. Michael went up to Springfield Place to see that the flat was OK for Granny, who returns today and also got me some fruit etc. In the afternoon Andrew was better though still only eating a very little fruit. Paul and I went down town. Among other household shopping I bought myself a royal blue Orlon cardigan. Andrew came in his dressing gown to see Popeye but went straight back to bed afterwards and I played cards and read with him. I've rung up the doctor and asked him to come and see him tomorrow as this slow progress worries me. Mending in evening and made Paul some garters. Interesting Panorama programme on China.

Tues 13 January:

Andrew seemed much better again today. Dr Old came and confirmed this but gave him some medicine to clear the rest of the catarrh. He remained in good spirits all day but still only had such things as fruit juice, jelly, banana etc until teatime when he had a piece of bread and butter and honey and at supper biscuits and a tomato. I wondered about the tomato but he had asked for one earlier - needless to say, within five minutes he was sick, and ill again later in the evening. Poor Andrew. Paul went to the hairdressers and came home by bus by himself this morning. I packed his case in the afternoon and both boys and I played a dice game. We had phone trouble as the man came to find a fault and when he left we found were worse than when he'd come. Eventually we found he'd left a fuse out. Phone Mummy in the evening to tell her Michael would be coming down instead of me tomorrow, also wrote her a letter.

Weds 14 January:

Andrew quite full of beans again today and at last went through the day without sickness. Still eating very little. Michael took Paul off to Cornwall on the 8.16 train but when I rang this evening I learnt that it had been very late and stopped altogether at Plymouth so it was tea-time by the time they got there. Granny Bridges came up this afternoon which I thought very kind in this very icy weather. She brought some flowers, fruit and a 'station' for Andrew.

Andrew and I played some games before she came and after she'd gone. Tiffin was such a naughty cat today. In and out the whole time and eating and eating. Wouldn't settle except for an hour or so after lunch. Perhaps he misses Michael. I do. Frieda had an op today for goitre.

Thurs 15 January:

It snowed again last night and I had to sweep the path and put down some ashes on the ice patches underneath. I rang up Granny Bridges to hear about Frieda who is going on alright - it isn't goitre but a cyst in the neck which isn't so bad I believe. John Mary and Ian come back from their Swiss holiday the end of this week. I wonder how they have on with their ski-ing? Andrew ate a little more today but was very choosy. He got up for a couple of hours about tea-time. He has little spots of eczema all over him and has lost quite a lot of weight. He still has a night cough. Michael came back at tea-time. A play called "High fidelity" on TV.

Fri 16 January:

Went down town in morning. Andrew up in afternoon and we played some games. Tea. Knitted and watched TV. Didn't go to Writer's Circle because of the weather - buses often stop early.

Sat 17 January:

Nothing of importance happened today. Andrew got up about 11 and I played a card game with him in the afternoon. Michael was very tempted to go after a Burmese kitten advertised in the paper and I wanted a miniature dachshund also advertised but we resisted like martyrs! The temperature has gone up and the snow had practically all thawed. Tiffin came in this evening very muddy and scratched. He had obviously had a scrap with a tom cat – probably Tarzan. Just you wait, Tarzan, till Michael or I see you next!

Sun 18 January:

Went to Church – it was an enjoyable service. Spoke to Mrs Thomas who begged me to go to Young Wives. Andrew was up all day today and we went out for a walk in the afternoon after we'd written to Paul. When we got back we played a little in the garden then went in and played cards till 3.45 when there was the Week's News on TV followed by Brains Trust and Children's TV. Knitted in evening. Michael is obviously very bored with life at the moment – a voluntary job would be better than nothing at all I feel, but he must do as he thinks fit. I hope he's doing right. Andrew has given up bed-wetting and thumb-sucking both of which he was doing when he came back from school. He is more thoughtful and responsible too. I'm very pleased with him.

Mon 19 January:

Took Andrew to buy a windcheater and we also did other shopping. Michael applied for another job but thinks there isn't much hope of it. At times he feels very dejected and like a cornered animal fires abuses in all directions blaming all of us for his circumstances. Soon there is going to be money problem. It is a pity. He has been wonderfully generous throughout the winter never asking me to account for the money I spend. Andrew still remains better. Michael played with him for a while before tea. Did some washing and knitting in evening. Met Ruth Whitehouse in town this morning.

Tues 20 January:

Spent morning washing and cooking (2 loaves, 2 cakes and some fudge which was too soft!). Up to see Aunt Eleanor in the afternoon and she looked brighter than of late, but troubled a little by a small cough. She was quite pleased to have the 4 coloured photos of Mistley though we both agreed they were not quite true to colour probably because I overexposed them or something like that. Did some shopping afterwards and enquired in the Labour Exchange about a job temporarily with the Admiralty. They were not very hopeful that there were any vacancies. After going home for a cup of tea and putting Andrew to bed and

getting supper I went to Argyle Young Wives and saw some films on Dr Barnardo's Homes. Had to leave before the question time to catch the bus.

Weds 21 January:

We hurried to get ready to go down town with Michael who was going on elsewhere. Andrew had a haircut and I exchanged my book token for a book on dogs, book on cats, one on greenhouse work and another on Cacti. Elevenses in Colmers then bussed home. After lunch, did some ironing, wrote a couple of PCs etc etc and had a few games of 'Around Europe' with Andrew before tea. TV and knitting in evening.

Thurs 22 January:

The morning was spent on cleaning, cooking packing Andrew's case etc etc – there was quite a lot to do ready for tomorrow. We were invited to Granny Bridges for tea so Andrew and I thought we'd walk to Combe Down and catch a bus from there for fun. We started off at 2.30 but by the time got to Ralph Allen School the rain was coming down and blowing into us so hard it was really difficult to get along. It was all good fun but as we should probably have arrived looking very dishevelled and dripping we regretfully turned back and went up later with Michael in the car.<sup>1</sup> Elsie Edwards was staying with Granny, and Felicity (Frieda's niece) came to tea also. We played 'Happy Families' after tea. Home at 6.30. Spent evening preparing sandwiches, packing etc.

[ENDS]

[But in Back cover of this Lion Brand exercise book:]

Lemon juice    Tea

Breakfast    Yoghourt and wheatgerm

+ 2 different fruits eg and apple and some dates

or stewed fruit and a banana

or a pear and some grapes etc

11 am            Drink if desired

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<sup>1</sup> Although I remember this event fairly clearly, if asked I would have placed it much later in our time at High Beeches, as I would have thought we'd lived there quite a while before this happened. It was a remarkably fierce squall that we hit on an exposed bit of road, and if we'd got through it we'd certainly have arrived very wet! It seems I went back to boarding school the next day – not an event in itself that I recall at all, though I have memories of my boarding school experience.

Lunch	Meat or fish and 2 veg sometimes preceded by broth or ? Stewed fruit or milk non starch pudding or jelly etc 2 chocs or sweets
Tea	3 items, equiv to an average sized piece of cake Tea
Supper	1 Crispbread and cheese or with either salad or if desired ham etc an orange, or ½ grapefruit etc

After another long gap, Peggy's diary restarted in 1964. The family had moved to a large semi-detached Georgian house at the top of Lyncombe Hill Bath in May 1962, Michael commuting by train to Bristol for his job with the South West Regional Hospital Board, elder son Paul attending the City of Bath Technical School, and Andrew attending the City of Bath Boys' School, and the family no longer needing a car.

Weds 1 January 1964:

The start of a new year, and not a very good one as there is trouble between the Greeks and Turks in Cyprus and Britain is trying to act as reconcilers. This morning I had several letters to write before going shopping. I took the boys for elevenses at Lyons. After lunch, we worked on a game we started inventing yesterday. In the evening it was TV and knitting. Michael is very tired these evening. Granny Bridges is getting over a cold and heart trouble.

Thurs 2 January:

Had a letter from Lloyd-George & Coward to say that they want me to revise my MS "Dumpy" which has been rejected by 5 publishers. I have written to say I will. Had hair set in Widcombe and they plastered it in lacquer which was very difficult to comb and brush out. Some men serviced the gas boiler. Andrew went to David Easton's and Paul and I continued to improve the game we are making. Went to an 'at home' at Mrs Wright's in the evening. There were 5 other Write Circle members there and we all enjoyed it. Miss Stone amused me – she is so uninhibited.

Fri 3 January:

Took the boys to Lyons for elevenses and saw Miss Blount who could not be dissuaded from reciting recent verse she had composed. Poor dear, I feel very sad about her, but the astonishment of the boys amused me. Home, and after lunch I sent off a free description of the Writer Circle exhibit at the Hobbies

Exhibition to Mr Dane [?]. The boys and I then played a new game of theirs called Careers. In the evening Michael and I went to Geoffrey and June Phillips for a cocktail party. We drank a nice punch and June had made some very appetising little things to eat. One or two of the others were quite interesting, but somehow I felt very sleepy and "footy" and am ashamed to say I was almost relieved to go home about 9.15 when it finished.

Sat 4 January:

Michael and I went down town this morning and Michael obtained some records with his tokens. I also bought a small record of "Stranger on the Shore" and ordered one of lute music played by Julian Bream. David, Philippa and the children came to lunch and it was quite an "active" afternoon with a mixture of records and babies! About tea-time a Mr Ford rang up to answer my advert in the paper for a P.G. He rang again during tea to ask if he could come round and see us. He came round with his friend a Mr Lee of Culverhouse Cottage, Greenaway [sic] Lane and although retired, and I felt I could not give him lunches, he insisted that all would be just perfect, so he is coming on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. I think Michael may find him wearing after a busy day, but he has his advantages, and it is good to feel we shall have a little extra income again soon.

Sun 5 January:

Went to Meeting as usual. One or two people spoke including Mr Maw who talked about hatred. I couldn't hear him very well because he was in front of me, but he pleaded that hatred should not be feared but faced. I personally think, now, one's personality (character) is partly inherited and partly developed in ignorance, and therefore should not be considered as anything either to be proud of or ashamed of. It cannot successfully be changed for good by the will, only by the part of us that is God. We need to accept the situation and depend upon the Spirit to transform us in time – be aware of the love of God for us now, just as we are, what ever we have done or do in the future. We took down the Christmas decorations in the afternoon, knitted and watched TV.

Mon 6 January:

Paul was in a rather 'difficult' mood, probably as it is the last day of the holiday. Andrew had grown rather tired of Paul's company too. I had rather a lot to get done in the morning, however we managed to have lunch soon after 1 and in the afternoon played games primarily of Andrew's choice. Granny Bridges seems to be OK again and Thea is going to Mary tomorrow. People keep ringing up about accommodation. I have taken the names of one or two. Very sleepy in evening.

Tues 7 January:

The boys went back to school today and I prepared Mr Messer's room for tomorrow and did the ironing. Also wrote two letters. Went shopping, and after lunch did writing all the afternoon which was lovely. Haven't written anything for ages. In the evening we watched TV and I did mending and knitted.

Weds 8 January:

Prepared Mr Messer's bed, did some washing and wrote my mother. Then went shopping. Met Mr Woolf in town, also Granny Bridges who said she still felt shaky at times. Bought myself a fountain pen – an Osmiroid with an italic nib (7/6) as I thought I might find it easier to hold when letter-writing. My biros keep slipping out of my fingers with this writers cramp. After lunch I wrote a letter to the editor of "She" and sent 5 photos of Tiffin and Anna, then spent the afternoon revising my MS Dumpy which my agent returned today. It will take some time. Mr Messer returned about 6.15, so I cooked him a scratch meal. Spent the evening mending and knitting blanket squares. Nothing much on TV except that on Tonight there was a Canon Rhymes who seems to have written a book along the same lines as the Bishop of Woolwich. I shall try to get hold of it.

Thurs 9 January:

After housework, washing and ironing, I went shopping. In the SPCK I found that Canon Douglas Rhymes' book (No new morality) was 12/6, so have decided to try and get it from the library. Came home and made a steak and kidney pudding, then after lunch, went to WVS taking one or two items of clothing and some blanket squares (total 15). Cut out some winceyette squares in the evening to make a cover, also knitted. TV mediocre.

Fri 10 January:

Usual housework and washing, ironing etc. Was rather annoyed to get a MS back by return from Wheatons. It was a 7500 word MS and the length and contents they have just asked for yet they had obviously not even read it! Perhaps I should stick to the nursery and infant age. I started making the bed-cover – it will take quite a time. Went shopping, and after lunch went to Mrs Bennell where I found Miss Bennell had a feverish cold and was going to rest. She had very little, as for some reason her mother called her up to her twice. Her illness has made her very difficult and Miss Bennell is wonderfully patient. In the evening knitted and watched TV. Poor Andrew met with a man in Forefield Rise who

tried to lead him along a narrow path. Andrew hurried on and happily the man left him<sup>2</sup>.

Sat 11 January:

Michael and I went down town and I collected a record I had ordered of lute music, and Michael bought 3 records. After lunch, having heard that the Circle programmes were at Miriam's shop, and that Miriam was ill, I decided to collect the programmes and call on Miriam. Michael came with me. Unfortunately there was no answer to the bell, but we have heard from her assistants that she is getting better. We bought some rather luscious cakes and went back for tea and high tea at 6. Knitted blanket squares all the evening and watched TV. Saw Shaw's *Androcles and the Lion* (film) Phyllis Batten rang to say I could now consider myself a member of the Friends as the matter had gone through Monthly Meeting.

Sun 12 January:

The Friends were very welcoming this morning when it was announced that I had been accepted into membership. Hurried back to see the Science & Man programme while I got the lunch. I find it very annoying that the best programmes have to be on a Sunday morning! Sent off the Circle programmes and wrote *Keynsham Circle*, then knitted and watched TV. Then locked up [?] (My hand is most troublesome these last few days and I can't write at all tidily, though I consciously relax it as often as I can.) [Certainly those last few lines were quite wobbly/untidy]

Mon 13 January:

It snowed during the night so we had to clear and grit the paths, but the boys helped me and it didn't take too long. (I'm hoping that David and Philippa are not without water) There was a lot of housework to do, and washing, then went shopping. Read during a late lunch, then did ironing and Mr Ford arrived to come and live with us. Michael had to go to the doctor and Mr Ford helped me with the wiping up. Knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Tues 14 January:

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<sup>2</sup> An event I certainly remember! I was on my way back from choir practice (I'd joined the St Matthew's Church choir as soon as we moved from Claverton Down to Lyncombe Hill) one dark Friday night. Forefield Rise is a steep (25%) but well lit road directly linking Widcombe to upper Lyncombe Hill, and this rather seedy man stopped me and asked if I'd like to come back with him to "have some shandy" at his flat - memorable to me as I didn't know exactly what shandy was. My first instinct was to comply with a request from an adult, but my second thought was that Mum had actually had the talk with me about not going off with strangers, so that did trigger an immediate doubt. He then said we could go to his flat down the path off to the left, which I knew just went round the back of the houses (in the dark) instead of round the front, so then I knew this made no sense so I declined and hurried on. My memory - clearly faulty - is that I didn't tell my parents about this until a day or two later, but it seems my delay was probably only an hour or so at the most. Mum was pleased with my action, but none of us thought there was any point reporting it at the time.

Still cold, but no more snow. Mr Ford helped with breakfast things and took Anna for a little walk. I did usual work, wrote my mother and went shopping. In the afternoon I washed my hair and did some sewing. After supper – mending and knitting. TV fairly interesting – film about ballooning over the Alps.

Weds 15 January:

A pretty ordinary day. Having done usual housework I went shopping while Mr Glisson fixed a new radiator in the bathroom to replace the one that gave us brown baths! In the afternoon I worked on the revising of "Dumpy". I wish I wasn't so slow. Andrew went to a concert in the evening in Bristol. Mr Willis is so kind paying for these boys to go. Michael and I went to the bus station at 10 to meet him but he didn't get back until 10.30.

Thurs 16 January:

A pretty cold but dry and pleasant day. After the usual work I did some more revision work and at 2.20 went down to the WVS. I mended a blouse collar which was unsatisfactory as I'm sure no one would want to wear it with a large darn in the middle of a visible part of the collar! Next, I was asked to patch a new terylene shirt which also had a hole in the collar, by cutting a piece vertically out of the tail. Eventually I asked if I could turn the collar instead, though it involved making anew buttonhole. This idea was accepted and I was relieved to find the result satisfactory. I am finding our new PG, Mr Ford, a very easy guest, and he helps with washing up and taking Anna for short walks. TV and knitting in evening.

Fri 17 January:

When the house washing and ironing was done I went shopping and called in to see Miriam who had only just re-started work and wasn't looking too good. Miss Bennell rang up in the dinner hour to say that her mother had bad cold and I needn't come if I didn't wish, however I decided to go, but only from 2-3.30. I sucked a Tyrozet and went home to a VitC, so I don't think I shall catch it. I was very sleepy there because Michael didn't sleep well so I was awake too last night and we were up at 5 this morning as Michael wanted to catch a very early train. He is very tired tonight.

Sat 18 January:

Michael felt he had better go into work so after breakfast etc – about 10am I went into town. The boys went to play Subuteo with Andrew Taylor. I saw the National Children's Art Exhibition which was interesting. In the afternoon Michael and I snoozed and read in the lounge, then having laid the evening meal

etc I went to the Friends' Party which was very enjoyable. Made friends with one or two new (to me) people and learnt how to borrow and book from the Library there – and did so. Home to see a little TV before bed.

Sun 19 January:

Went to Meeting and did my best to listen to "Science and Man" on TV while getting lunch but it was difficult to follow. Wrote a couple of letters after lunch, then read, knitted and watched TV for the rest of the day. Nothing outstanding.

Mon 20 January:

Michael went to Plymouth today and is going from there to Truro in the morning. I had a usual busy Monday morning but spent the afternoon writing. In the evening I knitted and watched a good TV programme, then wrote my mother. Last week there was a revolution in Zanzibar, before that it was Panama, and now today it is Tanganyika. Where next? The whole world is tense, and come to think of it I feel pretty tense myself.

Tues 21 January:

Felt far more relaxed today. After doing usual work, dropped a note into a Mr Pollard at 9 Prior Park Bdgs who was wanting a garage, and delivered some Circle programmes to the Reference Library and Information Bureau. Went up to Granny Bridges' for lunch and it was very pleasant, but, poor dear, she felt bound to try to warn me about the New Morality which she felt sure was instigated by the Communists. I tried to assure her that the New Morality was really only begging for the following of the Spirit rather than the Letter – putting Love over the Law but she felt it was most dangerous and shouldn't be allowed. I called on Auntie Marnie who has had the shingles and then home where there were only 4 of us as Mr Ford was out and Michael still away. After supper I let the garage to Mr Pollard at 5/6 a week – which is rather cheap, but there is not a great demand for garages in this area. Watched TV and Paul went to the philatelic society where he showed some stamps.

Weds 22 January:

Michael returned about 1am. Up usual time (soon after 6.30) and usual housework washing ironing and shopping. Made 6½ lbs of marmalade in the afternoon and knitted and mended and read in the evening. Feel much more myself the last two days and more relaxed. A good programme on Cornwall on TV tonight – poetic, beautiful..... quite inspiring.

Thurs 23 January:

Finished the housework about 10.30, but couldn't start any writing as there was a certain amount of correspondence to see to. Had lunch about 12, then did an hour's writing before going to WVS. It was a lovely clear sunny day and I enjoyed the walk. Usually we are a jolly crowd at WVS but there was a fresh lady who had a lot of petty worries and grumbled all the time. Poor dear – she is really mentally sick and I only hope that unburdening herself on us helped her a little. In the evening Michael and I went to the Technical School for a careers evening which was very well organised. Paul couldn't go because he had too much homework. I saw some films on dentistry, customs & excise and electrical engineering, and we had interviews with a Youth Employment Officer, a Quantity Surveyor and Mr Bowman – the Group Sec in Hospital Administration. We still don't quite know what Paul had better aim for.

Fri 24 January:

We found at this morning that it was Mr Messer's birthday, so after doing the house I went shopping and bought two small chickens and some Vin Rosé to celebrate! He was very appreciative although I thought the chicken were pretty tasteless – being broilers. Went to Mrs Bennell's in the afternoon. She was not too well, but better than last week. Knitting and TV in the evening. Paul has got 20 out of 22½ for practical chemistry Mock GCE which I think is good.

Sat 25 January:

Michael and I had a very pleasant morning in town. After lunch Michael wrote letters while I dozed and read a book. After the evening meal I washed my hair and read and knitted. Nothing much on TV. A pleasant restful day.

Sun 26 January:

At Meeting I was asked if I would read the Adviser and Queries for the next year and I said I would. After lunch I watched TV and knitted until about 2.45 then the boys and I played Scoop and Careers. Watched TV and knitted between the sustenance sessions (!) for the rest of the day. We are seriously thinking about Quantity Surveying for Paul. He seems interested.

Mon 27 January:

Letters from my mother, Bobby and Paddy – which were interesting. Mr Ford tells me that Mr Lee, his friend in Greenaway Lane is not at all well, and we are rather concerned about him. Wrote this afternoon, and began typing out the revised "Dumpy". The men came to start the electrical work on the outside light. Took Andrew to Dr Stewart for his routine visit. He said if Andrew was not

better by the end of March he might go to see a specialist in Bristol for his enuresis. We are pleased that his asthma is better. Michael seems very tense.

Tues 28 January:

It continues to be a mild month for this time of year. After usual housework I wrote my mother and had lunch rather late. After this I continued typing "Dumpy". In the evening we watched TV and I knitted. There was an excellent programme on about the Army. We now have soldiers doing what is virtually police work in umpteen trouble centres all over the world. In the absence of a World Police Force which there ought to be, even I, as a pacifist feel they are doing what is right in practically every case, and I can only wonder at any pacifist who could glibly say the trouble spots should sort out their own difficulties, when the leaders have asked for our help. The work these men are doing is not war. They are often shot at, but don't shoot back. I admire their courage.

Weds 29 January:

Nearly into February and the weather remains mild. It was a pleasant day. The housework seemed finished in no time and I went shopping, being back early enough to clean out the budgie (she's 7½ now!) and have a nice long read during my lunch. Typed in the afternoon and we had some splendid pork chops for supper. Had three 'phone calls re Writers Circle. Watched TV and knitted blanket squares. Now on my 19<sup>th</sup> towards the 96 required for the blanket and I hope to finish.

Thurs 30 January:

Andrew had asthma during the night a little, but he managed to go to school as usual. After I had finished the housework at 11, I did some typing and after lunch went to WVS to do mending. Watched TV, mended and knitted in the evening. "Dr Kildare" was interesting. Andrew was rather asthmatic again.

Fri 31 January:

A wet, muggy day, and we kept Andrew in bed to try to cure his asthma. When I went to Mrs Bennell's in the afternoon I asked if I could leave early. In the end I returned to Andrew for ¾hr and then went back to Mrs Bennell until about 3.40 when her daughter returned from school. We didn't want to leave Mrs B on her own as a pill she had taken had made her groggy. Read and knitted in evening. TV not very interesting.

Sat 1 February:

Andrew stayed in bed again today but he seemed better. Michael and I went down town. In the afternoon we took Anna to Mr Turnbull's surgery as she has a sore paw. He says her teeth will need attention too. Washed my hair and read. Very interested in my present book. Mrs Taylor from Keynsham also called with some stories we are supposed to be judging for their Circle.

Sun 2 February:

Went to Meeting which was pleasant. Michael is just like a bit of dynamite. I wish he could be helped. It's infectious too – Paul was in an annoying fiddly mood, Andrew's asthma doesn't clear, and at times I feel near to tears myself. Watched TV and knitted.

Mon 3 February:

Kept Andrew in bed again as he was still not quite clear of asthma. A lot to do in the morning. Played a game with Andrew in Afternoon. The vet came as I rang to say Anna was on heat and I couldn't take her to the surgery. Michael went to the doctor but he still hasn't been sent to a specialist or for X-ray yet his indigestion has been very bad.

Tues 4 February:

Andrew went back to school today. Finished the housework about 10.30 and Thea came about 11. She brought us some farm eggs and stayed and talked for nearly an hour which I thought very generous of her when she was about to return to Totnes. Had my lunch and wrote my mother, then went down town to get Michael's medicine. Knitted and TV in evening. (I don't seem to be getting any writing done as planned.)

Weds 5 February:

Housework and washing, then read a little of the book Granny has lent me. I cannot agree with it. Did some shopping and up to Granny for lunch. Pleasant time, and some friendly argument. Home via more shops. Knitted and TV in the evening.

Thurs 6 February:

A cold clear day – rather beautiful. When I had finished the housework and some cooking, I finished typing out "Dumpy". Only had time for a snack before going to WVS where I learnt that one of our members, aged 82, from Wellow, was in hospital as she had fallen and lain out all night on the ground before being found. Called to see Lottie Young at Guide HQ on the way home and arranged about the Guide Writer badge. Mr Blackmore and another man called to see Michael in the evening. Watched TV and knitted.

Fri 7 February:

Usual Friday work and shopping and then spent the afternoon at Miss Bennell's. She was in bed, poor dear, and not feeling at all well. In the evening I went to a Fellowship of Reconciliation meeting at which the leading Methodist minister of the District came from Bristol to speak. I was all prepared to ask about "policing" as I feel that humane police work is valuable and a World Police Force an urgent necessity. I didn't have to ask, however, as in his talk he mentioned his approval of it, albeit with the fervent hope that others approved (apparently many pacifists would have no 'force' at all.) I came away much comforted and strengthened in my pacifism. I don't think any of those there were naive or cowardly types as many pacifists were in the 30s. I also heard Mr Moorhouse (prospective Labour candidate for Bath) speak. He seems very able and a nice man, but I don't think I would feel happy about him being Bath's MP as, quite frankly, he seemed to lack 'culture' and would, I think find it difficult to 'speak' for the professional classes – I don't know. A group of the national FoR are going to Dresden soon in penitence for the raid on that city in the last war which killed 135,000 people – more than were killed at Hiroshima!

Sat 8 February:

Michael had to go in to work today although it was a Saturday. Mr Messer went to the England v Ireland rugby match. The boys and I went down town in the morning and watched TV in the afternoon. I washed my hair after tea and Paul went to a friend's birthday party. I am a little apprehensive about reading some of the Advices in Meeting tomorrow!

Sun 9 February:

At Meeting I felt I should start the reading of the Advices. I had a word beforehand with Mr Bowman-Beir (?spelling) who gave me encouragement when I admitted I felt nervous. Actually I got through without too much amiss. Reading, knitting and TV the rest of the day. On Meeting Point there was a most excellent said of a man called Bishop Anthony Bloom of the Russian Orthodox church, who is also a doctor, talking about pain and suffering to Malcolm Muggeridge. He was wonderful! Andrew's enuresis problem continues to be unsolved. He was dry last week when he was in bed with asthma. We used to think this was because he slept lighter when he was asthmatic, but this time he was given sleeping pills so as not to be disturbed by his wheezing. Later in the week we gave him sleeping pill on two nights, but he was wet. Last night, however, he was dry. Why? Was he less tense yesterday? If so, why?

Mon 10 February:

A nice long letter from Mummy as is usual on Mondays. Did the house and washing. Went shopping. Spent the afternoon ironing and writing letters, and the evening watching TV and knitting. (The Writer's cramp in my hand doesn't seem to improve. It's such a silly thing to have!) [Evident too from occasional erratic entries]

Tues 11 February:

Paul has a cold, so we kept him home today to try and get it better. Spent the morning doing housework in usual routine, but while doing the ironing I watched TV for Schools with Paul. Went shopping and home for lunch. In the afternoon I wrote my mother and then played Scrabble with Paul. Mr Messer looked in to say his father was seriously ill and had gone back into hospital, so was going back to Wales for a couple of days. Watched TV and knitted in evening. I feel very sorry for little Mr Messer.

Weds 12 February:

Paul stayed at home again today. Usual routine in the morning. Did some writing in the afternoon. Andrew went to a concert in Bristol with Mr Willis and some of the choir in the evening. TV and knitting – have now done 26 squares towards the blanket.

Thurs 13 February:

Had a slightly scratchy throat and stuffy nose so took VitC and Ferr.Phos. to try to get rid of it, and didn't go to WVS but spent spare time writing. Went to Writer Circle in evening but only 3 of us and 2 new members there, so very disappointing. One brought a MS. After hearing that, we read and discussed the stories entered in the Keynsham Circle's competition. Paul went back to school today and over to Michael's office in the afternoon to see the architects and surveyors. He isn't really fit yet. Mr Messer returned this evening. His father is a little better.

Fri 14 February:

Michael gave me a lovely Valentine box of chocolates! Didn't get on with the housework very well – fell to talking with Mr Ford, and then had a long conversation Mrs Miles on the phone. The man came from the Gas Co and fitted different burners in the boiler. Went shopping and spent the afternoon with Mrs Bennell who was still feeling rather groggy. Phoned Mrs Taylor of Keynsham about Writer's Circle arrangements. She has had a lot of illness and difficulties in her family lately and was sounding rather depressed, but I expect she will soon pick up. She is such a nice person. TV and knitting in evening. I seem to be developing a cold.

Sat 15 February:

Mu cold was rather heavy and congested. I went down town with Michael. Read in the afternoon.

Sun 16 February:

My cold was a bad one in the head so I decided to stay in all day. I was particularly sorry to miss the Friends' discussion meeting this evening. I wrote some letters and corrected the entries for Guide Writer Badge otherwise I just knitted and watched TV.

Mon 17 February:

Andrew's half term. My cold was better but I had a bad headache and felt washed out. Did usual work and dealt with some Circle matters, then did some shopping in Widcombe. After lunch I felt bad and decided to take my temperature which was over 100. So after playing a paper game with Andrew who then went off to meet a friend, I rested in the lounge. Having made the evening meal I fell into bed. Later I had a violent cramp in my tummy which was horrid.

Tues 18 February:

Spent the day in bed. Doctor came about 4.30. Feel a bit better tonight.

Weds 19 February:

Spent the day in bed again and read a book. Michael has done a lot of washing and the boys have helped. Mr Ford has brought me fruit and I feel very spoilt.

Thurs 20 February:

Paul's half term. He kindly did some shopping for me and go lunch, then this afternoon he went into Michael's office again to see the surveyors and engineers. I dressed and spent a leisurely afternoon then Andrew helped me get the supper. TV in the evening.

Fri 21 February:

Spent the morning cleaning the house. Paul went shopping for me. We played a kind of table football with coins in the afternoon. Granny Bridges came to supper. Used a taxi to go to Mrs Miles' for the Writer Circle Committee meeting. Two were not there, but we got on quite well with plans for the Exhibition stand. Taxied home again.

Sat 22 February:

Not a pleasant day – sufficient to say that the atmosphere was stormy! We had chicken for lunch, and time to read and watch TV in afternoon and evening. The boys went to a Norman Wisdom film. I caught up with the washing.

Sun 23 February:

It has been very cold the last week but it has turned mild today. Went to Meeting. Afterwards the children had a little stall of cards and bunches of flowers. It was rather amusing because one of the little children on entering Meeting at 11.45 said in a loud voice "I've been a good boy!" Mr Ford went with Mr Lee to see an invalid in the country so was out for lunch. Washed my hair in the afternoon. Boys went to Church as usual. TV and knitting.

Mon 24 February:

Michael is thinking of trying to get a job in the Admiralty so Mr Ford kindly found out the address for application from a friend of his. Did house and washing and went shopping. Felt strangely despondent today, probably as a result of flu. Ironing in afternoon and made a good bone stock for the liver and oxheart stew in the evening. Michael went to the doctor in the evening. We watched TV.

Tues 25 February:

Quite mild again. Andrew was dry. He only has odd nights like this now and again, often when one might expect it least – when Michael and I have had an argument for instance. Paid the gas bill – over £39 for the quarter which for a mild winter I think is very heavy and rather ridiculous for a family of our means who cooks by electricity and uses no gas fires. Usual work and shopping, then wrote the Writer Circle annual report and a letter to Mrs Tomlinson of [school] who has asked for a report on the boys. Tested three Guides for Writer's badge in the evening at Guide HQ. Home and watched TV. There was a good programme on viruses on BBC, but I feel they are troubling themselves too much with germ warfare when what they need to do is to concentrate on more positive health. We know that study of war only makes the tools of evil more complex and powerful. It is the same with the warfare of viruses. – Yet a healthy person can carry a germ for a lifetime and not suffer from disease!

Weds 26 February:

Spent quite a lot of the day trying to get a Circle speaker for March 12<sup>th</sup>. In the end one of Keynsham Circle said they would come. Otherwise quite a usual day until the evening when I met Mrs Jackson and Miss Cass and was taken with Barbara Stone to Keynsham for a very pleasant social evening. Muriel Wright commented on the stories entered for the Keynsham competition and elected [?] the winners. We had one or two games and talked and had very nice 'eats'. It was very enjoyable. Michael went to his mother for supper and Mr Messer went to Cardiff today to apply for a job there.

Thurs 27 February:

Washing and ironing etc. Then I had intended to try and work on the story to send to Bobby, promised weeks ago, but Granny bridges asked me to lunch. It was nice going to her but now I am going to have no chance to write again until well into next week, if then. Went on to WVS in the afternoon. The one I call 'moaning Minnie' was there – try as we would to get her talking positively she just had to keep complaining or being pessimistic! In the evening it was the Writer Circle AGM in the new Technical College Committee room. There were only 7 but it was a profitable meeting (or perhaps 'productive' would be a better word.)

Fri 28 February:

There was plenty to do in the house and I wrote a letter Michael had asked me to do, went shopping, then home for lunch. Miss Bennell rang up to say her mother was not at all well and that she herself was able to be with her today so I needn't come. I was glad to have the afternoon free, as it happened, as I still had the ironing to do and before make puddings for the weekend and a steak and kidney pie. I had little sleep on the couch as I felt so sleepy. After supper I took a few flowers I had brought, to Mrs Bennell's and went on to a Quaker discussion on the state of the Society. I enjoyed this very much and had to restrain myself very much, as we were quite a large number for a discussion group and it would have been easy to take more than one's fair share in the talking! A number of things were felt: lack of public information, lack of instruction and general grounding for the children, lack of real conviction in the adults and the need for more study of the Bible and discussion.

Sat 29 February:

Michael changed his camera for a Pentax today. It took him so long that having waited half an hour for him at Colmer's I went to Desmond Tripps and he was still there! It was so late by now that we had to go without our usual coffee and go straight home. In the afternoon I did Writer Circle work and also typed out something for Michael. In the evening I washed my hair and we watched TV and read. Princess Alexandra has a son.

Sun 1 March:

At Meeting this morning Mrs Bowman-Bier spoke for about 20 minutes. It was the longest talk I've ever heard in Meeting. After this an attender spoke and after this I felt I should like to, but hesitated for some times as there had been so little silence. At last I spoke for a very brief minute at about 10 to 12, and not to my complete satisfaction as I find I am no speaker! Preparative meeting followed but I had to leave before the end. We had lunch at 1.15 and Michael made coffee for those who wished for it afterwards. Read knitted and

watched TV between meals for rest of day. (I find I can write reasonably tidily by holding the pen between the first and second fingers though it's inclined to give them pins and needles!)

Mon 2 March:

Left the house with Andrew this morning as I had to get Anna to Mr Turnbull's surgery in Elm Place by 9. Waited a little while there, then came home and finished housework and did washing and ironing before going shopping. Had lunch a little late and read, then felt so sleepy (I was awake last night for over an hour, having been disturbed by some people outside about 1am) I had a little snooze. Started getting the evening meal a little early as I had a taxi at 6 to collect Anna. I was pleased to find her lively in spite of having had anaesthetic. She has had 7 teeth extracted! Read and watched TV in the evening. (As I write, there are a number of 'planes flying low overhead). – We have had two major air disasters in the world in the last two days.

Tues 3 March:

Housework and ironing. (Did no washing today.) Went shopping, and back to put some Bourne-seal on the lounge floor. After lunch I wrote my mother and took Anna up to Greenway Lane to post it. She thought she was going to the vet again and would not walk happily until we turned for home. Tiffin met us and it was funny to see how pleased the two animals were to see each other! In the evening I went to talk on Yoga (first of a short series). Miss Cass and Miriam Wells were there too. I think I shall find it interesting.

Weds 4 March:

House and washing, followed by shopping. After lunch I decided to take Anna out with me and do some weeding in the garden, but the wind was so cold that both of us were glad to go in again after 10 minutes or so. Did some writing until it was time to get supper which was meant to be a bit special as I had bought a joint of beef – however it was tough. The only consolation was the Yorkshire pudding! Spent the evening knitting and watching TV.

Thurs 5 March:

House and washing and ironing, then went down town. After lunch I went to WVS, taking a few flowers for Mrs Lawrence and getting a couple of library books for Michael on the way. When I left the WVS I met Miss John and had a pleasant chat with her. At the station there were myriads of school children – come to catch a glimpse of the train carrying the Beatles through Bath. They really are mad, these fans! During supper it was funny – I said "Where's Mummy's lovely little girl?" and looked under the table. Instead of finding Anna,

I saw right by Mr Messer's feet a lake that would have knocked Superior into a cocked hat! Realising that I'd forgotten to look for any skip-ups of Anna's when I returned, I turned to Paul and said "I've just found that Anna's not Mummy's lovely little girl after all" which set him off into giggles. No one else made any sign of understanding – although they may have, of course! Paul has passed all 11 subjects in his Mock GCE so we are all very pleased. Knitted and watched TV in evening. The Dr Kildare episode was very good.

Fri 6 March:

Andrew was in bed with a cold and asthma today. I did usual work washing ironing and shopping, then we had lunch together. I rang Miss Bennell and learned that a cousin has come to stay with them, so there is no need for me to go on Fridays now. Poor Mrs Bennell is still ill. After a quick supper, having spent the afternoon with Andrew, and made some cakes, I walked Anna to the vet. Had nearly an hour's wait just for the 'check' to see her mouth was alright. Home about a quarter to eight and watched TV.

Sat 7 March:

Michael went on down town as he had to go to Desmond Tripp's where he was persuaded to change the Pentax camera for a Voigtlander. I had my work cut out to do the beds, washing up. Potatoes and prepare lunch so that it was cooking slowly and lay table, then do a certain amount of shopping and change Andrew's library books before meeting Michael at 11. When I met Michael at Desmond Tripp's he said we'd better go home separately as he would be some time yet. I left hastily in case my disappointment and annoyance should get the better of me, and went to the Folk Exhibition at the Octagon. I enjoyed this so much I felt better and was just coming away when I met Michael – and we went back into the Exhibition for coffee and he enjoyed it too! We had quite a rush afterwards as there was his dry cleaning to pick up, and the city is so crowded it is difficult to hurry. In the afternoon I wrote 4 letters and read the 'Friend'. Mr Messer didn't get back for tea. Andrew came down to see little TV. Knitted, watched TV and read in the evening. I feel very 'keyed up' again.

Sun 8 March:

Not so tense today, but nevertheless not very happy, as Michael told me how lonely and unhappy he felt and I feel very responsible – yet unable to think of a way of helping. At Meeting I read some more Advices and two or three spoke on exploitation of animals. In the afternoon Michael and I took Anna for a short walk and we took one or two photos then we were glad to get home as it was

cold. In the evening I went to the Friends to hear a recording of the Bishop of Woolwich talking on the Honest to God debate. After coffee there was a short discussion. I really feel that those who are against the Bishop simply misunderstand him. He is not very lucid to many ordinary people. Mrs Lorna Horstmann was there and we chatted. I also talked to Mary Holme. In helping to wash up afterwards Phyllis Batten and Frances Longman told me that they thought I'd been wrongly told, and that I ought to be reading the advices on Ministry not the General Advices and that someone had told me wrongly. Watched TV when I got home and "Dr Finlay's Casebook" was good.

Mon 9 March:

Andrew was still not really fit enough to go back to school so although up, he did not go out today. Did the house, and washing, then went shopping and home for lunch. Afterwards, I did the ironing and played games with Andrew, then watched TV in the evening.

Tues 10 March:

I let Andrew go back to school today and I went to Bristol. Had about 3 hours in the shops at Broadmead and bought a navy cardigan and a book on nutrition but was rather disappointed as saw nothing very desirable. Met Michael, and had a very nice lunch at the Posada. Caught a bus to the top of Park St and went to bookshops in Park St. This was much more exciting. I bought George Fox's Journal with 2 5/- book tokens (+6d) and saw many other interesting books. Home and went to another Yoga lecture in the evening meeting Betty Singleton, Marjorie \_\_\_[?] and Miriam there. It was very interesting.

Weds 11 March:

There seemed to be quite a lot to do in the house today, having left things yesterday, and by the time I had done the washing too, I decided to wait until later to do the ironing and went out shopping. Also had my hair cut and went to the Library. After lunch I washed my hair, and put the electric fire on the table and dried it while I typed a letter to my mother. Took Anna out for a walk, and posted the letter. (Anna is eating so much better now – she is 'filling out' and her harness no longer fits. We shall have to get a new one!) After supper I did the ironing and read during evening. Only time for a little knitting. Michael went to Bristol Technical College this morning to see the head of the Building Dept. who was very nice and said if the curriculum was pretty broad and Paul wanted to do so, he could stay on and take A Levels at the Tech School. We shall now wait and see what the Tech School masters can tell us.

Thurs 12 March:

House work and washing. Went shopping, and after lunch gack down to Pulteney St for WVS work. Home, and tea, then went to Writer Circle where we had a reasonable number present to hear Mrs Maynard of Keynsham Circle talk on Do It Yourself articles. We also made further plans about the Exhibition. Home and watched Gala performance on TV which was very good.

Fri 13 March:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>! But it was a lovely day – mild sunny weather, so after usual work and shopping, had lunch and read for a little while afterwards. Then did some gardening until about 4.15. Wrote a letter for the Circle and posted it, then prepared the evening meal. Afterwards I had a short doze as felt rather tired, and then read, watched TV and kitted and mended a little.

Sat 14 March:

A very wet rainy day. Met Michael in town and we had coffee. He was obviously feeling very irritable and not himself all day. He has bought quite a lot of extras for his new camera. After lunch we viewed some transparencies and Mr Ford stayed to see them. After this, I put our photograph album up to date and wrote up the Circle Minutes. Shortened a dress and did mending in the evening while we watched TV.

Sun 15 March:

Our 17<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. There were several young people from Bristol at Meeting this morning, and three people spoke. It was also World Service Sunday. After lunch, as it was a rather unpleasant day we stayed in and read, and watched TV. Granny Bridges looked in about 7.15 and gave us some family news. Knitted and watched TV for rest of the evening.

Mon 16 March:

Took rather a long time to do the housework this morning and as I didn't finish until 10.30 I decided to go out and do the shopping and leave the washing until the afternoon. This I did, and also did the ironing and made some cakes before having an early tea with Andrew and going off to the doctor with him for a routine visit. We had to wait quite a while but Dr Stewart did not hurry the interview and suggested Andrew saw a Mr Ashton-Miller at Bristol and I have to make an appointment. Paul made the soup and tea for the evening meal in my absence, and Michael went to the doctor too. He wasn't very satisfied with the result because Dr Cooper merely told him that as long as he stayed in his present job he would have tummy trouble. Watched TV and knitted.

Tues 17 March:

Did housework and ironing and after some difficulty managed to make an appointment for Andrew to see Mr Ashton-Miller. It is to be this Thursday – much sooner than I could have imagined. Unfortunately I couldn't get hold of Dr Matthews\* for Michael. [Peggy's 'footnote':] \*Father of Dr Bridget Matthews. He was a GP in Newbridge Hill, but disapproving of the Health Service became a private psychiatrist. He is going to go to him privately as he is unable to get Dr Cooper to do anything but prescribe pills and advise him to change his job. Instead of going straight out shopping after ironing I wrote my mother, had an early lunch, then went shopping and on to library and WVS. There was only one other person, a Mrs Wilman, there, who was a little deaf, but she was an interesting companion. In the evening, although it was snowing and raining practically all day, and a cold wind, I went to another Yoga lecture which was interesting, having hurriedly prepared some Circle notices. I gave Miss Cass her Exhibition pass and notice. Miriam was not at the lecture as I expected she would be. Paul went to a Philatelic meeting. We had his report today and it is obvious he has worked hard.

Weds 18 March:

Did the house, washing and some correspondence etc mostly in connection with the Circle, and couldn't get out until nearly 11.30. Had quite a lot of shopping and it turned into a miserable afternoon with cold wind and rain with snow. Had a late lunch, read, and having tried twice again to contact Dr Matthews, I wrote a letter and went out and posted it. Had mending in evening, watched TV and knitted. Granny Bridges rang. She has just come back from visiting Thea in Totnes.

Thurs 19 March:

It was a very rainy morning. Did house and ironing and shopped in Widcombe. Mr Ford kindly took my order into Eileen's. Andrew returned for an early lunch and I laid the evening meal, then we went over to the Children's hospital in Bristol to see Mr Ashton Miller who was very nice, but said he'd like Andrew to come into hospital soon for examination under anaesthetic. Home in time to heat soup etc etc ready for tea, and about 7.30 Michael and I went to the Technical School. We spoke to Paul's Biology master, Mr King and after some delay to Mr Brinkworth (Physics) and Mr Alvis (Geography and Form Master). The latter was most helpful although we cannot yet decide what A Levels Paul should take. Geog. Economics and Maths seem to be a likely combination. Michael has had a very trying day. It wasn't easy for us to speak as a unit to the different masters.

Fri 20 March:

Michael began a week's leave today, and we hired a car and went down to Seaton to see Auntie Billie whom I hadn't met before. Did some washing before leaving about 20 to 10 and had a leisurely trip down. We sat in the car on the front for a while then arrived at Auntie's a little before 12.30. We had a wonderful time and were entertained in a most generous manner. Michael took two photos, and we left, I suppose, about 3.15 having been given a chicken, a box of chocolates and a cheque which nearly made us faint!!! We came back via Lyme Regis, Bridport, Dorchester, Cerne Abbas, Sherborne, Frome and Norton St Philip. It was about 6.30 and the boys had looked after themselves and seen to everything alright. We had a lightish meal and watched TV in the evening. Andrew was kept very late at choir practice.

Sat 21 March:

After breakfast I did various odd jobs and ironing, then went to see how the Circle's stand was getting on at the Careers & Hobbies Exhibition. They had worked very hard, especially Mrs Wright and Mrs Holbeche, but the original plan had not really been adhered to, and as so many things had been attached to the backing besides the posters which we wanted there, the latter did not stand out and half the stand looked more like a jumble sale than anything else! It was a pity, and no one was really to blame, it was just general lack of interest until the last minute. We had chicken for lunch, and afterwards the boys went to watch a football match, and Michael Granny and I went to Rode Bird Gardens. The weather was not very good, but we took quite a lot of photos. After tea I showed Granny some transparencies, and she left at 7.45. We had supper and watched TV. Italy won the European song contest, and I agreed very much with this choice. We put the clocks on tonight.

Sun 22 March:

Went to Meeting as usual. I am sure we are fast approaching a new plane of living where the centre of life is coming to be accepted as that part of one that is eternal and one with God. For too long we have worshipped knowledge and "good character" without realising that this merely enhances the ego, thus cutting one off from the true self, and increasing fear which automatically rules out love. Love is caught by being with God, and love and the light of God automatically makes fear and darkness disappear. I have to write this down for in a few days I am likely to forget this truth and I want to hang on to it and live it – It is vital. Wrote Auntie Billie and my mother today, then watched TV and knitted. It wasn't nice enough to go out in the car again. (I just must remember that unless something is done from a motive of love, it is not only useless, it isn't honest, because I am making myself out to be better than I am.)

Mon 23 March:

Today, which I knew would be a very full day went very well. There was washing to do, ironing and housework, also shopping before getting Michael and I an early lunch. The Gas people came to mend a defect in the boiler. The Country is expecting electricity cuts as there is a 'go slow'. We shall be in quite a predicament if we have a cut as our gas central heating is electrically ignited. We went to the Careers & Hobbies Exhibition directly after lunch, and on to Paul's prizegiving by 3. Went back to the Exhibition to do duty on the Circle stand from 5-8 having left a cold tea on the table for Michael and the boys. (Mr Ford is having tea out this week.) Home for supper and laid breakfast ready for our day in London tomorrow.

Tues 24 March:

We had a very full and interesting day at the Ideal Home Exhibition today. Michael took me to the Olympia Grill and we had a splendid lunch. It wasn't a very good day for Michael though, I'm sad to say. He obviously felt very edgy and easily irritated. When we got home I was in time to go to the Yoga lecture and had quite a chat afterwards with Miriam.

Weds 25 March:

It was quite a full day today. Michael had a dental appointment at 8.30, and I had washing ironing and quite a bit of housework to do before meeting him at 11. We did a bit of shopping and went to Charles St restaurant for lunch which was very good. On to the Hobbies Exhibition and Michael and I looked round before I took up duty at 1.30. Michael stayed for a while then went on home. Miriam sent a message that she couldn't relieve me at 5 as arranged, but by 6.30 she had still been held up by her District Manager, so I left the stand in the care of the man on the next stand. At 8pm I came back with a suitcase, and Mrs Wright came too. Miriam had an appointment, so I saw a little of her, but I gathered that she had arrived soon after I left. We soon cleared the stand and I arrived back in time to make hot drinks. (The family had kindly made their own evening meal and all I had had to do was wash it up.) Watched a good TV documentary on the "Unmarried mother" (1 in 8 in London!) Some people say more moral training is needed, and I feel this when I first hear about it but it's the root of the problem that's important. Basically, the young must have a lack of security, love, and reverence for life. It is the fault of our generation.

Thurs 26 March:

It was a very nice sunny day today. I had quite a lot of work to do and shopping to get done before the early lunch we had at 11.45. Michael went to see Dr

Matthews, and found him very pleasant and helpful. I feel a little more progress may be made now in getting Michael better. We had a simply splendid afternoon photographing animals at Bristol Zoo. We left at 5, but it took until 10 past 6 to reach the station, such was the traffic that the bus had to contend with! We only just caught the second of two trains we had in mind. In the evening Michael framed some transparencies of Rode Tropical Bird gardens and projected them and I washed my hair. We watched TV. Andrew had a choir practice.

Fri 27 March:

Good Friday so we got up late. Having done a little housework I began writing some letters I owed, and after lunch finished them. Watched the Prisoner of Zenda on TV then, after tea, Michael and I went to Widcombe Baptist Church to hear Stainer's Crucifixion sung by combined choirs in which Andrew joined. For me it was almost purgatory, as not only do I not like that sort of music, but close on my right was a dear lady with a voice like a factory hooter and in the five or so hymns in which we had to join I blessed the occasions when the verse said "men only". Light relief was supplied by Michael who made me giggle twice. There were one or two interesting programmes on TV when we returned about 20 to 9. Paul told us that Thea had called in our absence and brought us some eggs.

Sat 28 March:

A very busy morning as didn't have breakfast until 8.30 and had to do washing before going shopping. Being Easter Saturday, the town was very crowded. We had an early lunch at 12.45 and then went to see the film "Lawrence of Arabia". I found this interesting as I knew very little of the man, but I can't help feeling that a lot of cruelty to animals must go on in the making of these epic films. It seems as if there little respect between on life and another these days. Spent the evening mending, knitting and watching TV.

Sun 29 March:

Easter Sunday. Not a very warm or sunny day. Mr Ford gave me some lovely growing chrysanthemums and the boys Easter eggs and 10/- each, which was much too generous. I gave him a funny "Mrs Duck" egg and a golf ball beside her with a notice WOT? A round egg? We all had a bit of fun with presents and the boys were very generous all round. Went to Meeting and when I asked Frank Frisby whether I should continue with the reading of the General Advices he said he was afraid there had been some confusion and that I was to now read the Advices on Ministry in three sections in April May and June. Walked some way with Miriam and it was nice to chat with her. In the afternoon Thea took Michael and the boys out to Wilmington for a brief visited to David, Phillipa,

Mark and the baby [Sophie]. I did gardening. In the evening we watched TV and I also read and knitted blanket squares. There has been a dreadful earthquake in Alaska and tidal waves on the west coast of North America. It happened yesterday and pictures of the devastation are now coming in. There seem to be less than 100 dead, but probably over 2000 homes gone. Hardly a few months go by between one disaster and the next these days or so it seems.

Mon 30 March:

Easter Monday was cold and dull for those on holiday. I did some washing, and had such a lot ironing I sat down and made a morning of it. The boys went to Granny and Thea's for lunch and tea and went to a film in the afternoon. Michael and I were alone for lunch which we had on the early side so that I could have long afternoon gardening. Michael isn't feeling too good. His back is tender, he has headaches, and occasional sore throats. His temperature is below normal. I am glad he sees Dr Hislop tomorrow. TV was not very interesting and really rather depressing – about teenagers doing a lot of damage in Clacton, a strangler at large in Boston, USA. People on holiday playing Bingo etc and more deaths on the roads.

Tues 31 March:

Michael wasn't well today. He went into work, and did washing ironing, cleaning and shopping. Paul did some jobs and went to Hampton Rocks with a friend, taking his lunch. Andrew and I had just begun lunch about 1.30 when Michael returned home, feeling rather groggy. I decided to let just the boys go to Fowey tomorrow and to go myself on Friday if Michael was better. I went to Dr Scholls at 4.10 and had a corn removed, and on the way back I tried on a navy wool suit I saw in Loraine's and it turned out to be just what I have been looking for, for one or two months. I shortened it during the evening and mended my mackintosh. Michael went to the doctor's and was laid off work. He has a letter for a Dr Hill – a specialist physician. (Dr Cooper was away, and Dr Hislop did this for Michael) When Mummy rang up to confirm the time of trains she was very disappointed I couldn't come tomorrow, but I said I was pretty sure of coming Friday and could stay a week then.

Weds 1 April:

The boys went off to Fowey on the 7.56 train (2hrs at Plymouth!) and Michael was at home, but didn't stay in bed after about 9.30. I did quite a bit of housework and then went shopping. After lunch we had really luxuriously restful afternoon and evening reading and watching TV. I also knitted. The man came to repair a fault on the phone and in the morning a man came to see to a fault in

the gas boiler, which Michael seems to have put right successfully. Michael is a little better this evening, but has either a cold or hayfever. He doesn't look well, and I am relieved to think that he has a specialist's appointment (with Dr Pugh, not Dr Hill) on Wednesday next. He also talks of moving back to Dr Old.

Thurs 2 April:

Washing and ironing, then shopping. Michael has a heavy cold but otherwise he was fairly well. I would feel happier if he was well and at work, but his mother is going to give him meals, and Mr Ford will be here, so I plan to go to Fowey tomorrow on the 6.15 train if I wake. Had a pleasant lazy afternoon and evening. It is very cold.

Fri 3 April:

Decided, although I woke early, to catch the 7.56 train so that I could get Michael some breakfast etc before leaving. The journey was pleasant though drawn-out as had a two hour wait at Plymouth. Met Geoffrey Phillips as I got out of the train there. Mummy and the boys met me at Fowey in a hired car. Wrote Michael, played some games with Paul, then the boys went fishing. Watched some TV and talked. A pleasant evening. Mummy seems fairly well.

Sat 4 April:

It was still very cold. Mummy brought me breakfast in bed then up and after a few jobs Mummy and I went into town. Afternoon spent playing card games, knitting and watching TV. Very restful.

Sun 5 April:

A very pleasant sunny day and we spent it mostly reading on the look-out. After tea we went for a walk over All-day fields and back by St Catherine's Parade, taking photos. The boys stayed in Ready Money beach. Paul is looking better for this change already. Andrew still has a cold and isn't so flourishing, but at least he hasn't asthma as a result of it – as yet. Michael rang during the evening to say that he had written asking me to come back on Wednesday, but he thought now they could probably manage. Granny Bridges now has a cold, and Michael has been running a temperature and so is not going back to work until Tuesday.

Mon 6 April:

It was a dull drizzly day, which was disappointing. I had a long stay in bed and after only one or two jobs Mummy and I went up to see Jill in Mrs King's Cottage café in Brown's Lane. I was very impressed the way Alec and Jane had transformed the former derelict buildings into this delightful cottage. They're very clever. Roger, John and Jill's child, was a lovely little chap. After lunch I

played cards with the boys, then they went to Ready Money beach to play, while Mummy and I talked and I wrote a couple of PCs. After tea we all watched TV. Knitted. I came to bed about 9.45 as I didn't want to watch the detective play. Andrew had gone to bed earlier, and got up to see it. Paul and Mummy watched it too. I was glad to have time to read.

Tues 7 April:

Had a nice long letter from Granny Bridges this morning and a telephone call this evening saying all was well apart from the fact that she and Thea had sore throats. We went to Newquay for the day and it was beautifully sunny. Spent most of the time looking at shops and we had sandwiches on a seat over looking the bay. On the way back we looked over a Cornish Unit bungalow in St Austell. It was a well planned 4 bedroom one, but I just wonder if one would save much by the time one had the additions of site and service paths and fences, and there are certain disadvantages. In the evening I telephoned Michael who said he could manage until Friday, though I felt he would give anything for me to say I wanted to return sooner. He still had catarrh, and I felt rather indecisive and depressed about it – however, have decided to stay until Friday as this may be my only break this year.

Weds 8 April:

Rose very late, having started some verse for the Write Circle folder. Went into town with Mummy and bought a couple of "pots" for Granny and Thea. After lunch I finished the verse and typed it out – albeit very roughly and I was rather ashamed to send it, but let it go, and included a letter to Mrs Holbeche. Also sent a card to Miriam. Mummy went to a meeting in the evening and I knitted. Rang Michael about 9 and he sounded more cheerful. Dr Pugh was very nice, he said, but he would have to the RUH for some tests soon. Boys played with Francis.

Thurs 9 April:

Another late morning up. Went into town with Mummy and bought a pottery jar for marmalade for ourselves. I would very much like to get something for Mummy, but don't know what. After lunch Mummy and I went up to the top of the town to see a bungalow of a friend of hers. I think I was more impressed with what she was doing in the garden than the plan of the house itself, but I admired the work she had done with her husband, one way or another and I liked her sitting-room with its lovely view across the school playing fields. The boys played with Francis Mogg, and Paul did a good oil painting. TV and knitting in evening, and Michael rang up to say that a card had come to say Andrew must go into Bristol Children's Hospital on Monday for a couple of days' observation. We

haven't told Andrew yet – although he knows he is going sometime. The Prime Minister has announced that the election is to be in the autumn.

Fri 10 April:

Got up late again, packed and went shopping. We caught the 12.8 at Par and Michael joined us at Bristol. It was nice to be home, but on the other hand the holiday has seemed much too short. Watched TV in evening.

Sat 11 April:

Michael managed to buy a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Voigtlander camera like mine, and gave it to Paul, in advance for his birthday. I had a lot of washing to do, and shopping, then met Michael at 11 and we had elevenses together. After lunch I gardened all the afternoon. Michael had to go back into town, Paul did a little gardening then played with Andrew. Finally, while Paul went to the stamp shop, Andrew cut the lawn edge after Michael had mown it. Tea, then Paul went to the pictures with a friend and we watched TV. I washed my hair.

Sun 12 April:

Read some of the Advices on Ministry at Meeting today (which was rather a small one) and as a result (?) no one spoke at all. It was a rather drizzly day so I wasn't able to do any more gardening. We wrote letters, then watched TV.

Michael is still far from fit, and we haven't yet told Andrew that his hospital appointment is tomorrow, as we feel he will sleep better and be less likely to get asthma. It is, however, on his mind. Andrew didn't go to church today. Meeting Point was very good (Loneliness) and so also was About Religion (a play on George Fox called "Don't call me mister" by Jack Shepherd.)

Mon 13 April:

When I told Andrew that "today was the day" he seemed pleased. I think he felt glad that the ordeal of waiting was over. He had a haircut soon after breakfast then played with Paul while I did housework, ironing and shopping. Directly after lunch Andrew and I set off for Bristol leaving Paul to cook the supper if I wasn't back in time. When we arrived at the Children's Hospital, however, we had a disappointment. Mr Ashton-Miller was away this week, and a notice postponing Andrew's visit until next week had been delayed in the post. It was very disappointing but we decided to make the most of a bad job and devoured a pkt of Toffoluxe and visited Christmas Steps where Andrew bought 2 comics he wanted. Arrived home about 5. In the evening Michael went to Dr Cooper (all peaceful, he said, so no move) then we went to a meeting of the Admiralty Camera Club. We were warmly welcomed but unfortunately it was a practical evening and not a talk so as we hadn't our cameras we left after about an hour

and went and had a drink of wine at the Grosvenor, continuing home about 9 and walking up the hill with Laurence. It was very nice to go out and meet people of an evening for a change.

Tues 14 April:

Paul went back to school today. I did housework and washing, then finding that the electrician who was expected was not coming until the afternoon, I went shopping, and Andrew went to play with Angus. After lunch I did some ironing and then some gardening and the electrician finally turned up about 4.30! I was glad I had a cold supper as he came to mend a hot plate on the stove. We listened to the Budget on TV but there's nothing very startling. Cigarettes beer and alcohol are up in price, Not much else. TV and mending in evening.

Weds 15 April:

Did house, washing and ironing, then shopping and met Granny Bridges at 12.20 who took Andrew and I out to lunch. It was very wet, so practically straight home afterwards, and watched TV in the evening and knitted. I rang Barbara Stone today, and as a result of recent meetings we both feel that the Wrtie Circle will have to disband. We should like to joint Keynsham and Barbara is going to ask Yola Snelling over for lunch on Tuesday. (Yola S wrote me today a very friendly letter.) I was also in touch with Miriam Wells, and with Aase, who is coming here Friday morning.

Thurs 16 April:

House and washing, then I planted a few seeds in the garden as the ground was wet and weather mild. Wrote my mother, then had an early lunch and went to WVS taking a few flowers for one of the people there. Left a little early to do some shopping before going home, After supper I did some mending and knitting and we watched TV which was quite good. The first live TV from Japan was televised by means of satellite. It was pretty good – better than the first pictures from Europe.

Fri 17 April:

Usual housework, then hurried into Widcombe to do some shopping before preparing coffee for Aase and family at 10.30. Had a pleasant chat with them until about 12 or so. After they had gone, I had lunch, did the ironing and then started on the north border that needs clearing of bindweed. This entailed some ruthless work with a rambler rose. I don't know if it was more damaging to it, or it to me. I then tried to burn up the rubbish, but it's a funny thing about me and fires. They either go so madly they look as though they're going to burn the house as well, or never get going at all. I had ideal conditions today, but after coaxing it along and relighting about 4 times I had to give up and cook the

tea. Made a new cheese recipe which wasn't too bad at all. Knitted and watched TV. Michael wasn't too good today.

Sat 18 April:

Went down town with Andrew (Michael had a very jaundiced outlook) After lunch for which I made a chicken and ham souffle (budget style) which was rather successful, Paul and I did gardening, Michael went into town, and Andrew had to go up to Little Solsbury for his history homework! We watched TV in evening and also tried to make a Bon Voyage card for Thea and Granny. The play on BBC TV was very good and we noticed that Michael's cousin was script editor.

Sun 19 April:

Went to Meeting and although a couple of people spoke – one very well, I thought it was a very shallow, poor meeting and not very well attended. After lunch when we made a Bon Voyage card for Granny and Thea (scrapping yesterday's effort), I wrote a PC for the Circle, went to post, then knitted and watched TV for the rest of the day. Granny and Thea called about 5 and left the car in our spare garage. Michael has a spasmodic pain in his forearm.

Mon 20 April:

House work, washing and shopping, then directly after an early lunch Andrew and I caught a 134 bus to Bristol as it was the day for him to go into the Children's Hospital for his examination under anaesthetic. He didn't seem very worried about it. When we reached Bristol we were early so we killed time by walking round the one or two shops in the area. It was wet and blowy, and though, so we finally went to the Hospital at least a quarter of an hour early. By the time I came out it was nearly 5.30 and I had been there over 2 hours! Never have I known it take so long to admit anyone to hospital! I just caught a bus back to Bath, posted a PC of the Beatles to Andrew and reached home at 6.45. Fortunately I had prepared the meal and Paul had made the soup and tea. Mr Ford and Michael washed up and all was well. The TV was all at sixes and sevens because of a major power cut in London so later I had a lovely bath and then felt much more myself.

Tues 21 April:

Did house, ironing and shopping then hurried back to ring the Hospital at 12 and learnt that Andrew hadn't had his operation, and that he is to have an X-ray on Thursday. Michael visited him in the afternoon and when I telephoned in the evening he was allowed to speak to me on the 'phone. Went to Barbara Stone's for lunch and Yola Snelling came too. We had a very pleasant natter about our Writer Circles and writing matters in general. On the way home I bought a new

shade for Andrew's bedroom and a casual shirt for Paul During the evening (there were only Michael Paul and I for supper) we watched TV and I wrote a proposal and questionnaire for the Circle. Paul went to the Philatelic Society.

Weds 22 April:

It was a very rushed morning as I wanted to do some washing, do quite a lot of shopping, write my mother, have lunch and be on a bus to Bristol by 1. Things went pretty smoothly, however, and I did all I intended and was with Andrew by 2. Stayed until 3.15. The staff nurse said he could go home tomorrow after the X-ray, so I said I'd come between 1 & 2. Came home, and typed out the suggestion and questionnaire for Mrs Wright to consider. There were only Paul Michael and I again for supper and Tony Reynolds brought Michael home so stayed for a small sherry, and we were a little late in eating. Tony kindly says he will take us to a country dance soon. Washed my hair later.

Thurs 23 April:

It was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's birth today, so after doing the house and ironing I bought a set of Shakespeare stamps at Paul's bidding, then went out to Aase for coffee, and discussed possible alterations to her kitchen. Went on from there to Bristol to fetch Andrew from hospital, and suddenly remembered I'd forgotten his coat. There was a cold wind, so I went to the shops and bought a plastic mac and a new grey pullover (to wear over the one I'd brought.) Reached the hospital just before 2 and we were soon back in Bath. (I had my lunch at 3.20!) After supper (all 6 of us tonight) I went to Writer Circle – there were precisely 5 of us members and even one of those had to go early! It was pretty shameful when we had such a good speaker as Philip Bryant. Fortunately, however, we also had 4 visitors and they saved the day. Michael had his Xray at the Manor Hospital this morning. It was strange that Andrew had his this morning too.

Fri 24 April:

Washing and shopping, then after lunch I planted out 3 dozen plants I had bought this morning. It was a lovely afternoon and I should have loved to have stayed out, but felt I should do the press report of last night's Circle meeting, and posted it. We had a new concoction I made up for supper – tuna in an asparagus sauce as the basis for a flan. I liked it and even Michael ate his supper tonight. (He has been refusing most if not all his evening meals lately then eating bread later.) After supper I made a packed meal for Mr Messer, for tomorrow, and ironed two pairs of curtains I had washed while Michael mowed

the lawn. Then we watched TV. The Defenders was pretty good, and Hugh And I very funny.

Sat 25 April:

Michael and I met in town for a while this morning and had pleasant time. I also bought some window boxes (partly Christmas tokens) for the lounge window, and some plants etc. After lunch I planted the window boxes but could do very little other gardening as it began to rain. Michael changed his Voigtlander camera for a Pentax again. (It is a different Pentax) and he seems pleased about it. Knitted and watched TV in the evening. Mr Messer went to the Schoolboys' International football at Wembley. Andrew watched it on TV but Paul was busy making a fixture for blacking out the laundry for a dark room.

Sun 26 April:

Michael has seemed better yesterday and today, but he has taken things easily which is probably wise. Went to Meeting, then after lunch Paul and I continued work on the north border. It is slow, hard work but we made some headway. Andrew had some homework to do, which was unfortunate as it was a nice sunny afternoon. In the evening we watched TV which was quite good. Knitting.

Mon 27 April:

Mr Ford has ear-ache today, but the weather was almost like summer. Did the house and washing, then went shopping. After lunch I did a little gardening as it was so lovely, then came in and did the ironing. Cooked some cakes and also did some mending. In the evening, did little more mending and watched TV which was interesting. Andrew is rather withdrawn today and says he has a slight sore throat this evening.

Tues 28 April:

After doing the housework I decided to try changing the bedroom round a bit, and moved the bed onto the west wall. Went shopping about 10.45 and decided to buy a new showerproof coat which I found practically immediately at Marks & Spencers. I'm very pleased with it, especially as it was pretty reasonable at £4.17.6. After an early lunch, (and taking a couple of photos of the cat!) I was just starting ironing when Michael came back unexpectedly saying he'd taken half a day's leave. He wanted to change his camera again, and this he did, then we met at the Octagon and heard a free demonstration of some Compton organs. He took me to Fuller's for a cup of china tea, then we went home. I washed my hair and did mending, also shortened the sleeves of my new coat. TV wasn't very good, except for La Traviata which we only watched for a short time.

Weds 29 April:

There was a cold wind again today – the weather is very tricky. After doing housework and washing, I wrote my mother and after lunch went shopping. Back about 3.45 and did a little gardening. The electrician came and returned my cooker clock and put a new ring on it. Watched TV in evening. There was an excellent play “The Life of Galileo” but it started so late and felt so sleepy I only saw the first half.

Thurs 30 April:

A fairly pleasant day, though still rather chilly. Housework and ironing, then sopped in Widcombe and did some gardening. After lunch I went to the library and onto WVS. The people there who live in flats seem pathetically delighted with any flowers the rest of us may bring for them. After tea, mended and watched TV. Paul and Andrew still very keen on football.

Fri 1 May:

Another sunny day, but it was still not very warm. Paul had a day off and went with some friends up to Bathampton Rocks, not returning until about 7. Did some washing including the curtains in Mr Ford's room, went shopping, and did a little gardening. After lunch I had a short rest, then ironed and rehung the curtains, made some cakes etc and supper. Knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Sat 2 May:

Michael went back to see Dr Pugh this morning and it seems that the Xrays show he has a slight hernia somewhere. We don't know quite what to think about this news as it seems difficult to believe that this could account for all Michael's symptoms, however he may be a lot better when it is put right and it is a relieved know that it is nothing serious wrong. I bought a long low 'coffee' table and a dressing table mirror from Padfields this morning (£2 and £3.10) which I thought reasonable for what they are. Also took Andrew to buy a racquet press and balls as he is keen to play tennis. After lunch, as it was too wet to garden I decided to have a long read in bed (while the boys watch the Cup Final on TV) but directly I got to bed I fell asleep, and though we didn't have tea till 6 I read only a few pages. Knitted and watched awful TV in evening. Bath and bed.

Sun 3 May:

Went to Meeting and Prep meeting, leaving at 12.45 to be home in time for lunch when David came. Afterwards the boys went up in the park and David took Michael and I up to Claverton Down where we walked across to Bathampton Rocks and back, taking photos. Andrew didn't go to any choir sessions this

weekend and about 9 Mr Willis called to know if he was alright. I tried to explain about our feels that choir and homework meant that Andrew didn't get out enough at the w/e and we were concerned. Later when he had gone I discussed the matter further alone with Michael. I do not want to press the boys to go to anything they're not keen on, but on the other hand we've allowed Paul to miss church and now he does nothing. In certain conditions it wouldn't matter, but both Michael and I feel they should be in an atmosphere of worship once a week.

Mon 4 May:

A busy morning doing the house and washing, then going down town. After lunch I prepared some fish cakes for tomorrow and did some ironing and then leaving the oven to come on at 3.30 for the slow roasting of a joint, I took an overdue book down to the library that I had forgotten in the morning. I also took out two soccer books for the boys from the Children's library. On the way back I called in to see Mrs Bennell and took a small bunch of flowers from the garden. I was pleased to see she was up and better though her legs are very weak. The still have help and do not need me. In the evening Michael went to Dr Cooper who said that his hernia was in her opinion scarcely worth treating, but in any case she was sending him back to Dr Matthews. I feel pleased about this. Michael likes the mirror and low table I bought on Saturday and which were delivered today.

Tues 5 May:

Housework and ironing, then went shopping. The window cleaners came but as it was only a week or two since they came last I only had the outside done. After lunch I wrote my mother and when I had posted it, did a little gardening for about half an hour. Made a tomato souffle and some ginger crunchies. Mended, knitted and watched TV in the evening. Andrew and some friends are planning to have a skiffle group. Andrew is going to play on his African drum. Michael is very quiet and unhappy.

Weds 6 May:

Hurried with the housework and washing, then went to the Library and did a little shopping before catching the bus to Cranhill Rd to meet Miss Stone at 10 past 11. She drove me out to Mrs Snelling's at Willsbridge where we had lunch and then went on to Mrs Maynard's houseboat off a lane on the Bristol side of Keynsham – Mrs Godwin came as well and read a MS of hers. It was all most enjoyable. We left about 3.30 and I was home about 4. Cut out some Guardian articles to send to Mrs Snelling, then made the tea. In the evening Michael fell asleep for 2½ hours from 20 to 7.

Thurs 7 May:

Hurried through the housework and ironing this morning as had to record my vote before doing some shopping and meeting the boys for the dentist at 10.30. We all had a clean "bill of health". The boys went back to school, and I finished shopping. Home for lunch, picked some flowers and took them to WVS for the usual mending afternoon. Old "Mona" as I call her, was there but it was pleasant otherwise. After tea – knitted and watched TV. I have voted for the Liberal, Tom Brailsford. I expect Michael has voted for Mr Polson the Conservative councillor to remain in office.

Fri 8 May:

(Mr Polson has won the election in Widcombe, but the Liberal was not far behind.) After housework and washing, I went shopping and in the afternoon, put some netting up for the sweet peas, and some more round the strawberries to keep Anna off. Then did some cake-making etc and about 4 Thea came and had a cup of tea. In the evening we viewed some transparencies of Michael's, I made some sandwiches for Mr Messer tomorrow and watched TV, mended and knitted etc. To bed latish (about 11.15)

Sat 9 May:

Just as Michael was leaving for town this morning Dr Cooper rang to say Dr Matthews would see him at 10.15. Dr M was very nice and explained very fully about Michael's hernia. He doesn't recommend an operation but is going to see Michael again on Thursday and Michael feel very pleased that "something is at last being done for him". I, too, feel so relieved. I went down town – back and did a little gardening before lunch. Afterwards, I helped Paul try to get a bonfire going, then went to Friends' Monthly meeting which was in Bath. In a report on a conference at Swanwick, it seems that a large proportion of Friends agree with the Cyprus "peace force" as I do, as a step towards peace. Policing is necessary at this stage, but we must look forward to time when it is not necessary. Washed my hair in the evening. TV etc.

Sun 10 May:

Went to Meeting and afterwards talked to Brenda Forbes. She is wanting to have a one day conference on children's meetings but no one is very enthusiastic. I said I was. After lunch I prepared tea then we all took photos in the garden as it was nice and sunny. At about 20 to 5 Granny Thea and Auntie Via came to tea. Afterwards we look at some of Michael's transparencies. Thea left early. The others went about 6.30 and we watched TV. On "About religion"

they were discussing Dr Heenan's recent advice against "the pill" (form of contraception). Talk about splitting hairs! I really cannot accept Roman Catholic ideas. In spite of the hopeless dogmas, however, I do admire many Catholic people.

Mon 11 May:

House, washing, some ironing and shopping then after a quick lunch and having laid tea, Andrew and I went to Bristol. I bought some supper plates and 3 soup bowls a John Lewis, and we arrived at the Children's Hospital at 3.30. The younger of the two other children waiting there was not seen by the doctor until 4.20, and having been told, I suppose, that his Mummy was going to leave him there, was in floods of tears. We didn't see the doctor until nearly 5, and by the time we'd gone to the Ward and they'd found some pyjamas to fit Andrew it was 5.30 before I left and practically 7 by the time I got home. Michael had had a grim day too. We watched TV. Paul had his GCE French dictation. Mr Messer has gone to Wales for an interview. Mr Ford was out as he had a golf match and meal.

Tues 12 May:

Michael woke about 4 in spite of 2 sleeping pills so we had morning tea about 5.20. It gave us longer to read anyway, which was nice. Had so much ironing to do that it was 11.30 before I finished. Began typing a letter to my mother but at 12.10 I decided to ring and find out how Andrew was. I discovered the phone was out of order, and so had to go to the phone box. Andrew was asleep after his 'operation' and quite alright. The phone cable was being repaired the engineer assured me. Went shopping, then home about 20 to 2 for lunch. Finished writing my mother and went to post, then started on 2 sets of Minutes for Writer Circle. After tea I did some mending and shortened a new pair of trousers for Andrew. My mother rang to know how Andrew was.

Weds 13 May:

Went shopping early and then did various jobs before ringing the hospital at 10 to 12 to ask about Andrew. They said they wanted to keep him in a day or two more as they had found some slight abnormality which they had tried to put right and wanted to see if he was better. I therefore had a hasty lunch and went over to see him. He seemed quite happy and was interested in his photos I collected and took over. In the evening Michael and I went with Mr Ford to see Mr Lee's cottage which was very nice. We stayed till a little after 9. Bed just before 11.

Thurs 14 May:

Did the washing very early and also took one or two photos to finish up a film, then went shopping and also booked for us all to go to the Wye Valley on Monday. When I rang the hospital they said Andrew couldn't come out today, so after lunch I picked a couple of bunches of flowers and went to WVS, getting Michael a couple of books from the Library on the way. Michael went to Dr Matthews again today. In the evening I went to Writer Circle there were only 6 of us, and we did an exercise using pictures one or two members brought.

Fri 15 May:

It is lovely to think that the Whit w/e is here! And it was a lovely sunny day too! Mr Messer has gone home for a week, and Paul and Andrew have a week's holiday too. I did some ironing, then went shopping. When I came home, I phoned the hospital and still they didn't know if Andrew could come out, so I took his clothes on the off-chance. Granny Bridges invited me out to lunch and then I caught the bus to Bristol. Andrew was in the garden when I arrived. We hoped all would be well, but unfortunately we were told he couldn't leave, but he would probably be permitted to go home tomorrow. Michael went to Dr Cooper's straight from work, but the taxi due to fetch him didn't turn up. Mr and Mrs Davis called with a stamp package for Paul. Watched TV mended and knitted.

Sat 16 May:

Michael and I went down town pretty early. We bought Paul a pair of polaroid sunglasses then did other shopping returning home about 11.45. Rang the hospital and heard that Andrew could go home, so went over directly after lunch. (He was not allowed to come on his own.) We got back about a quarter to 5. Paul had fetched our photos. Some of mine are quite successful – others a complete washout. Watched TV and read in evening, also washed my hair etc.

Sun 17 May:

Went to Meeting where several people spoke. It was a simply perfect Whit-Sunday. It would have been nice to go for a picnic but none of the family wanted to go, so Paul and I had a bonfire and Andrew went down to a newsagent to get some 'comics' and Michael rested. (He obviously felt pretty depressed today.) We watched TV in the evening. Andrew went to church twice as usual. I prepared our lunches for tomorrow's coach trip.

Mon 18 May:

Whit-Monday, and the four of us went by coach to the Wye Valley. Michael didn't really want to go when it came to the point but we hoped he would feel more like it when we were off. Granny Bridges came to see us off and brought

us a carrier of things. It was so kind and thoughtful but as we'd brought plenty ourselves and had some extras at Toss and Tintern, we ate Granny's things when we reached home. We took some photos at Gloucester and Ross but very few at Tintern as it was overcast and the place very crowded. We couldn't stop at Symond's Yat and Chepstow as there was nowhere to park. The roads were busy on the way home and a bit of a jam outside Gloucester.

Tues 19 May:

There was quite a bit of housework and washing to do, but this and the shopping were over by 12, and we then prepared and had lunch. Paul expected his friend but he didn't turn up. Andrew went to David Easton's and borrowed a book to copy up work done while he was in hospital. The rest of the day they played games. I wrote up the Writer Circle minutes and sent off the Press notice then polished up 4 poems and submitted them to Child Education. Spent the rest of the afternoon gardening. Knitted in the evening and have now knitted and sewn together 56 squares of the blanket for the WVS. TV was fair.

Weds 20 May:\*

A nice letter from Bobby this morning and she sounds fine. The ironing took me over two hours to do, then I went shopping. After lunch I typed a letter to my mother and Andrew added a small note, then Paul did some school work, while Andrew and I caught a bus from the Abbey to Claverton Down and having looked at the new houses in Flatwoods (now called Chedworth Close) we walked along combe Down, across the field behind Rainbow Woods and down into Widcombe (Ralph Allen's Drive) and up Rosemount. Anna enjoyed it, and Andrew and I took some photos. I met a Mrs Brown whom I knew and who now has two boys. She told the Neales are leaving High Beeches and going to Australia. Knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Thurs 21 May:\*

I suggested to the boys at breakfast table that it would be better if they answered their father clearly and sensibly and weren't so afraid of him, then I wouldn't have to keep chipping in with an explanation of the truth. I handled it badly. Michael was explosive and the boys upset. I apologised to them afterwards for being such a poor example to them. Paul and Andrew played, the Paul went to Granny Bridges for the day to help paint a wall of her attic. I did housework washing and shopping, then after lunch Andrew and I went to Bradford on Avon by bus. The idea was to take photos but it poured so we looked at two churches and went in one or two shops. Back by 4.20. After supper, mended knitted and watched TV. Michael had Mr Blackmore up about the bathroom radiator he still reckons is giving trouble.

Fri 22 May:\*

I am not pleased with the way my hair was but yesterday. I am left with a lot of unmanageable wisps as they will cut the top hair shorter than the underneath. Put some pictures up when I did the housework – they have been waiting for months and months. Went shopping and Miss Bennell gave me a lift. Home about 12 and had lunch. A short rest then did a lot of cooking followed by the ironing. Washed my hair in the evening and we watched TV. There was a film of a matador being very badly gored by a bull and I cannot get it out of my mind. How can people tolerate such 'sport'?

Sat 23 May:\*<sup>3</sup>

My hair was so wispy I finally persuaded a hairdresser in town to re-trim my hair, but with little improvement, and I regretfully decided that I should have to have another perm; so I booked it in Widcombe for Monday and I do hope it's successful! Went to the Art Gallery to see the Exhibition of Bath Artists. I liked a picture of Orange Grove by Ann Newsom. I also like the work of Sheila Walker and Paul's master, Peter Coard. Michael and I went to a few shops then home. In the afternoon I wrote a couple of letters and worked on a story I started last autumn, continuing with it after high tea. The others watched TV. I received a letter in the evening (by hand) to say that the three Keynsham people can't come on Tuesday after all. It is very disappointing.

Sun 24 May:

Went to Meeting. Wrote for a while in the afternoon then knitted and watched TV the rest of the day. Andrew went to church twice as usual. Paul helped me (and Andrew) and read two chapters of a book I gave him instead of going to church or watching the religious programmes. I am not happy about this arrangement.

Mon 25 May:

A rather busy day with house washing and shopping in the morning, and had my hair permed in the afternoon. After tea I went up to Phyl Batten's for a discussion evening. It was quite good. Funny how on some occasions one would die to be able to think of something to talk about, and on others one has a job not to 'hog the floor'. This was certainly a latter occasion! We talked about teenage worship, dealing with aggression in young children, the World Council of Churches and credal statements etc. Agnes Woolf gave me a lift home.

Tues 26 May:

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<sup>3</sup> \*For some reason, Mum dated these four asterisked dates as being March, not May. Almost certainly just a glitch.

Did quite a bit of housework and ironing and at about 11 Miss Stone came. We had coffee and listened to Morning Story, then we talked about writing matters. Mrs Mawson joined us and after lunch we read MSS. They left at 2.30 so I did some gardening. In the evening, did mending laughed at Thora Hird on TV and tried to re-write part of a carol that Child Education have asked me to alter. (They have accepted two other poems.)

Weds 27 May:

Did house, ironing and shopping, then met Michael at Colmer's at 11.45 and we went there for lunch, he having been to Dr Matthews earlier. Afterwards he caught a train to Bristol and I went home. I wrote my mother and re-wrote the last verse of the carol for Child Education, then having been to post I did a little gardening. After tea I did mending etc also half did a poser in the Reader's Digest. Michael seems very despondent these days and it's difficult to cheer him. The weather is hot and humid, usually showery. Paul is revising hard for his GCE. Andrew's nose is rather troublesome but up till now he's avoided asthma.

Thurs 28 May:

Mr Ford had to go to Mrs Colmer's funeral this morning. I had house and washing to do, then I wrote some letters and a children's verse and sent two off. Went to the library and did a little shopping then to WVS for usual 'working party'. I'm sure I'm the 'baby' as I learn today that all of them are either over, or approaching, 80! In the evening to Writer Circle. Only 4 of us but we had a good evening writing for a magazine – and between us we must have brought about 20 to choose from.

Fri 29 May:

Did the house and ironing, then wrote a letter and listened to the Morning Story as I'm making a short study of this market, went out shopping. In the afternoon I did some writing and started getting tea early so that I could make some cakes - at the same time. Michael went to Dr Cooper. Granny Bridges called and brought quite a number of gifts, but she couldn't stay. Knitted in evening and planted one or two things Granny had brought.

Sat 30 May:

Michael and I went down town and did some shopping. It started to rain which was annoying as we had planned to go back and mow the lawn. After lunch I read for a while then Michael mowed the grass, the boys tried to remove the long stalks and I spruced up the narrow border between the lawn and the path and dug up the bottom border where I have had some wallflowers. Tea was at 5.30

then we watched mediocre TV and I knitted. I feel rather depressed today. Michael isn't himself at all and his life is one long escape from facts.

Sun 31 May:

Went to Meeting. In the afternoon I thought it would be nice to go out somewhere, but the thunder storms we had had during the night came back after lunch, so I decided to read, and that means, of course, that I dropped off to sleep half the time! Watched TV and knitted during the evening. Not a very satisfying weekend on the whole.

Mon 1 June:

Another very stormy day. The gas bill for the quarter came too. It was £41 odd. I felt very cross about it, especially as it has been a mild winter and the bathroom has been heated by electricity. Somehow I feel sure that anyone on our salary should not be spending so much on fuel. I have £60 in the Savings bank, but £33 is due for rates the end of the month and an electricity bill comes in soon too. I have told Michael how I feel but he is not concerned. Did the housework, washing and shopping then wrote in the afternoon. I am working on an article. Knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Tues 2 June:

Andrew's birthday. He had a nice lot of presents – mostly money, but he is going to have some friends in on Saturday so we didn't really celebrate much today. After doing the house, I did the ironing and had the wireless on so that I could study the Morning Story. At about 11.15 I had finished and so wrote my mother. After lunch I worked on the article I am writing and later went to post. In the evening we had fairly good TV. Knitted (have now done 63 squares towards 'my' blanket) Averaging 2 a week I should finish in October. Child Education have accepted the carol they asked me to alter.

Weds 3 June:

After the usual work I finished the article I have been writing and sent it off to Nursery World. If there had been more time it would have been good to have revised it further, but as it is about school summer holidays I felt I must get it off at once. Had the two poems sent to Stepping Stones rejected today. When I'd had lunch I went shopping and drew out the money from the Trustee Savings Bank to pay the gas bill. The town is looking quite nice in preparation for the Festival which is officially opened tomorrow. Returned about 4. Knitted in the evening. The TV was deadly – crime and weak comedy.

Thurs 4 June:

Had an unresistable [sic] desire to plan our house in flats! Of course there was the work and washing to do so I didn't get far, but later in the morning it occurred to me, while thinking about possibilities in the lounge, that it would be a good idea to alter it. Consequently I moved nearly everything and sealed the unsealed parts of the floor. Went to Library and WVS where we had to make pillow cases as some families had been burnt out and there were not enough for them. In the evening I went to the Guide Service in the Abbey and watched TV etc afterwards. Michael doesn't dislike the arrangement of the lounge. The boys had the afternoon off from school as there was a teachers meeting.

Fri 5 June:

House and ironing etc then shopping. Came back and did a big 'cook' for Andrew's tea tomorrow and weekend in general. Did a little gardening after a very late lunch, but it rained so came in and read for half an hour while airing the washing by the electric fire (the central heating now not being on) After supper I knitted. TV wasn't too bad – 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day so this was re-enacted. I stayed up late to see a programme at 10.45 called Outline. This was very interesting - being about the present exhibition of baths in Bath, a Mr Lethbridge's experiments with a pendulum and ghost experience, and a discussion on the small bookseller's future in which I found Miss Searight taking part.

Sat 6 June:

A very wet miserable day. Michael went to Dr Matthews again. I did some shopping and after lunch prepared tea for Andrew and his friends who were coming for the afternoon. Paul and I fixed up the dart board in the laundry as they wouldn't be able to play football as planned, but in the end they borrowed Paul's record player. They had tea at 4.30 then came in to watch TV while I made high tea for Paul Michael and myself (Mr Messer and Mr Ford being out). When I came to clear away the boys' tea I found they had been so full up after the egg sandwiches, strawberry sponge flan, chocolate biscuits, pineapple custard tart etc that they hadn't even cut the birthday cake! In the evening – knitted and watch TV which was awful. There was an ancient film story based on gangster life, a dreadful 'funny' called Stanley Baxter on sex, and a second rate variety show from Paris. To top it all we had a first-rate documentary of Eisenhower's memories of D-Day – but it was so grim and noisy. It's good that we should be reminded of these things but after cheap sex, and cheap Chicago killing, the sight of more bodies really was rather much!

Sun 7 June:

Went to Meeting as usual and stayed for preparatory meeting. On the way home I sopped twice to shelter from heavy rain, but in spite of having an umbrella I was so wet I decided to press on home and with the paths like rivers I reached the house positively squelching in my shoes! Mr Ford was out so there were only the four of us for lunch. Watched TV and knitted in afternoon – I also did about half an hour's writing. After tea Granny, Thea and Auntie Kitty came for a short while. When they had gone we watched TV again and knitted. Andrew went to church twice. Paul did quite a bit of revision. Michael photographed some of Paul's stamps.

Mon 8 June:

Housework and washing, also sent a 'letter' off to Woman's Realm. Went shopping and saw a Mosaic exhibition by a Sylvia Spencer at Jolly's. It's quite an exciting craft. After lunch I worked in the garden all the afternoon. Andrew and I had tea a little early so that we could get to the doctor's. He was prescribed a nasal spray for his nose, as he has quite a bit of hay fever. While collecting it at the chemist's I happened to weigh and found I was 11 stone. I was horrified and immediately bought some Energen rolls! Home to watch TV and knit. Paul had a GCE practical chemistry exam today and doesn't think he's done very well.

Tues 9 June:

Did housework, then wrote Thea and went to Colmers to meet Granny and Auntie Kitty for lunch. They were both very sweet and kind. When I'd done the shopping I went back home and having finished writing to Thea and a PC to Phyllis Batten, did the ironing which took the best part of two hours. When tea was over we watched TV and I knitted, then I washed my hair. Michael must be feeling very rotten – he is very niggly and insulting, even in front of Mr Ford and Mr Messer.

Weds 10 June:

It was a nice sunny day today. After the housework, I wrote my mother, Bobby and my handicapped boy (Robert), then listened to the Morning Story and went shopping. After a late lunch I gardened until tea-time. Michael went to Dr Cooper for an injection after tea and I gardened all the evening which was a pleasant change from TV. Michael mowed the lawn and had a talk with Mr Glissom.

Thurs 11 June:

Having done the housework and washing I spent the rest of the morning gardening as it was a pleasant day. Had lunch about 12.30 and afterwards went

to the library and on to WVS as usual. Nearly all of us were put on to a quilt. I had cotton squares to sew by hand for the lining, and these were not too bad, but the quilt itself was of woollen pieces sewn together by overlapping, and thus leaving a raw edge on both the wrong and right side. We didn't like this idea and felt our work of little worth, but we had a laugh about it. After tea I went to Writer Circle. There were only 3 and later 4 of us there which was most disappointing. Later a Mrs Lord of the College came and asked us to buy a magazine just brought out by the students, and she said some of them might like to join us in the autumn. Miss Stone kindly took Mrs Miles and myself home.

Fri 12 June:

Did the house and ironing and then had a lot of shopping to do. I didn't get home until 1. Had a fairly swift lunch, then cooked for the weekend all the afternoon. We had fried eggs and broad beans in cheese sauce for tea. It was a good job I had bought some luncheon meat to go with the others as the 2lbs of broad beans costing 2/8 went nowhere! Knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Sat 13 June:

Michael and I went down town in the morning and I bought a dog licence (a fortnight overdue). We also bought a plastic watering can – at least I bought the can and Michael bought a 10/6 attachment for treating the lawn. This attachment couldn't be fixed to our galvanised cans. I shall also like having a lighter can which I can fill under the tap in the kitchen. Mr Messer was sent for (after a late lunch, as he was in Trowbridge in the morning) to go to his father who is seriously ill again. Paul and I started to clear the north part near the house. I am planning a path through the middle of it to facilitate weeding. Paul had to work very hard with a grubber and fork. Michael poisoned a sycamore root in the wall and then treated the lawn with a hormone weedkiller. Andrew went in the morning to a friend out at Grosvenor and again in the afternoon. We watched TV and I knitted after high tea.

Sun 14 June:

Went to Meeting and read the last of the Advices on Ministry. I felt very nervous which was so foolish. Two or three people spoke – mainly on the political prisoners in S Africa and what we might do about it. I felt in unison with Mary Phillips who said that applying sanctions etc to the SA Gov would only make them more anxious and afraid in their difficulties, and therefore mean more suffering for the black population. After lunch and a little TV I gardened until 4.45, Andrew coming out after a while to help. Watched TV and knitted in the evening. We heard from Mr Messer that he wouldn't be returning tonight as his father is very critically ill. Paul has been revising all day.

Mon 15 June:

Paul was home during the morning and he sawed off some holly branches for me. I did the house and washing then did a little shopping before meeting Granny, John and Mary for lunch. Paul cooked his own lunch at home and went to school for his GCE Tech Drawing exam. Michael joined the others at Springfield Place for supper. I did more shopping after lunch then came home and gardened. I did some more gardening after supper then about 8.30 Michael John and Mary came and we had coffee. They left soon after 10. It was nice seeing them again but I felt a little sorry for Paul hearing all about the many pursuits Ian does at Haileybury. It is fortunate that Paul is not easily made envious.

Tues 16 June:

Did the housework then the ironing while listening to the wireless. Anutnie Marnie came about half past ten and brought me a present of 10 begonias. They were wonderfully strong ones. We had a cup of coffee then she left and when the ironing was done I wrote Mr Messer who had written to say his father had passed away and he wouldn't be back until Sunday, and also to my mother. Paul came home for lunch at 1.15. It was a lovely afternoon so he burnt some rubbish and I gardened. TV and knitting in the evening. We heard from Granny that Thea is only just out of hospital after having her tooth out and is in some pain and has a swollen jaw.

Weds 17 June:

Paul had a theoretical woodwork exam this morning and I did the housework and shopping, then some writing. He came home for lunch, and afterwards I did a little more writing, then played some pencil games with him. After tea we watched TV etc. Michael went to the Francis Hotel from work to enquire about some clerical posts at Westinghouse and returned about 7.45. It was chilly and showery today.

Thurs 18 June:

Did the house and washing then wrote a letter, did some writing and prepared lunch for Paul (who was free of exams and home all day) and myself. Afterwards I had to leave promptly in order to get to some shops before they closed for early closing. Went to the new reference library and read magazines for half an hour then on to the library and to WVS for the afternoon. It was very pleasant. Mr Ford played darts with Paul. TV and knitting in the evening.

Fri 19 June:

Paul had a practical woodwork exam this morning and didn't find it too bad. I did house, ironing and shopping and after lunch, for which Paul returned, I cooked all the afternoon in preparation for the weekend and a contribution towards

tomorrow's garden party. It was nice this morning but miserable this afternoon and evening. Started a baby's shawl with the WVS wool. I mustn't do too much of it as have to finish the blanket, but the method is an experiment and I want to see how it will work out.

Sat 20 June:

We had an early breakfast for a Saturday as Andrew was off on his outing to Swanage with the choir. Michael had an appointment with Dr Matthews. Paul and I had a bonfire. Mr Ford was out for lunch so there were only three of us. Afterwards I did some knitting and soon after three Michael and I went to the Friends' Garden party at the Roseries Rush Hill. It was a lovely place and the children there obviously enjoyed themselves, but Michael and I find such affairs rather a strain. After tea and talking with several people we left and walked from the bus stop in Bloomfield Rd along Greenway Lane home. Paul had taken the dog out and revised and listened to the Test Match. In the evening we watched pretty awful TV and I knitted. Andrew returned at 10.40!

Sun 21 June:

Andrew went to church as usual and I to Meeting after which I spoke to Pam Eames and had a lift to Prior Park Rd by Raymond Batten. Mr Ford was out for lunch. Afterwards Mummy rang and said she could come and stay for a couple of nights on Tuesday so that will be lovely. Knitted and washed my hair, and saw rather mixed TV – a good gardening film on clematis plants and another on work of Salvationists and RC nuns. Andrew had a very great deal of nasal congestion today so he didn't get to church in the evening but had a bath to bed earlyish. Paul has been revising.

Mon 22 June:

I kept Andrew home today as his nose was still very congested and he stayed in bed and typed stories. I did the house and washing, followed by shipping, then Paul came back from school having taken his GCE English and we had lunch. In the afternoon I gardened and spent the evening mending and knitting etc. I have decided to unpick part of the blanket and make two for babies out of it. I have knitted enough squares for these as only need 72 in all. When these are sewn up and finished off I can continue with the circular babies blanket I've just started. Mir Messer is back with us now.

Tues 23 June:

A pretty busy morning as there was Andrew's room to clean thoroughly ready for Mummy and his things to be moved into Paul's room, also the usual changes of linen and housework. After this, two hours ironing and preparation toward

tonight's meal. Andrew was up today but still at home. We had an early lunch so that I could leave soon after 1.30 to do some shopping before meeting Mummy's train. We taxied home, and she and Andrew talked stamps while we had a cup of tea. After high tea at 5.45 we spent quite a long while looking at slides. I watched a TV programme on infant education at 9.25 while Mummy and Michael talked photography.

Weds 24 June:

Andrew went back to school today. Paul had another Physics and Art exam. Mummy and I went down town when I had done the housework and we had looked round the garden. We separated until 11 then had coffee and later lunch in town. About 3.30 we went to Auntie Marnie's for tea and had a taxi home at 4.15. After tea Mummy played darts with Paul and I read the paper as usual and wrote up the circle Minutes, wrote a letter and knitted.

Thurs 25 June:

After doing the house and washing etc Mummy and I went down town. She took me to Monk's coffee house for coffee and to Colmer's for lunch. She came with me to the Library afterwards but before I could get my books checked out she said she was off to the station now and by the time I got outside she was nearly out of sight. Feeling rather bad about this, I went to WVS, it seeming rather stupid to go chasing after her. At WVS there were relatively few of us and we worked on a baby's shawl. After tea I went to Writer's Circle. I expected practically no one but there were seven of us, which was really not bad.

Fri 26 June:

After doing the house and ironing, I altered and re-typed the article I read at Writer's Circle last night and sent it off to the Guardian, and some verses to the Sunday School Chronical. When I had had lunch I did the shopping and then, as it had been so hot and close out, I sat and looked at a magazine for half an hour or so before getting the tea. In the evening I unravelled some WVS knitting for wool. Paul helped me, then I knitted and watched mediocre TV. To bed late – 11.30.

Sat 27 June:

Paul and I went up to Granny Bridges after breakfast as she hasn't been well and there was some watering to do. Came back through the town and there were only the 4 of us for lunch as Mr Ford was out and Mr Messer had gone home. Watered our own garden etc in the afternoon and then finished the second of the two babies' blankets I have been making (instead of the one large blanket originally planned). After tea I continued with the third baby shawl which is

circular. TV was not my kind of entertainment at all. Andrew has been to a friend's house to form a 'beat' group. To start they played "Holy, holy, holy" and the National Anthem! I can't think of anything less suitable.

Sun 28 June:

Went to Meeting as usual. Mr Ford was out to lunch so there were just the four of us. It's lovely to be able to eat as much as I like on Sundays! So far I've been pretty good about dieting in the week and hope I'm losing a little weight. Wrote my mother, and spent the afternoon gardening. Knitted and watched TV in evening. There was an excellent documentary on fox-hunting (at about 10.45!). I dislike this very much.

Mon 29 June:

No exams for Paul so he was home all day today. After doing the house I did the washing and played darts with Paul simultaneously. Went shopping and when I reached home made the lunch. Read for a short while, then did a lot of watering and began the final clearing of the north border. After tea, did some knitting. TV – fair. I am thinking of working with the Bath Buildings Record if they'll have me.

Tues 30 June:

During the night I dreamt I joined a gardening club, so feeling this was a good idea I not only wrote to the Buildings Record group, but also found out about the Gardeners' Association from the Information Bureau and wrote to that. Paul had two French exams and I did house, ironing and shopping, also quite a lot of watering. After lunch Paul did some revising and I had an easy afternoon reading and later did about half an hour's gardening. Knitted in evening. TV – mixed.

Weds 1 July:

Did house and shopping followed by some watering for about half an hour. After lunch I cleaned the oven then rested and read. Obtained particulars of Forefield Villa (No 39) which is shortly to be auctioned. Spent quite while thinking about it but feel as it would be wrong to move again at the moment, it is too large a proposition. I may go into the question of possibly investing in a cottage or some cheaper property and will have to see whether I could afford it. Knitted and watched TV. I have heard from the Secretary of the Buildings Record group and been told about the meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We have also let our garage again.

Thurs 2 July:

Paul was home this morning. After the housework and washing we went down town and I made enquiries about a cottage at Batheaston. We had lunch at 12,

then I went out to see the cottage before going on to the Library and WVS. After tea and discussing the possibility of investing in the cottage, we had a phone call from Peter Hill who was staying at the Royal York Hotel. He came up about 9.30 and stayed for coffee and a chat for about 2 hours. We eventually got to bed about midnight. It was lovely seeing Peter again and hearing all his news.

Fri 3 July:

Slept only about 2 hours and was very tired this morning. Michael was tired too as he had to catch the 7.15 train. Paul had an exam in the morning and went to watch cricket on the Rec in the afternoon. I decided not to buy the Batheaston cottage because of its proximity to the London Rd, though I still think it would be an excellent investment. Did the ironing, rang the owner of the cottage, and went shopping. Had a rest after lunch, then did some extra cooking before making the evening meals. We played a new football game of Andrew's called Wembley but it is practically all "luck" and I didn't think much of it. Knitted and had an early bath.

Sat 4 July:

Michael and I collected the key of No 39 Lyncombe Hill so that after a little shopping we could go and see it. It was fantastic! An old Victorian house and grounds that couldn't have been touched for years and years and years! The grounds were such a jungle that we just couldn't penetrate the brambles and nettles and the house had no electricity, no modern amenities and all needed decorating re-glazing and roofing etc. We thought about possibilities, but it would need, besides money, more courage than we had! Paul and Andrew had an early lunch as Andrew went to Wells with his choir, and Paul went to the rec to watch Somerset play Lancashire. After lunch Michael and I went down into Widcombe and happened to see and buy a wardrobe (£10) set of 4 chairs (£4) and a tall mirror (£3), then we took some photos down by the river and further in the town. In the evening, one or two people enquired about my bicycle, but I couldn't sell it, even though the price was only £5. I've only put the advert in the paper for one night, so it looks as though that's 4/- down the drain! After a late supper I wrote my mother. Andrew returned very late.

Sun 5 July:

Went to Meeting and Prep meeting. After lunch I wrote some letters and examined most of the Guide Writer's Badge work. Did just a little gardening. Granny and Aunt Ursula came to tea. Andrew went to church twice as usual, and Paul collected a stamp package from the Davis's. There was an interesting

Indian on TV called Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He is very like the Indian leader of the Vedanta movement in Bath! They are far more advanced souls than even the highest of western churchmen in general, I feel sure. Knitted and watched TV – the rest was very mediocre.

Mon 6 July:

Paul, who was home today, there being no exams, helped me do a move around in my bedroom to make room for Michael's wardrobe. He then went to watch cricket and I went shopping. In the afternoon I did a number of household tasks besides the washing, and after tea the wardrobe arrived and some organisation went on. TV wasn't at all interesting. Did a fair amount of knitting. Michael pretty despondent and niggly.

Tues 7 July:

Paul had the morning off. I did housework and ironing and finished examining the Guides' Writer's Badge entries. We had an early lunch then he went to school to take the last of his GCE exams and I went shopping. Colmer's sale was still on and I bought a kitchen basin and a navy hat. In the afternoon I had a short rest then did some machining. The window cleaners came. In the evening I went down to Guide HQ to take the Writer's Badge. Lottie Young very kindly gave me coffee afterwards.

Weds 8 July:

We had some rain overnight which freshened the garden after a long dry spell. After doing the house, I went shopping getting back soon after 11. I had an early lunch, wrote away for some gardening catalogues and ordered seom plants, then spent the afternoon gardening. In the evening Michael went to Dr Copper,, had a taxi back and then we went out with Paul to his school for a meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> form parents. It was a helpful meeting but we got rather wet coming back. Michael packed tonight as he is going to Plymouth tomorrow afternoon. He isn't in a very good humour.

Thurs 9 July:

A pretty big wash day for a Thursday. After washing and ironing I gardened – moving my Alpine strawberries into the back garden. Had an early lunch, then went to the GPO and Library before going on to WVS. On the way home I met Mrs Miles. Michael went to Plymouth for the night ready for some Board work there tomorrow so it seemed queer to be watching the TV without him. Mended and knitted and went to bed about 10.45.

Fri 10 July:

After doing the house, I wrote my mother and went shopping. Spent a long lunch hour having a pleasant read. Did the ironing and some gardening, then prepared the tea and made some cakes. Afterwards the boys and I watched TV and I knitted. Michael came back shortly before 9.30. His Guest House was very good he says. The change seems to have been good for him. Andrew's exam results are coming in and he seems to be still doing very well. I am wondering now whether to invest in a caravan instead of a cottage and am trying to read what I can about the subject.

Sat 11 July:

Michael and I went down town and had coffee at Monk's Coffee House. When we reached home Andrew said a Mr Catford had rung up about accommodation with us, so I rang him back and found it was an answer to one of three replies I had made to advertisements. His daughter (17) would like to see Mr Messer's room on Tuesday evening. In the afternoon Michael and I went to the Vintage & Veteran Car rally on the Rec. Michael used a whole colour film. The boys didn't want to go and entertained themselves in other ways. After high tea Andrew and I did some gardening, then we watched TV and looked at some slides of Michael's. Knitted.

Sun 12 July:

Have a very good and interesting book on nutrition. These Americans recommend terrific amounts of protein and vitamins but I feel that if starches and animal fats are reduced, these huge quantities would not be needed. Michael has agreed to let me give him some Brewer's yeast tablets so I shall get some tomorrow, also VitC and biochemic Cal.Phos. – See if 'my' pills do any better than the doctors! Went to Meeting, read and slept in afternoon as it was wet. Knitted etc in evening. A pleasant discussion in ITV at 7pm. An enjoyable day.

Mon 13 July:

Felt much better for my restful day yesterday. After doing the house I went shopping, and having an early lunch I did the washing and some gardening – finishing the rough preparation of the new part at the end of the lawn. It was very hot and sunny. Michael began his pill-consuming today – I wonder if we shall have the patience to persevere and whether it will help him. Granny Bridges is back and rang. She rang again later to say David had called in. He is working as a coach driver during the holidays and begins at a school in Trowbridge in September.

Tues 14 July:

Did the housework and then went shopping. Came home and did the ironing then after lunch I called on Mrs Panter in Pulteney St and we were joined by a Mr Shaw and went to Sham Castle Lane to make plans and take photographs of a cottage that is going to be demolished called Oak Cottage. It was a very ramshackle affair. A Mrs and Mr Hodges joined us and he made an outside plan and as no one seemed to be doing so I endeavoured to sketch the inside, and Mrs Panter came and made measurements. I seem to be going to do the plans now. Mrs Panter said "I'm very pleased with you"!!! Walked home by the canal and after tea a Mr and Mrs Catford and their daughter came to see Mr Messer's room with a view to the daughter, Rosemary, coming on August 30<sup>th</sup>. I'm a little worried about it – she's the sort of person who really needs a nice family lodging, to be with the family, which we cannot offer. Also she wants to come on Aug 30<sup>th</sup> and Michael wants us to go away for a few days on the 31<sup>st</sup>! Added to this, she needs breakfast at a quarter to 7! TV was pretty light and nonsensical and I spent the time trying to think things out.

Weds 15 July:

St Swithin's day and a beautifully sunny one! Did the house, rung Granny Bridges about Rosemary Catford and she was very reassuring, feeling sure that Thea would help if she could, so I wrote a letter to Thea and posted it – but there is trouble with the postmen and a day's strike tomorrow. Already there are masses and masses of letters held up in London. When I got back from shopping, Michael rang me from Bristol to say they were all shocked to find that Mr Horwill had died during the night. He was so kind to Michael, but apart from the shock, it will mean a lot of extra work for quite a while and they have been overworked as it is (probably the cause of Mr Horwill's stroke.) Had a rest after lunch as I didn't sleep well last night, then cooked some cakes etc etc and a chicken for their tea. Gardened in the evening.

Thurs 16 July:

It was a beautifully sunny warm day today. Did the house and washing then wrote my mother and copied out some statistics from the book I am reading as I am continuing with the compiling of a book started some four or so years ago, but since left, on nutritional facts. I am most interested, but feel that food cannot be everything in the matter of health – nor even as important as modern American nutritionists make out. I'm sure these massive amounts of food are not necessary in normal circumstances – 75 to 100 gms of protein (equivalent of 16 eggs per day!!!) It is the proportion that counts surely, and starches could be cut and eaten in their natural form. Right thinking is as important as anything

else – yet it is easier to start from the nutritional point of view. Many more illnesses will be found like diabetes, that are at present undiagnosed or put down to mental illness etc etc. I hope there will be more research. Went to Library and to Mrs Panter for some record cards after lunch, then on to WVS. Did some gardening in the evening, and David called. Worked on the knitted cot blanket.

Fri 17 July:

Did the house and ironing. Granny Bridges sent me £5 to help with Paul's expenses in going to Luxemburg so I cashed it and plan to buy him a casual shirt etc. Went shopping, had an early lunch and then worked on my book of nutrition. After tea – did some watering, the cot blanket etc. Heard from Granny Bridges that Thea can come on 30<sup>th</sup> August so that's good. Andrew went to the induction service of the new vicar of Widcombe.

Sat 18 July:

Michael went to Mr Horwell's funeral this morning at Henleaze in Bristol. Paul and I went shopping and on to a meeting at the Technical School re the Luxemburg trip, then more shopping before hurrying home to get lunch. In the afternoon Andrew went to a friend and I went down town. We have bought Paul a casual shirt and trousers, two colour films and a pair of Acrilan trousers and 2 pairs of pants. Paul has also bought himself a white shirt and two prs pants and a pr socks with his clothing allowance. Michael was invited out to lunch so didn't come back until about 4. Tea at 5.30, then did watering, washed my hair – TV etc.

Sun 19 July:

Detected a little coolness with Mr Ford. I believe Michael upset him at breakfast yesterday (according to Andrew) I fear he may not stay now. Went to Meeting (and spoke very shortly). After lunch read and slept and in the evening Granny Bridges, David and family called. It was lovely seeing the family again. I helped Paul pack and did last minute mendings and pressings.

Mon 20 July:

Paul set off at 4.20 am. It was a nice fine day, and I hoped therefore that he had a good journey. Did the house and wrote two letters then went shopping. After lunch I tried to work out an itinerary for Andrew and I on Friday then did the washing. I had a little talk with Mrs Ford and was distressed to find that he is thinking of leaving after the holiday period. After supper I asked Michael if he was interested in a 5 day tour of N Wales with Roman City which is the exact time we want to go away (31<sup>st</sup> Aug), but he thought he preferred Plymouth, so I

wrote at once to the guest house and took the letter to the sorting office as there are still serious postal delays owing to a "working to rule" and a backlog after last week's strike. Andrew has drawn 4<sup>th</sup> in his class which is very good.

Tues 21 July:

Did the house and ironing. Michael went to Plymouth for the day, to a meeting. I went down town and had a late lunch. In the afternoon I made an attempt at a plan of Oak Cottage for the Buildings Record group. It wasn't easy. There was half an hour before it was time to make tea, so decided to have a rest, but 5 mins later Andrew came in and called out to me. Read a little in the lounge and Aase telephoned. There was a little thunder and rain but in London there were apparently violent storms and flooding. After tea I did some gardening then played Careers with Andrew. Michael returned about 8.15 and I made him some supper. TV and bed.

Weds 22 July:

Received an air letter from Mummy this morning posted in Norway a fortnight ago! I wrote Paul today but the delays are so great I wonder if he'll get it before he leaves Luxemburg. Collected my slides from Cyril Howe's and we viewed them tonight. They are quite good and I'm rather pleased. Did some washing etc etc and spent most of the afternoon gardening. I'm rather worried about a rose bush I moved. It's looking very sick in spite of plenty of compost and a daily can of water. Mended in the evening.

Thurs 23 July:

Michael has been so boarish lately that although I realise he is not himself I had a good cry after breakfast, then decided it would give me satisfaction if I put in writing what I felt. As I was doing this, David called with some tomatoes and asked if he could fry them for some breakfast. Of course I fried him a meal and made him toast and coffee, then we talked about house buying as he is thinking of finding somewhere nearer Trowbridge. The telephone people came to renew the outside wiring. At 11.45 we both had an early lunch and then he dropped me in town where he was going back to a Roman City coach (he is working for them during the holidays). I did shopping and went to WVS. Home earlyish and then heard that Andrew's and my trip to Stonehenge had been cancelled. We had just planned to bus to Malmesbury instead when Mr Messer at tea suggested our going to Cardiff and we decided to do that. I had bought wine and peaches and icecream for tea as it was Mr Messer's last evening.

Michael was late back and not very amiable. Worked on WVS blanket in evening. TV.

Fri 24 July:

As arranged, Andrew and I caught the 9.06 train to Cardiff, but we found we had to change at Bristol and Newport. It was a simply wonderful day and we enjoyed our visit to the Castle and picnicking in the grounds. Instead of going on to the Museum afterwards, however, we went shopping. And the result was that we arrived back at the station too early. We had some tea, then caught the 3.35 back home, and collected a prescription for Michael on the way. There has been a bad accident today in the Lansdown Rd where a large cement mixer came out of control. Two people were killed and a child injured and pinned beneath the wreckage for a long time. It must have been shocking. Mummy rang up to say she was back in Fowey. Michael seemed more at ease this evening. Shortened a pair of trousers for Andrew. TV.

Sat 25 July:

Michael and I went down town while Andrew went to a friend to write stories and eat fish and chips! We had lunch at 1.30 so I did a little seed sowing beforehand and afterwards Michael and I went to the Botanical Gardens to take photos. The rock garden part looked rather 'tired', but the herbaceous border was wonderful. The Tattoo was in progress while we were there so it wasn't exactly quiet! We were glad of some china tea when we reached home as it was pretty hot. Watered the garden in the evening and watched TV. Knitted. Michael has been asked by Westinghouse to go for an interview next week.

Sun 26 July:

Went to Meeting as usual and signed another petition for release from capital punishment of two men convicted of murder. Andrew went to Granny's for lunch and tea and so there were only Michael and I here, as Mr Ford was out too. We had a lazy afternoon reading and sleeping and after tea I did some gardening and watched TV, knitted etc. Michael a shade more relaxed.

Mon 27 July:

Turned round Mr Messer's room and cleaned it ready for who ever comes in his place. Did the washing and went shopping. Andrew spent the day with David Easton, apart from coming home for lunch. Worked a little on my food facts book, then when a man came to service the gas boiler, I did some gardening. We had a baked egg and tomato dish for tea so I made some cashew-bran cookies and a lemon sandwich, while the oven was on. Knitted etc in the evening. TV mediocre. A Mr John Blake called to see the room and stopped for a cup of coffee. I would be quite happy to have him, but I'm not sure he liked us. He is going to let us know.

Tues 28 July:

Received two air letters posted by my mother nearly a fortnight ago before she reached Stockholm! Andrew went off for the day with Whittleton and I did ironing, wrote my mother and went up to Granny and Thea for lunch. We talked till 3 and they were very kind, then after a cup of tea I left to do some shopping. Only Mr Ford had a cooked tea as Andrew Michael and I were invited to Ian and Aase Mayo-Smith for supper. It was a most pleasant evening and we talked photography etc leaving about 9.30.

Weds 29 July:

Michael didn't go into work today as he had a doctor's appointment in the morning (Dr Matthews) and after taking Andrew and I out to lunch he went for an interview at Westinghouse in Chippenham. They questioned him but did not at present offer him a job. Meanwhile I read in the Reference Library and went in to a property auction sale at Fortt's where Forefield Villa and its land went for £5750. Other properties had high reserves and didn't sell. Andrew visited David Easton. Mended and knitted in the evening. Paul is due back in the early hours of tomorrow morning.

Thurs 30 July:

Although awake quite a lot in the night I didn't hear Paul come home about 2. He has enjoyed his holiday. Did the washing and some gardening, then we had lunch and I shopped and went to library before going on to WVS. Took a honeysuckle cutting for Mrs Williams. Home about 4.30 and after tea Michael and I went to the Buildings Record Group meeting. There were photos of Twerton and the wool industry and we were introduced to a few people. We left about 8, and went on to the new Farrell's Hotel in South Parade for a drink of wine before going home. Michael showed us some slides. Boys rather late to bed.

Fri 31 July:

Had some of my birthday presents as people posted early to avoid being late, owing to post not being quite back to normal yet. Having done the ironing I went shopping. We had lunch then the boys mowed the lawn and I clipped the edge. Had a rest, then did some cooking for the weekend and made supper. Read knitted and watched TV in the evening. There was an interesting programme on a riding school and also Japanese religions. Some are admirable, but a large sect that has a military flavour is rather alarming as it is not unlike Hitler's national socialism. Other sects are almost primitive and tribal.

Sat 1 August:

Have had a very enjoyable birthday. Michael gave me money and I've had lovely lot of presents. The boys were so thoughtful giving me two plants, a book and a

funny record. I went down town with Michael both morning and afternoon and as ho one could agree where we should go out for tea, I bought peaches, icecream, cream, teacakes to toast and chocolate cakes and we had a wonderful binge! (I completely ignored my careful diet!) Knitted and watched TV. Washed my hair and read some magazines I bought myself for a treat.

Sun 2 August:

Read and up at usual time. Went to Meeting and Raymond Batten gave me the Meeting flowers (deep purple buddleia and seabions) Saw Miss Willway on the way back. Wrote a thank-you letter before Meeting but spent the afternoon (after TV gardening club and farming) resting and reading. Did some gardening in the evening watching the ITV religious programmes as well. Michael was sent for to taxi out to the RUH and pick up Granny Thea and a friend as Thea had hurt her arm badly on a car door. Copied out some vegetarian recipes and knitted later in the evening.

Mon 3 August:

Got up at 8 and prepared breakfast for Mr Ford and the boys then took mine on a tray back to bed. Michael didn't want any, but got up about 9. I stayed on till 10 or so, then had a bath and Michael and I took Anna up in the park and we took photos. After lunch I did some sewing and knitting while Michael rested, then Grace Barnes brought Thea, Granny and Lilian (the Yugoslav) up to tea. They brought cucumber sandwiches, cream sponge and icecream. When they went we did some watering as it had been lovely hot Bank Holiday. Supper, TV knitting etc.

Tues 4 August:

It was a busy day as the house needed plenty doing to it. There was a heap of washing, and having been shopping in the morning I felt it best to go again in the afternoon to get some shampoo for Michael I had forgotten, and to change my library books. Wrote some letters before going and in the evening did some watering and knitting. TV was very light and boring. It was a wonderful hot sunny day. My feet feel sore under the soles and heels.

Weds 5 August:

I wore socks today as my feet were a little blistered. Went shopping then did 2 hrs ironing. After lunch I wrote my mother, and made some cakes while preparing the evening meal. Andrew went to a friend all day and ate too many chips so that he didn't want his tea. Paul went to Weston for the day with some friends and enjoyed it – though two of his pales were sick on the way home. It was very hot. Watered the garden in the evening, and Walter Davis came with a

stamp package and stayed to chat for a short while. The Americans are taking a tough line with the Communists in Vietnam.

Thurs 6 August:

Hurriedly did the washing and went shopping, then after lunch picked some flowers for WVS, went to Library and WVS, but left early to meet Andrew and take him to have his eyes tested by Mr Quin. Michael had an appointment with Dr Matthews and went on to Mr Quin at 4pm. I made an 'interesting' soup for supper of vegetables, thickened with millet and barley flakes. It went down quite well. It rained heavily about 6, so there was not need to do any watering. Knitted, read and watched TV. Andrew is not quite well today. The chips he had yesterday on top of the hot weather makes him rather asthmatic and little liverish. Paul 'does nothing' all day. I plan a picnic and 5 mile walk tomorrow!

Fri 7 August:

The boys and I enjoyed ourselves very much today! It was rather cloudy, but we decided to make our planned expedition. We took Anna and caught a bus to Hinton Charterhouse at 9.20, walked to Farleigh Hungerford via Farleigh Woods and the right of way along the river. After seeing over the castle which is now beautifully kept we went up on a nearby hill to have our lunch and then walked on via Westwood to Bradford-on-Avon just in time to catch the 1.30 bus home. We thus came back sooner than planned, but as there was a heavy storm later we were glad we did. I did the ironing then after tea read and knitted. TV etc. I brought back a wild chicory plant pulled from the roadside and planted it, and another flower for identification (it was a meadow cranesbill).

Sat 8 August:

Up the usual time for a Saturday and Michael and Andrew went to Tovey's to be fitted for their new spectacle frames. I met Michael at 10 and we went to one or two shops. I bought a new window box for the lounge and when we reached home I moved the plants into it and have given the two small window boxes to the boys for their bedrooms. After lunch I went to bed to read but slept most of the afternoon, and Michael too. In the evening I gardened from 6-8.40 as some plants I had ordered had come and the ground was beautifully moist. Michael has bad hayfever this evening and feels very irritable.

Sun 9 August:

We rose the same time as usual but Michael got up first and cleaned the frig before breakfast. Arising out of this he became cross and I was embarrassingly tearful and decided not to go to Meeting. Later we had a pretty frank discussion but it didn't really help the situation. I miss so much the

companionship we once had when he was more himself. It is very wearing – for all of us. Gardened most of the day.

Mon 10 August:

Gave the house a good do and went shopping. After lunch I did the washing and wrote a letter while Paul worked hard on a rose pergola. Andrew went to a friend's for the day. Michael is still poor company and obviously under the weather.

Tues 11 August:

Did the ironing and wrote my mother then did the shopping. Andrew went to his friend's for the day again. Paul 'powdered' the dog after lunch and I did some cooking in preparation for tomorrow, then we erected the pergola at the bottom of the lawn. Paul dug very deep holes and took infinite trouble. It looks very bare and rather ugly at present but with additional posts either end we'll look fine to my mind. Michael wants it shortened. A good documentary on exceptional children on TV tonight.

Weds 12 August:

Michael was keen for Paul's pergola to be shortened, but I felt that if we could extend it either side and plant some high plants to make it look less bare he wouldn't find it offensive, so this Paul and I did. The Mayo-Smiths came to lunch and in the afternoon we viewed slides. They left about 4. Michael wasn't too keen on the pergola, but I think he felt it was an improvement, and Mr Ford liked it. Watched TV and did some gardening in the evening. There was a good ITV documentary on Women in Prison.

Thurs 13 August:

After doing the washing I set out for town via Calton Rd as there is a house for sale in Magdalen Ave and I wanted to see what the district is like. I like the position fairly well but not the houses much. At the Spa Agency I saw two more 'possibilities' in New King St for investment, but the trouble is I lack courage to go ahead – or is it that the right place really hasn't turned up yet? Collected some prospectuses from the Tech after lunch as I'd like to study nutrition or horticulture, went to Library and on to WVS at 2.10. Home, and read and watched TV.

Fri 14 August:

Although a rather dull and drizzly day the boys and I had a pretty successful expedition: we caught the 9.20 bus to Wolverton and walked to Orchardleigh where we went down by the lake – but not apparently the normal route (we

found it very difficult to tell where the footpaths were). Eventually we had our lunch, and having come out on a main road, a mile from Frome, we walked up to Buckland Dinham and thence back to Norton St Philip and spent a little while there before catching the 3.36 bus back to Bath. We think we've walked a good 10 miles. Michael went to Dr Hislop to be singed off, as Dr Matthews has recommended a period of rest. Mr Waterhouse and Mr Galbraith sent for him today and said they were still trying to get a more senior position for him, but that Mr White was resisting. This interview has lifted Michael's spirits no end and he was far more relaxed this evening.

Sat 15 August:

Michael was still much happier today after yesterday's interview and we had a companionable time in town. I broached the subject of my taking evening classes in horticulture. The idea was not welcomed, but neither was it deemed out of the question! Gardened in the afternoon and most of evening. I feel I would dearly like to rent a piece of ground or allotment for vegetables. Bought an antique bowl stand and three plants this morning.

Sun 16 August:

Andrew said he'd like to come to Meeting with me this morning. Mr Bowman Bier spoke for some little time and then shortly afterwards to my surprise Andrew rose and told the Meeting why he had come. Two or three others spoke afterwards. Going home, Andrew asked if it was alright – his speaking. I said I had never heard a young person speak before and admired his courage. I felt sure that if he had felt strongly that he ought to say what he did, then probably he should. He asked that Michael and Paul should not be told. In the afternoon after Gardening Club and Farming, I went for a short walk and looked at the allotments. (Michael is dead against my having one.) After tea I did a little gardening, watched the religious programmes, knitted etc Raymond and Phyl Batten rang me to say how touched everyone was by Andrew. Thea rang also.

Mon 17 August:

Did the house and washing, then some cooking. After lunch I had a short rest and then went shopping. Michael came with me. He is still dead against my taking on an allotment and I have said I will not decide for a week. Perhaps as all the family are against it I should not take one at present. If I take the horticultural course it will be a big enough step for the moment. We viewed Paul's slides, and Michael's latest set - which is not as good as usual. It was quite a pleasant evening. We finished by watching TV – a documentary on Germany, and Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit, and did some mendings.

Tues 18 August:

Did the ironing and an extra wash, then a little gardening. After lunch Michael and I caught a bus to Combe Down and we walked along Shepherd's Walk to the Cross Keys. There we bussed to the Devonshire Bdgs and back through the park (much grumbling because Michael had to climb half of Kipling Avenue!) The boys did nothing in particular yesterday or today. I did a bit more gardening then prepared tea and made some blackcurrant tarts because Thea had given us some cream. Made the boys' sandwiches for their journey tomorrow and helped them pack. To bed a little earlier than usual.

Weds 19 August:

We got up early and I saw the boys off on the 7.53 train to Par. Went shopping and after lunch had a short rest while Michael raked and mowed the lawn. Started pruning the rambler roses, then Michael and I caught a bus to Combe Down and we walked down through the fields into Widcombe, and back home via Lyncombe Vale. Michael had an early evening meal so that he could go off to Dr Hislop for the last of six injections. Mr Ford and I had ours at the usual time (5.45). TV and then wrote a letter to my mother. Bed about 10.30.

Thurs 20 August:

After doing a bit of housework Michael and I did a little shopping. Then caught a bus to Hamilton Rd and walked round Charlcombe Lance to Larkhall. There we caught a bus up to St Luke's road and walked home. After lunch we rested and then I planted a few plants that came and we had a cup of tea. At 5 I went to see Dr Matthews who was very nice and helpful. In the evening we watched TV and I wrote a letter to Paul.

Fri 21 August:

Having done the washing (and set the cat in Mr Ford's room to catch a mouse!) Michael and I went shopping and he then took me to the Taj Mahal for lunch. We had a vegetable Biryani and chapati. It was very nice (if fattening!). In the afternoon I did some odd jobs in the house and read a magazine for a short while before getting an early tea as we were taking the dog to the vet. Her paw is swollen. The vet gave us some lotion to bathe the paw and an injection to Anna. Watered the garden when I returned, and read the paper.

Sat 22 August:

Did the ironing, and Michael went down town, then he cut down the holly tree on the N wall of our garden and I stood by to give assistance if necessary. After lunch we took Anna to the vet again and when we returned, tidied up the holly branches into the spare garage, and we tidied up the back yard too. We plan to

clear quite a lot of rubbish into the garage and have the Refuse people make a special collection. We had tea, then I washed my hair and later a bath.

Sun 23 August:

Went to Meeting as usual and afterwards met Michael on the Lansdown bus and we went out to Granny and Thea's to lunch. We rested for a while in the afternoon then Thea took us out to Warleigh woods where we had a picnic tea and back via Limpley Stoke and Midford. They came in for a while then when they had gone we had supper and rang Paul to wish him a happy birthday. I have written to order 12 raspberry canes, 2 London apples and a wisteria.

Mon 24 August:

Cleaned the house and did the washing then, as it was raining, Michael and I spent the whole day turning out in the cellars. Oh the dirt and mildew! The garage is half full of rubbish now! Darned clothes, in the evening, that are going to WVS. TV included a documentary on the American funeral business. It really is shocking.

Tues 25 August:

We had Paul's GCE results today and he has passed 8 of the 11 subjects – 4 of them at grade 3, so that was very good. We phoned and told him. I did the ironing and turned out a cupboard then we had an early lunch and caught a bus to Winsley where we walked to Bradford on Avon via Turleigh. We caught the 3.2 bus back to Bath and were home before 4. It was lovely and sunny but I found I was overclothed and became very hot. In the evening I prepared some cast-off boys' clothes for the WVS. TV etc.

Weds 26 August:

Andrew sent me a wooden placque [sic] which Michael put above the frig. He also sent us a postcard and we were most touched. Michael went ahead and I followed later, going shopping and ending up at the Chinese restaurant for lunch. After this we went home and I turned out the shelves in the back 'lobby'. Later Blackmore's men came to start insulating the roof. In the evening I read. TV was pretty poor.

Thurs 27 August:

Not only did the builders come today and insulate the roof, but the plumber came and changed the bathroom radiator from the hot water to the heating system. I quickly did some washing before he came, then wrote my mother and began turning out the cupboard in my bedroom. Went to WVS after lunch, and met Mrs Davis on the way home. In tonight's paper there are the Technical School GCE results. The staff must be very pleased – 5 pupils have passed in 9

subjects and quite as many have 8! Spent the evening tidying the bedroom cupboard with my writing things in it, and then tidied my sewing things. My, I shan't know myself!

Fri 28 August:

Did quite a bit of housecleaning as everywhere was rather dusty after the men coming yesterday. Wrote to Andrew and sent off Paul's GCE results as reported in the paper, so that he can see his friends' successes. Michael and I went shopping and after lunch I did the ironing then we rested. After some tea, and as Mr Ford was to be out, we both went to Combe Down where Michael had a doctor's appointment, and then we went to the Forester's Arms for a drink and walked down Foxhill and across the field and home. Supper, then we watched TV and viewed my latest transparencies.

Sat 29 August:

Michael was most rude about Mr Ford this morning and we had quite a controversy about the matter – Michael becoming quite mad with me. He said a lot of wild things and I felt sorry for him as I knew he'd upset himself. Later he was very sweet and we had a pleasant day – going into town shopping and for a walk in the afternoon. Michael is trying to decide whether to sell or exchange all the expensive camera equipment he bought in the spring. He cannot make up his mind what he needs so is wisely postponing a decision until after our holiday. Washed my hair with a special olive oil shampoo and conditioning cream that Michael bought me.

Sun 30 August:

Did some washing before going to Meeting and can only suppose that the haste required to get his done made my tummy rattle embarrassingly on and off during the hour – and no one spoke. Mary Phillips and I had a chat afterwards. When lunch was over I did the ironing and listened to the wireless, then we went for a walk along Greenway Lane, Entry Hill and Watery Bottom. Granny, a Mrs Widger and Thea came to tea and then stayed the evening as she is going to look after Mr Ford and the house while Michael and I are away. To bed about 10.45 having watched some TV and packed, supper etc.

Mon 31 August:

We caught the 7.53 train to Plymouth and were amused by the loud conversation between an Australian and a very conservative railwayman. The latter was typically insular and prejudiced the other so anxious to move with the times that he had no roots, no depth – yet both were likeable, especially the Englishman. We arrived at Plymouth at 11.30 and had a taxi to the guest house,

then went to Dingles by bus for lunch. We shopped and had tea, then went back to the guest house for the evening meal. In the evening we went for quite a good walk down Tavistock Rd and back to see a TV programme on India. We met two other Board staff and their wives who seem very nice.

Tues 1 September:

We walked round the Barbican this morning, having first booked seats for a trip to the south Devon coast tomorrow. It was very windy, but sunny, so we took photos and went and saw the Aquarium, and an Art & Craft Exhibition (which turned out to be all Memorial tablets!!) After this we went to the top of the Civic centre and nearly got blown away, but had a splendid meal in the restaurant. After lunch we went shopping and were very impressed by a Mouli grinder. We caught a bus to Central Park and saw the Zoo, then back to the Co-op for tea. Finally we went back to Dingles as I had decided to buy the grinder and Michael bought me a Mouli beater too!! Back to the hotel for supper and knitting, and a chat in the lounge then Reg and Dorothy Hill took us to Sally's on the Barbican for a drink. To bed pretty late.

Weds 2 September:

We went into Plymouth and looked at more shops this morning. It was beautifully warm and the wind had dropped. We had elevenses in Spooner's and lunch in the Latin Quarters then sat in the sun till we caught the coach to Paignton. We were there over an hour, then went on to Brixham and Dartmouth, both of which we liked. We came back by the coast road which was very picturesque but quite unsuitable for a coach! We had a snack (we had also refreshed ourselves at all three stopping places!) then walked back to the hotel, arriving back about 10.

Thurs 3 September:

Another beautiful sunny day! We walked into town and after elevenses went up on the Hoe and on round to the Barbican where we saw the Elizabethan house and had an early lunch at the Green Lantern. Afterwards we went on an hour's boat trip round the docks. We sat for a while on a seat near the telescope, then walked back into town for tea at the Co-op. We bought three more plates for our service there then back to the guest house by bus. Watched TV and to bed earlyish.

Fri 4 September:

We had a taxi to the station, then leaving our luggage there, we walked into town. I bought a jumper. We found it difficult to get lunch at 11.30, and I finally had to go to Woolworths where, never the less, I enjoyed my meal. We joined up with the boys on the "Cornishman" (though several carriages apart)

and were home at 5.45 when after a high tea we spent the evening unpacking and sorting out.

Sat 5 September:

Went down town with Andrew and bought his rigger gear, then he went to a friend and I did some other shopping. I obtained with a gift token some material for a jerkin and am very pleased with it as it is bright, and goes with all my basic outfits and stockings. After lunch when we tried the new Italian beans I bought and millet sauce, I gardened till 5 then we had high tea. TV in evening and I washed my hair and wrote Thea[? - unclear].

Sun 6 September:

Andrew decided to keep on with choir for the moment. He may come to Meetings occasionally. I went to Meeting and stayed for preparatory meeting. After lunch we watched TV and I marked some clothes and then knitted. Some rain has freshened the garden. Paul and Michael have sawn down the old swing left in the garden and removed some more rubbish from the cellar.

Mon 7 September:

Michael went down town while I did the washing made some telephone calls and did the household shopping. Granny Bridges hasn't felt too well lately but is rather better today. Helped the boys do some clearing out in the afternoon. The new window cleaners came and a man to re-mend the oven clock. TV, read and knitted in evening (rather boring).

Tues 8 September:

The boys went back to school today and Paul had an interview with the Head. It seems he may take Biology, Geography and Geology as he wanted to, so he is very pleased. Michael wants to see the Head and is not so convinced this is a good idea. I did quite a bit of house cleaning, washing and ironing and then we went out to an electrical exhibition. After lunch I wrote my mother and did some cooking while Michael rested. In the evening a Mr Page (and 2 others) answered my advert in the paper. Mr Page wanted to come at once so he is here already. I am only giving him breakfast which will be much less work. He seems nice, and Michael and he talked photography for quite a while.

Weds 9 September:

Did the house, some washing and ironing and shopping in Widcombe, then we took Anna for a walk. After lunch Michael and I went down town. When we came back we had an early tea as Mr Ford was not coming in for a meal tonight, and Michael was going to the doctor. Mary John and Ian came for the evening as they were staying with David and Phillipa. [sic]

Thurs 10 September:

Did the washing and some house jobs then Michael and I went shopping in the town and met Granny at 12.30 at Chez Robert for lunch. We spent a pleasant hour over lunch then went to the Library, and Michael went home while I went on to WVS. Home early about 4, did a little watering and after tea we watched TV. The 'Magic Flute' was televised from Glyndebourne and was very good.

Fri 11 September:

Did the housework etc then Michael and I went down town. After lunch I did the ironing and wrote my mother and Robert's weekly card, then made an early tea for Michael who was going to the doctor and after that tea for the rest of us. TV and knitting in the evening. Just as we were going to bed at 10.15, Mr Page rang up from his girl friend's at Farrington Gurney to say the car wouldn't go so he'd not be back till tomorrow! We had to laugh – that's an old one!

Sat 12 September:

Granny and Thea went up to London today to the wedding of Cecil King. Michael and I went down town, back quite early and did some cake-making before lunch. In the afternoon I spread some manure round the garden that had come in the morning and watered it well in. Washed my hair, knitting and TV in evening. Mr Page called back and I teased him a bit about his 'excuse' for last night, but it seems the car really did have faulty ignition and he spent the night at the Manor. Andrew went to a friend's for the day and Paul had to take a stamp package to Newbridge Hill.

Sun 13 September:

Michael had a bath early and while in the bathroom, I, who was still in bed, had an unexpected looseness of the bowel – with most embarrassing results. I hope this never happens to me again, but at least it keeps one humble! At Meeting one or two Friends spoke and I did too. After lunch and TV gardening etc read and dozed in bed. Tea and then more TV and Granny and Thea called with news of Cecil King's wedding David's new job. TV and knitting.

Mon 14 September:

A busy morning – doing house, washing and shopping. After lunch I did some writing but wasn't pleased with the results. We had a cheese and kasha dish for tea. I didn't like it much but fortunately the others did. Went down to the Tech to enrol for the horticultural course at 7. Had to queue nearly half an hour to pay!!

Tues 15 September:

Mr Ford had to go to the hospital today for a check-up and kindly spent a half an hour cleaning the glass doors of one of the kitchen cupboards while I did some ironing. The man from Colmers came to service the washing machine. As it rained so hard, I rang Granny Bridges at 12 and suggested coming up tomorrow to plant wallflowers, instead of today as arranged, and she agreed. Spent the afternoon writing letters and doing some other writing, also did some cooking. In the evening I lengthened a pair of Paul's trousers etc.

Weds 16 September:

The man from the Gas Board came and inspected the boiler, and admitted that the last 'service' had not been well done. I did a little ironing and then some shopping and went up to Granny's to help plant some wallflowers. Stayed to lunch, then came home and read a little before getting tea. Michael was a little late home. TV and knitting in evening. Mr Page's girl friend called but he was out.

Thurs 17 September:

Did a bit of clearing out in the laundry and did the washing, wrote two letters, then had lunch and picked some flowers for WVS and planted out a few seedlings as the earth was nice and moist. Went to library and on to WVS at 2 where I did machining this week. Home for tea and knitted and watched TV in evening. Nothing very good on except the programme "The Nurses" about an asthmatic girl.

Fri 18 September:

Did the ironing and a new casserole arrived from Evans & Owen – a present from Granny Bridges. The man came to service the gas boiler, then I went shopping. After lunch I had a rest then did some writing and made some cakes. The central heating manager came to inspect the gas boiler and said another visit would be necessary on Tuesday. After tea I went to the Friends' family social (rather late). It was quite pleasant and shared a cake that was the prize for guessing its weight. Saw some film and slides, helped a little with washing up and came home about 9. TV.

Sat 19 September:

Michael and I went down town with Paul and he chose a sports coat for himself. He went home and then Michael and I did more shopping and while having elevenses in Colmers saw Philly and Mark and had quite a chat. Home and lunch then Paul Michael and I worked in the garden (Andrew had gone to Whittleton's[sic]) and afterwards Michael did some film developing as he has just bought the gear, while I went upstairs to read for half an hour and

promptly fell asleep! After tea there was TV and I washed my hair. Election propaganda is flying full force these days. I'll be glad when voting day is over.

Sun 20 September:

Went to Meeting, back to get lunch (cold with soup) and were through by 1.30! Listened to radio and TV and then went to bed to read. Also filled my new plant trays with sand and put them on a little low table Michael made me for the lounge window. TV and knitting in evening. Michael is pleased with some developing he has done.

Mon 21 September:

Monday, and felt rather Monday-ish, but it was a nice sunny day and the work and washing went smoothly. I moved the lounge furniture round a little to try and make the arrangement more 'cosy', went shopping, lunch, rest and some writing – altogether a pleasant day, but the tarts I made for tea with an experimental nut pastry were a failure. The cheese and veg pie was very good however, and we had a pleasant evening with TV. Knitting.

Tues 22 September:

Did the ironing and waited for the gas people to do a job on the boiler, then went to the Abbey Pharmacy for Michael and called in for a chat with Miriam Wells before catching a bus to \_\_\_bridge[?] to have lunch with Yola Snelling. We had such an enjoyable chat I nearly missed my bus home. After tea lengthened a pair of Paul's trousers. TV.

Weds 23 September:

Had to hurry after breakfast to get the rooms done and Anna to the vet in Elm Place by 9. Returned via Widcombe where I did the shopping. Wrote my mother and after lunch did a little writing and wrote a letter to a prospective member of the Circle. Having prepared tea, I had mine and left about 5.35 to go and collect Anna. Arriving at the Bear Flat rather early I decided to go and see our old house in Bloomfield Avenue. It had horrid blue paint but was otherwise somewhat improved. Just beyond there someone tapped on a window and it was Miss Hier[?] Evans of the WVS who invited me in to see her flat. She had lovely oak dresser. Afterwards I collected Anna and went home. She had had two teeth out and the rest sealed. TV & knitting.

Thurs 24 September:

Did the washing and a little ironing, half an hour's writing, then lunch early and was just leaving the house at 12.15 when I was surprised to find a tortoise on the path! I can't think where it came from. I put it in the border and left not having time to do anything else as I had three shops to get to. After shopping I

went to the Ref Library and the Lending library and on to WVS. When I reached home I searched for the tortoise and so, later, did the others, but it was nowhere. Mr Ford said he saw it in the afternoon. Tea was most unsatisfactory as some liver I had taken the trouble to casserole with some vegs was not liked – I might just as well have fried it! Went to Writer's Circle and there were 7 of us. Michael not too good today.

Fri 25 September:

Felt worried all day today and had to wrestle with myself to be sensible. Found the tortoise and put it in the strawberry bed and made it safe. Rang up Miss Thompson next door and also Mrs Bennett in an effort to find the owner of the tortoise. Miss Thompson brought us some apples and shallots. Did the ironing and shopping then tried to phone a Mrs Buckland about the tortoise. It was 5.15 before I finally got her, having had a rest, done some writing and baking. Her daughter Sally came round and claimed the tortoise – it had come from Rosemount – and after tea: TV. Knitting. Also rang Mr Hanham to remind him our roof needs repair – but he had done it while I was out one day!

Sat 26 September:

Michael and I went down town. It seems I was right to feel worried yesterday. Dr Matthews is to see me about Michael and my marriage relationship. Will he feel I haven't carried out his previous counsel? I feel a little sick, as yesterday, and have to tell myself I'm being childish. All is well, however. I have a pleasant hour with Dr M. He is very friendly and I welcome his explanation of "the male view" but I don't immerge[sic] much different from when I went in. He does not go deep as Mary Phillips did. He does not rouse any opposition from me. Never mind – it is good to have help. After lunch I had a rest, then Michael and I went up in the park to do some photography. Anna enjoyed it. Andrew was out to tea. Paul did stamps. Washed hair, TV in evening.

Sun 27 September:

We went to bed late last night and I awoke very early when I kept thinking about the talk with Dr M and how to make it a benefit. I decided to ask Michael to agree to a daily 'ventilation' period at night when we could, as it were, dissipate our feelings and try to get on an objective plane. Soon after I had made tea Michael broached the subject of my interview yesterday and so I put forward my suggestion. He was obviously very depressed. If I couldn't change my behaviour he saw no hope for us. I made an attempt at keeping "uninvolved", and remembering his past experiences, I was surprised to find it not too difficult to be honestly understanding. After a little while he obviously felt

much more at peace and remained, for the most part, the same throughout the day. I went to Meeting after usual chores, and preparing Andrew's room for Mummy who comes tomorrow. In the afternoon we all severely pruned the pear tree. TV and knitting in evening.

Mon 28 September:

Andrew wasn't feeling quite well after breakfast but he went to school. He felt alright at tea time, but not so well at bedtime. I did the house, washing shopping and baked some cakes, then after lunch I rested, wrote some letters and took Anna for a walk to post them. Went to Miss Thompson and Miss Brodie to tea and then my mother came. Went to first horticulture class in evening.

Tues 29 September:

Went down town with Mummy after doing the house and ironing. We had lunch at Evans & Owens with Auntie Marnie and then tried to get some lamp shades for my mother without success, so had some tea in the Victoria Park in glorious sun. Home about 4.45. In the evening Walter and Mrs Davis came and as there was a Victor Borge programme on TV we watched it and had coffee. Bed 11.

Weds 30 September:

Did the house and washing and then Mummy and I left early for town. We had lunch at Charles St restaurant, then did more shopping and home for a cup of tea before getting the evening meal. Had a look at some of Michael's slides and watched TV in the evening.

Thurs 1 October:

Mummy and I went to Bristol today and had a very pleasant time. Michael went to Dr Matthews and later took us out to lunch in Bristol at the Possada. Mummy bought a hat but not much else. I bought some cups and two small readers to study. After coming home for tea I went to horticulture. It was quite complicated biology!

Fri 2 October:

There was a derailment on the railway near Oldfield Park so Michael was 1½ hrs getting to work and my mother had to leave early. I went with her to the station and then went shopping where I met Granny Bridges (back from helping Auntie Via nurse Auntie Kitty). She also telephone me later and I did the ironing had lunch, a rest and did some writing, then made some cakes and prepared the evening meal. TV and knitting in evening.

Sat 3 October:

Michael went on into town and I met him at 10. We stayed down town until nearly 12 as Michael traded in his telephoto lens so that he could order some

enlarging equipment. He spend the afternoon effecting a black-out in the laundry while Paul and I took up 3 or 4 paving stones near the gate and prepared the ground for the clematis that is coming. After tea Paul helped Michael finish a wide shelf he was making in the laundry and then I washed my hair and we watched TV. Andrew spent the day with Whittleton[sic].

Sun 4 October:

Went to Meeting and Preparative Meeting then, after lunch helped Michael put some fablon on the laundry shelf he has made and Paul helped also. Andrew did homework and I also helped him make a model of a river! After tea we watched TV. Knitted.

Mon 5 October:

As Andrew had a cold I kept him home today and didn't go out myself as I was expecting the dustmen to call re emptying the rubbish from the garage. They never turned up. Did the house and washing. Had lunch with Andrew then had a rest and spent the afternoon with Andrew beginning to knit a hot-water bottle cover for the Friends' November sale. After tea I went to the horticulture lecture and afterwards met Michael at the Empire hotel. He had been to supper at Springfield Place and Thea took us home. She has finished at Withymead and goes to Totnes tomorrow. TV and bed.

Tues 6 October:

Andrew dressed and was about a little today but he was asthmatic. We had to give him a sleeping pill tonight. Went shopping and had some difficulty in getting some comics Andrew wanted. Spent the afternoon, after a short rest, in ironing (for 2½ hours!) Mended and knitted in evening and watched TV. Bed after 11.

Weds 7 October:

Andrew had a bad night and so I rang for the doctor this morning. A Dr Carr came (he has taken over from Dr Walmsley and seemd very nice). After the City Engineer man had also been and I had written my mother and done some housework, I gave Andrew a little lunch and did the shopping getting back about 1.30. Had my lunch and was just beginning a rest when the window cleaner came so knitted a little with Andrew, then went out and raked and sowed grass on the lawn, sprinkling peat on top. It seemed a good time to do it as it was so showery. Helped Andrew with a jigsaw then prepared tea and watched TV and knitted in the evening. We are all getting tired of the forthcoming election.

Thurs 8 October:

Andrew was a little better today but stayed in bed until teatime. I did housework, washing and shopping, then did some correspondence and typed out

Michael's 'history' for a job application. A man came to put back the clock on the cooker, and in the afternoon the dustman came and emptied our garage for us. I took Anna to post had a rest, then played with Andrew for an hour and a half – we made up a game. I didn't go to WVS. Went to Writer Circle in evening and on to gardening lecture after which we seemed to be locked in!! After a few minutes' alarm we made someone hear us and they easily opened the door from outside (the catch had jammed).

Fri 9 October:

Did the house and made some telephone calls, then went shopping. Soon after I returned the doctor came again. Andrew has slight bronchitis which is stopping his wheeziness from getting better. After lunch I did the ironing, had a rest and then spent nearly 1½ hrs with Andrew, playing the game we are making. Read in the evening as TV was rotten from 8 onwards. Wish Andrew would get better. It has turned quite cold.

Sat 10 October:

Michael fetched the enlarging equipment this morning while I called for a pattern ordered some time ago, went to the Library and bought some evening shoes as Michael and I have decided to go to the UNA dinner in a fortnight's time. In the afternoon Michael set up the enlarger etc while Paul went to Granny Bridges to pick apples and I went to Friends' Monthly Meeting.

Afterwards I bought some black brocade for an evening skirt and went home to get high tea. In the evening while Andrew watched TV Paul Michael and I did some enlarging. The results were not terribly good, but no doubt we shall improve! Andrew is not much better. Bath & bed.

Sun 11 October:

I didn't go to Meeting this morning. Paul Michael and I worked in the dark room during the morning and afternoon except for short periods when either Paul or I were with Andrew. We are gradually learning how to use the enlarger. In the evening I washed my hair and we watched TV. I feel rather depressed as poor Andrew is still very wheezy. He must be very tired of it. He has only been able to come down in a dressing gown.

Mon 12 October:

Did the house washing and shopping and Andrew stayed in bed. He came down for lunch, and after I'd pressed and rehung some curtains and had a rest I had a game with him for nearly an hour, then some cordon apple trees and raspberry canes arrived and I decided to plant them. About 5, when Paul came home I suggested Andrew had a good wash and dressed. He didn't want to and I had to

persuade him against his will. He then became so wheezy he decided to go up to his bedroom and I took his supper up on a tray. I'm sure he was unhappy but I did not know how to help him. Later he said he'd changed into different trousers and was 'alright now' so he spent the evening in the lounge and I went to gardening class where we were told our classes would have to close next week if they couldn't get more students. Andrew remained better but still too wheezy to go back to school. I shall have to recall the doctor.

Tues 13 October:

A cold night, but a nice fine day. Did housework and ironing, had lunch and swept out the garage we hope to let. After a rest and a short time typing out gardening notes in Andrew's room the doctor came. He has put Andrew on a steroid. I don't know what this is but gather it is a strong drug and I feel very sorry it has been necessary. Andrew has no temperature and his sputum is white. If it wasn't for the asthma, he'd be fine. It is most puzzling. Went shopping and planted a couple of plants I bought in Woolworths. After tea Michael and I did enlarging in the laundry until 9.30. Paul was with us, with Andrew and doing homework in turn.

Weds 14 October:

Andrew had another very bad night. I decide to get through the shopping early and spend the whole day with him. We did some modelling in clay and then played games. This evening he was fair again, but we gave him a sleeping pill and left the fire on in his room to discourage coughing. He has now had bad asthma for over a week, poor dear. We let the garage to a Mr Staff today.

Thurs 15 October:

Andrew had a very restless night but was relatively unaware of it as he had a sleeping pill. He awoke feeling better but as he had been so bad yesterday I decided to ring and ask the doctor to come today instead of tomorrow. As it happened Andrew stayed better and the doctor was pleased with him, and Granny Bridges came up and brought fish and chips and mousse which he ate. I went out and voted. Then rested and later played with Andrew. After tea I went to gardening class, then we listened to the first of the election results until midnight. Paul and Andrew stayed up until nearly 10.30.

Fri 16 October:

When I went to fill the kettle this morning at 6am I found the hall light on and evidence that Mr Page was still out – however at breakfast he appeared and felt sure he hadn't left his card out the night before and in fact hadn't been out at all! As he had left two lights on the night before I felt a bit narked, but never

mind. Did some early shopping followed by ironing, then Andrew and I spent the day watching TV (election results) and it was quite exciting. Andrew is much better and the doctor came and is pleased with him. So we now have a Labour government – I think it may be a good thing in that it will shake up the Conservatives and give Liberals a greater chance at the next election. Watched TV in evening and knitted. Mr Page told us that he was leaving at the end of the coming week.

Sat 17 October:

Michael and I had a very pleasant morning in town shopping and going to the Photographic Exhibition. In the afternoon and evening Michael worked in the dark room making enlargements etc, while I made my evening skirt for next Saturday's dinner and an evening bag to match. Watched TV. Andrew went out for the first time today. After from a slightly meagre appetite he seems very fit now.

Sun 18 October:

Went to Meeting. Just after the Elders had shaken hands an attendee stood up and started to make a long speech of thanks to Friends, and giving news of Argyle and Mr Murray. Eventually Stanley Salter felt obliged to interrupt and say that Friends might catch buses if they desired whereupon she promptly sat down and Frank Frisby read the notices. At the end the lady again got up to give a long apology. I felt I should tell her I was from Argyle too, but she said, "I don't know you" and turned away. I fear she is a mental case. After lunch Paul and I 'powdered' the dog, then Michael and I had a rest and read. In the evening we watched TV, bathed the dog and I washed my hair.

Mon 19 October:

House washing and shopping in the morning, rest, a little machining and gardening in the afternoon. Also made a cake and some tarts for tea. Two men rang up in answer to the advert of Mr Page's room. They are coming to see the room tomorrow. Went to gardening class. There were only 4 of us and it seems very doubtful if the classes are going to continue. Home to watch TV. We seem to be doing quite well in the Olympic Games.

Tues 20 October:

Did the house and ironing then wrote my mother. After lunch I had a short rest then did some writing. Two prospective boarders who said they would call today didn't come. Watched TV and finished my black brocade skirt in the evening, also tried to discuss money matters with Michael without success.

Weds 21 October:

Left as soon as I had done the house at 9 o'clock as I had a lot of shopping etc. to do and also the Library and a Children's Book Exhibition to see. Home just before I had lunch and a rest, then took the dog out for a walk and seeing an old lady I knew on the allotments I stopped quite a while to talk to her. After tea Michael and I did some photography.

Thurs 22 October:

Poor Michael was feeling very depressed and out of sorts this morning. Did the washing then did some writing and after an early lunch went to the library and on to WVS. Went to the Writer Circle in the evening where Mrs Taylor came to talk about "The Lady". Went over to the gardening class to see if it is going to continue, but still they didn't know. On the way home I met Miss Cass and we had quite a long chat. There have been no replies again to our advert of Mr Page's room.

Fri 23 October:

Did the house and while doing the ironing I thought I could easily make up some puzzles for Child Education and this I did. I typed them out, had an early lunch and went shopping and to the bank, going onto Bairds' Malthouse in Sydney Bldgs at 2.30 to meet Mrs Panter. We were supposed to be measuring for plans for the Building Record, but two others couldn't come and the factory seemed full of sacks and equipment so having had a conducted tour we thanked the foreman and left. She wanted me to visit Phillippa Savery's house with her, but as it was only to check one measurement I said I felt I ought to be getting home, and when I reached home I took in the begonias, as the nights are really getting frosty now. Also typed out two of my poems to send to the "Lady" tomorrow. In the evening I did some mending etc. watched a good TV programme and did some knitting.

Sat 24 October:

It was UN day today and as we were going to the dinner at Fortt's tonight I had my hair set and afterwards met Michael for coffee and shopping. After lunch Michael photographed some old children's books for me so that I could write an article on them and I meant to do some photography too but didn't in the end. After tea Mr Page collected all his things as he has left us now to go to a flat. We dressed and went to the UN dinner. I was surprised to find that I enjoyed it much better than last year's luncheon as the atmosphere was really much more friendly. Thea took us home and gave us some cream and eggs which was ever so kind.

Sun 25 October:

We put the clocks back over night so it was nice to have the extra hour – although Mr Lee rang Mr Ford at 9 just before I got up, which was a little awkward! Went to Meeting and in the afternoon Andrew went with Granny and Thea to Melksham to see David and family while Michael Paul and I did some photography in the dark room. Did a little towards a bib for the Friends' sale after tea, then went to a discussion on the matter of the Friends and the British Council of Churches. A few want us to join as full members, but most are in favour of associate membership. Came home and embroidered a second bib, watched TV etc.

Mon 26 October:

The boys had half term. They didn't want to play this afternoon so I planned to work most of the day, doing housework, washing and shopping, lunch, rest, machining and writing in that order. Paul took a table-top photo in the dark room and Andrew went shopping and read. He was a little wheezy again following a heavily runny nose last evening. I am trying hard to think of a cause for it as it isn't a cold I feel sure. In the evening I went to gardening class and learnt it was to be the last because of the low numbers. Home and did some sewing.

Tues 27 October:

Michael went to London by car today with Tony Reynolds to see an exhibition. I took Andrew to the doctor but as the first appointment was 10.30 and it was then only 9.15, we caught a bus down town and did the necessary shopping, returning an hour later. Dr Steward gave Andrew some drops for his nose. It was 20 to 12 before I could start the housework! After lunch I did the ironing and had a rest then Paul and Andrew and I had one or two games. Paul has had his first cheque for 3 weeks' pay in the lab. at school. He has put it in the PO but drawn most out again! Did some sewing in the evening. Michael returned about 6.45.

Weds 28 October:

Having done the house I went shopping early returning about 10.30. I then wrote letters, stopping at 12.30 to get lunch. Andrew was expecting a friend for the day but he forgot to come so Andrew went to him. He returned for lunch then went to meet him again to go to the pictures and see a Tarzan film. I posted my letter, had a rest, then did a little writing before preparing tea. Made a fourth feeder for the Friends' sale in the evening. Michael not too well again this week.

Thurs 29 October:

Andrew went to his friend, Moore, for the morning while I did the washing and house, and wrote a letter and did some writing. After lunch Andrew had John Bratt to play with him while I went to WVS. When I came home I made some rock cakes and prepared tea. Afterwards we watched TV for half an hour or so then Paul went to school to be on duty in the Biology lab. for the 'open day' after the opening of the new art and craft block. Andrew and I followed about half an hour later. We walked, and arrived about 8.20 when the ceremony was over. We greatly enjoyed seeing the new rooms and all the work, then returned by bus in time to see the Russian dancers on TV. Paul was quite late returning. Michael felt too tired to come to the school.

Fri 30 October:

Did some ironing and housework, and rang the Gas Board as no one had yet come to mend the fault in the boiler. Fortunately it is still working well enough to keep us warm. Went shopping. When I returned I found that Andrew's friend who was expected for lunch hadn't turned up so we had an early lunch, then Andrew went into town and on to David Easton's to play a game. I had a test and then finished typing out the story I've been working on (Wunk Twoke and Treek) for Bobby to illustrate. In the evening we all watched TV and I started making a dress for the doll I'm stuffing. Still no one has come to mend the boiler.

Sat 31 October:

I met Michael in town at 10, having had a rather one-sided philosophical discussion with the boys. We did some shopping and had coffee, then returned and had lunch. Rested and then stuffed the doll I'm making while Michael wrote letters and did some photography. After tea I washed my hair and finished the doll's dress. Michael developed his film, Andrew helping him. TV quite good in parts.

Sun 1 November:

Went to Meeting and after lunch we all played Monopoly. Michael enjoyed it and it was lovely to be doing something of the boys' choice all together. At 4, Michael and I had a short rest, then tea, and I mended clothes and worked on the things for the Friends' sale. Anna was powdered and bathed again.

Mon 2 November:

Hurried through the daily housework so that I could take the dog for a short walk at the same time as Andrew went to school (8.30). It was rather a rush. Finished off one or two jobs and then went into Widcombe shopping and back to do the washing. Peter Mayo-Smith came soon after 12, but still no gas fitter to

mend the boiler so I rang the Board and they said they'd radio the inspector at once. Was in with Peter all the afternoon watching TV etc and he played with a new gun of his and read books. When Michael came home he declined supper, which was a pity as it was vegs with a celery-cheese sauce and was really rather nice. I had a nice assortment of vegs. Later he was hungry and so had cheese and sardine sandwiches and a fresh pot of tea! Peter left about 8.20. Mended and worked for Friends' sale in afternoon and evening (as Peter didn't want to play a game).

Tues 3 November:

A pretty busy day – did the beds etc and took Anna for walk going with Andrew most of his way to school. Home to do a few jobs in the house and allow Mr Aldridge from the Gas Board mend our boiler. Did a mountain of shopping then met Granny and Mary Phillips from Newton-St-Loe at Colmers for lunch. Home about 2.45 and did the ironing, not finishing until 5. A man came to see Michael in the evening re insurance. Watched TV, sewing, bath etc. An election took place in the USA.

Weds 4 November:

We are relieved to hear that President Johnson has won the USA presidency election quite easily. Did housework then took Anna for a walk. Wrote my mother and later the window cleaner came. I was expecting a Mrs Lever to come to lunch from Warminster, but my letter must have gone astray for she didn't turn up. Wrote after a short rest period then in the evening did a little sewing, TV pretty mediocre. Put some new powder on Anna for her fleas and it irritated my nose and made a frightful mess wherever she went.

Thurs 5 November:

Did the house and washing and the Ideal representative came with Mr Aldridge from the Gas Board to see the boiler. They cannot account for the unreliability of the ignition. Did a little wrting, then had an early lunch, wen tot a shop and on to reference library for 20 mins read. Went to Lending Library at 1.30 to meet Granny Bridges who gave us a lovely cake she'd bought at a bazaar. Went to WVS. In the evening made an embroidery case for the Friends' sale.

Fri 6 November:

Another full day – housework, took Anna up in the park, then went shopping and closed my private a/c at the Bank transferring the money to the Trustees Savings Bank. Wasn't home until nearly 12, so having put away the grocery order, had lunch, a short rest, then did the ironing. The new vicar of St Matthews called. In the evening – a good one for TV, the set refused to function at all!

Michael did some enlargements and I did Writer Circle work. To bed just before 11.30.

Sat 7 November:

Went down town with Michael shopping. Granny Bridges came to lunch and afterwards I took Anna up in the park and saw some young boys playing with some lamps belonging to the Electricity Board. One of them, although only perhaps 8, seemed quite delinquent and took no notice – simply throwing one of the lamps down the hill when I told him to stop playing with them. (When I caught them they were lighting a pile of leaves which they had soaked in paraffin – under a lorry!) I told the park keeper, but by that time they had run away. Had a rest when I returned and later a substitute TV set came for us to use till our set is mended. Spent the evening making Christmas cards with Michael's photos. Andrew seemed a little depressed this evening saying he couldn't seem to keep up in his lessons.

Sun 8 November:

Went to Meeting and Preparative meeting and then home to get lunch. Afterwards Andrew and I took Anna along to Watery bottom and back. I helped Michael with some enlarging while the boys did homework, then after tea we watched TV. Frank Frisby came to see me about one or two Quaker matters including that of asking me if I could go on the Burial Ground Committee as it is quite near here and I agreed. During the evening I finished the second tea cosy for the Friends' stall.

Mon 9 November:

Hurried through the housework before going to Dr Carr about Andrew. Was pleased to hear that he is arranging some skin tests for him. Went shopping and back for an early lunch before doing the washing, and some more housework. Had a short rest and did some writing then made high tea and some biscuits. In the evening the bookcase came that Granny has given Andrew and we put it in place. I finished off the second tea cosy with some braid which made it look tidier, and started a jumper for Mark – but it's going to be difficult to find enough wool.

Tues 10 November:

Another hurried morning as directly the house was tidy I had to ring Granny Bridges then make several calls in the town and be back home again by 10. Prepared one of two meals ahead and wrote a couple of letters as Mrs Snelling was much later than I expected. We had a most pleasant chat, however, and she was very kind and helped me with an article I had written. Went down the hill

with her at 3.20, taking Anna, then came back to do the ironing. After tea I washed my hair and home-permed parts of it. I hope it will be alright!

Weds 11 November:

After the housework I went shopping. There was quite a lot to do and I didn't get back till about 12. Had lunch and wrote my mother, then took Anna for a walk and visited Mrs Miles who is ill, taking her a magazine and offering to take the accounts of the Circle, but they weren't ready and she said her husband would drop them in. Home for a short rest before making some cakes and tea. Spent the evening mending and starting a puppet, for the Friends' sale (I've had to scrap the idea of a jumper for Mark as I haven't enough wool, I find). My home perm seems quite satisfactory. The new government has brought out a budget. I think it had to be. We, as a country, were heavily in debt.

Thurs 12 November:

Did the washing and some shopping, then went to bus station and met Phillippa [sic] and the children. Granny joined us and we all went shopping. I took Mark back to Springfield Place and the others followed a little later. In the afternoon we all played with Mark while Sophie slept, had some tea and then taxied to the bus station. After I'd helped them on the bus, I went back for tea. Writer Circle in the evening and now I'm to be vice-chairman which should be nice and restful after being secretary for several years. Afterwards we had a reading of MSS supposed to be entitled "Spring Surprise". A Mr Archard came to see the top room, but he doesn't get home till 7 or so in the evening so wouldn't fit in with us, I feel.

Fri 13 November:

After doing the house and ironing I started an adult story I suddenly had a desire to write. The man came and mended the TV. I had lunch and then spent the afternoon in town. It was very wet and miserable weather, but there is a shortage of water so maybe it's a good thing. The electricity people just finished tarring the hill which they have had up for laying a new cable. They were finishing it last night. This afternoon the gas people were hacking it up again! I expect it's because of a leak, as I've smelt gas in the hill for two or three days.

Sat 14 November:

Michael and went down town. I told Michael I was concerned about our not keeping to a budget, but he did not appear to mind about it. I also said that I thought I should definitely write, and asked him in what way he thought the house was at present neglected. I am trying to work out a routine. It will have

to be flexible, but I am going to try to write between the hours of 10 & 1 each day. It is warmer in the house in the morning and I write better then. Mon, Weds, and Friday afternoons I shall probably need to go out, Tues. there will be ironing, and Thurs. possibly WVS if I don't give it up. Andrew went to a friend's for the day and Michael and I did photography – with help from Paul.

Sun 15 November:

We celebrated Michael's birthday today [instead of on the 16<sup>th</sup>]. The boys had bought most thoughtful and expensive presents. Went to Meeting and after lunch did some enlarging mostly with Paul – and we had good fun. Michael was in rather a disapproving mood which was a pity as otherwise it could have been a happy day. Went to a talk and discussion by Ruth Bunch on children in Quaker life and was very encouraged to find her ideas in tune with mine. Paul and Andrew have been asked to look after the barn tup at the FSC sale. Home and went on with the puppet I'm making for the sale.

Mon 16 November:

I awoke rather early – about 4.20 and couldn't get off to sleep again. Michael's birthday but we gave him his presents yesterday. After breakfast I did the house and washing and one or two odd jobs, then did some writing. Lunch and a short rest, then at 2 took Anna and walked up the doctor's surgery to collect a letter for Andrew to take to the hospital on Thursday. We also did a little shopping in Combe Down but I caught a bus home as it was wet and miserable. Having prepared supper for the other three I met Michael and we went up to Granny Bridges' for supper. She had taken a lot of trouble and it was a lovely supper. I didn't eat a large meal, but nevertheless I was very sleepy afterwards and had itchy feet. The TV was interesting but still I found it purgatory to stay awake. Home by taxi at 9.30 or so.

Tues 17 November:

Did housework and some ironing, followed by three hours writing. After lunch and a short rest, I went to the cleaners and also had a haircut. Bought a few things at the Ace stores then returned to finish the ironing and write a letter. Made the tea and some small apple tarts etc then afterwards went to Miss Cass's house for a committee meeting with Miss Stone. It was most successful and we planned next year's Writer Circle meetings by about 9, when Miss Cass gave us coffee and Miss Stone took me home. A little TV then bed.

Weds 18 November:

Did the house and some paint washing, then wrote two letters. I'm very thrilled – at last they are going to broadcast a story (they've had for three years) on BBC in December. After lunch and a rest, went shopping and home to do a little mending. Helped Andrew take some photos of his puppets in the evening (which turned out badly) then shortened the sleeves of Paul's blazer washed my hair and watched TV.

Thurs 19 November:

Hurried through the housework as Andrew and I had to go to the RUH for Andrew to have some skin tests. We arrived early, and were very surprised to be 'seen' practically at once by Dr Green and then sent on to the Manor Central Laboratory for the tests. Andrew felt rather faint when they'd been done, but after 10 mins a few of the 'scratches' had reacted and the rest were normal and we were allowed to go. Outside he soon felt better. We had to get some ointment from the dispensary then we went home – the whole visit had only taken an hour – marvellous! Did the washing and made a Christmas cake before lunch while Andrew went back to school. Lunch, a res, then took the dog up in the park. Back at 2.30 and did writing until 4.30 or so. After supper I did some fabric printing and made some tray cloths but it wasn't 'my night' – none of the designs were any good. Michael did photography.

Fri 20 November:

After the housework, I did the ironing, and then some writing, lunch, a rest and out by 2 into town. When I returned I put away the box of groceries delivered by Harrison and Lance. I found the sausages, ham and bacon missing and rang them. They couldn't understand it so I went to see if it had dropped off the box in the path. Alas I found the bacon in the flower border, and the ham (what was left of it) on the wall above and no trace of the sausages! Obviously a cat had been at work and I rang H & L to say it was my loss. After tea I started making a jumper for Mark. TV was fairly interesting. Paul thinks he may now go in for agricultural surveying. Quite a good choice, I think, if he can do it.

Sat 21 November:

Michael and I went down town this morning shopping. On return, I did the edges of the mats[?] I made on Thursday and made lunch. Andrew spent the morning preparing for his puppet show. Paul Michael and I went to the Bazaar, going to see the show first. We were staggered at the amount of work the boys had put into it and the scenery was good, but it was unfortunately boring. It seemed such a pity. We had tea, bought a few things and went and saw a photographic display, then home. Enlarging and knitting in the evening, also TV.

Sun 22 November:

Mr Ford told me this morning that he would be leaving to go and live with Mr Lee on Dec.4<sup>th</sup>. I am sorry about it and rather perplexed as to what we should do about the situation financially. Andrew came to Meeting with me. After lunch Michael did photography and I took Anna for a walk and then did some knitting. About 4 Michael and I had a snooze and we didn't have tea until nearly 6. Meeting Point was on a book called "Objections to the Roman Catholic religion" written by Catholics (or partly, at any rate) Naturally I agreed with all the objections raised. Knitted in evening. TV.

Mon 23 November:

Did the house and washing and the 3 hours writing. It took me all that time to reduce the story I've been writing from over 3000 words to about 2,200 for Morning Story! I'm almost fed up with it. After lunch and a rest, went shopping and was back before 3.30. Sorted out some things for the bazaar and then made some cakes. Mr Aldridge called because the boiler is being temperamental but he can't find anything wrong. Spent the evening making some calendars for the Friends' sale and some Xmas cards for ourselves.

Tues 24 November:

At breakfast this morning I felt bound to tell Michael I thought he was 'witch-hunting' Andrew and I couldn't back him up over it, and he was upset and angry. It was a pity – I don't expect I did it in the best way. After doing quite a lot of housework I typed out the story "Saturday afternoon" which took me till 1. Lunch and a rest, then ironing and I also took the dog for a short walk. In this evening – knitting, TV etc and to bed earlyish.

Weds 25 November:

Did some paint-cleaning and etc then wrote my mother and meant to finish the title page of "Saturday Afternoon" but was flabbergasted to find, on checking up, that it was 250 words under the right amount, so set about correcting this. After lunch and a little time to myself, went shopping, and on coming back, typed out the last two pages of the story again. After tea I made 12 calendars for the Friends' sale. Paul enjoyed his 6<sup>th</sup> form conference at the Octagon. Andrew makes me rather concerned as he's obviously what they call 'disturbed' and Michael's efforts of training him out of it, to my mind make matters worse. He doesn't agree with me, however.

Thurs 26 November:

Did the washing and some housework, then finished off "Saturday Afternoons" only to find my typewriter had 'packed up'. Took it into Office Efficiency on my way to WVS and went to Library on the way home. Mr Ford was not in for supper. Went to Writer Circle in the evening and wrote 3 letters answering adverts for accom. when I got home.

Fri 27 November:

Andrew didn't feel too well today so stayed at home. He had a bit of a cold, but this wasn't, I felt, the entire reason. I did ironing and writing – sending off 4 poems to P.E.N. and revising my "Three kind mice". Went shopping in the afternoon and marked the things for the sale, did knitting and watched TV in evening.

Sat 28 November:

Went down town and met Michael after going to one or two shops. Bought a blazer for Andrew but when we got home we found it was too small, so although we were trying to keep Andrew in today to get his cold better, I had to return to Foster's with him to change it. We finally found a larger blazer 3 sizes smaller!! Paul helped lay lunch etc while I was gone, then we had an early meal, and Paul and I went with the things down to the Friends' sale. There were almost too many things on our staff and not really enough people to buy, but we made about £12 and the whole effort – about £46. I brought home some of the things I'd taken and also bought a few things. After tea I sewed the badge on Andrew's blazer watched TV etc. Michael did a little photography. It is much colder today.

Sun 29 November:

Went to Meeting and after lunch I knitted and watched TV for most of the day. Andrew took Anna out for a short walk. He seems a bit better in himself, but tonight he is rather 'nosy'. Paul did some revision for his chemistry exam. Michael wrote letters and did some photography. Feel strangely depressed this evening, possibly due to a rather nostalgic programme in Churchill's honour.

Mon 30 November:

Andrew's cold was rather heavy today so I kept him home. Did the house and washing then some writing until 1. Lunch and went shopping. Home about 3.30 and Andrew and I played Careers. Paul had his GCE Chemistry exam. He doesn't think he's done very well, Directly after tea I joined Michael with Granny

Bridges and Aunt Ursula (who was staying). We enjoyed a very pleasant evening. Home 9.20.

Tues 1 December:

Andrew went back to school today and seemed much better in himself. Spent the morning giving special attention to the lounge and preparing lunch for Aunt Edie, Frieda and Granny Bridges who came to lunch at 12.30. When they had gone and I'd done the washing up I did about an hour's ironing and then took Paul's stamp package down to post, and did a little shopping. Hurriedly prepared tea and Andrew and I had ours early, then dashed off to catch the 4.40 bus to the doctor. The appointment was punctual and we learned that Andrew was +++allergic to house dust, and a serum is going to be given him over a period of time to make him immune. Andrew went on to St Martin's to do a puppet show and I was home by 5.30. did a little ironing in the evening but I wasn't too well and didn't finish it. Bath and bed.

Weds 2 December:

Woke once or twice in the night but felt better in the morning – though a bit frail! Paul and Andrew exchanged beds. Paul was home with me in the morning as he had no school I wrote my mother etc. After an early lunch I did the ironing and shopping and was glad to get my typewriter back. Knitted and watched TV in evening while Michael did photography. Then I did a little writing.

Thurs 3 December:

A piece of ceiling frieze fell down in our bedroom this morning, which was rather annoying. I moved Andrew's room round a little, so that his desk was nearer the radiator did the washing then wrote some letters and typed out the article I wrote on Monday. After lunch and a rest, I went to the Library and on to WVS. After tea I finished and typed a story "Roly Poly Pudding and Pi go to the Zoo" while Michael printed some of the photos he's taken of the old recipes Mummy sent me. Bed after 11.

Fri 4 December:

Mr Ford left this morning about 10.30. He gave Michael and I a china dachshund which must have cost him a small fortune. Although it is nice to be just ourselves for a while, we shall miss him. Did ironing and some writing – typing out part of a third draft of the "3 kind mice" After lunch and a bit of quiet, went shopping. In the evening went to a Committee meeting at Mary Davidson's house with Phyllis Batten and Hilda Bowman-Bier. It went in an easier way than we had all expected.

Sat 5 December:

It was lovely not having to hurry to get up this morning, and to make it even better I had a letter of acceptance from The Lady for "The Infants' Library" and two photos! After breakfast Michael and I went down town and when we came back I did some bakings Andrew went to a friend in the afternoon and when I'd prepared tea I re-typed a page of the article about Seville Oranges I'd done this week. (Michael has photographed the 3 old recipes) Michael rested, then at 4 Miss Thompson and Miss Brodie came to tea, and Andrew returned. In the evening I home-permed my hair (as the little bit I did recently was fairly successful) We had supper about 8, and I knitted afterwards. TV etc

Sun 6 December:

We felt very free about the time we rose this morning and it was nice. Went to Meeting and two or three people spoke including myself. Only stayed for part of the preparatory meeting. In the afternoon I sorted out presents and made some more calendars. Knitted, also, in evening. (My tummy still doesn't feel quite right after last week's do.)

Mon 7 December:

There was quite a bit of washing to do and housework before writing Bobby and also doing some typing. Paul came home to lunch as there was not exam this afternoon. I had a corn removed at Dr Scholl's and did a lot of shopping Spent most of the evening packing parcels, but also did a little knitting. Michael was rather rattled – he easily gets upset these days as he's very unhappy at work.

Tues 8 December:

Paul was home all day today as he had no exams and he decided to do the rest of the pages for the Ronald shiner Cup competition tonight. I was glad as it seemed a pity to waste what he'd done already, but he was amazingly calm and unhurried over it. I thought he'd never finish! After doing the necessary housework I did some shopping, and did the ironing in the study to save Paul moving – but oh dear, I completely ruined the leather (it was very torn and damaged already) on Paul's desk! I had no idea that over so many layers of blanket the iron could do more than make it mildly damp. I have removed a square of the leather and will have to replace it all in due course. Heard a good talk by Kenneth Barnes while ironing. After lunch, met Mummy and we took a broken Ralph Wood toby jug to Pardon's to be repaired, did some shopping then home. Paul and Mummy went to the Stamp 'do' in the evening and Paul's entry looked very nice but did not win of course. Michael and I watched TV etc. Andrew has done well in Greek Latin

French and English, but he is weak in Maths. We are not at all worried about this and neither apparently, is his master.

Weds 9 December:

After some housework and various jobs Mummy and I went down town. We did shopping and went to the Reference Library. Mummy looked up about 18<sup>th</sup> century prints and I found out what I could about Sally Lunn. Mummy took me to the Bernina for lunch then we did more shopping and went home. TV knitting etc in the evening. There was a programme about Faith-healing at a Manchester chapel.

Thurs 10 December:

After doing housework and washing, and typing out a short poem about the Bath Samaritans for possible publication under a pseudonym in the local paper, Mummy and I went down town. She bought me some material for 2 cushions. We met Auntie Marnie for coffee then visited more shops before lunching at Carwardines. We went home and took Anna for a walk, sat and talked and Mummy shortened my winter coat. Went to Writer Circle in the evening, when I was flabbergasted but delighted to receive a book token and money as a 'thank-you' for having been secretary!

Fri 11 December:

Having done the house and ironing and written a letter I went with Mummy by taxi to Rivers St where Mummy is staying the next few days. We went to Evans & Owen for coffee when I suddenly remembered some eggs I had put on to hard boil. Of course I immediately hurried home only to find that I hadn't left them boiling after all. Went back down town and later met Mummy for lunch at Carwardine's. In the afternoon I looked for books and Thermos jugs to buy with the Writer's Circle gift. When I had left Mummy, after tea at Fuller's I found a 2pt and 1pt jug (matching) at Timothy White and bought them. They are terra cotta and white and look nice with the grey and white china and also with the lounge colourings. In the evening I finished Mark's jumper. TV.

Sat 12 December:

It was a wet day and not nice at all, but Michael and I went down town. When we returned and made lunch, Paul, who has a cold, complained of feeling cold and felt dizzy and not hungry. I put him to bed and rang to tell my mother he couldn't come to Rivers St, as arranged, for tea. Andrew went to a friend for the afternoon to make puppets, and while Michael rested, I wrote three Christmas letters. Paul had Bovril and a few sandwiches, but he didn't have much as we found his temperature was 102. I wrote another letter after tea and also

a children's article (rough draft) on Sally Lunn. Watched TV etc. We are wondering what can be the matter with Paul.

Sun 13 December:

Paul's temperature was down again this morning and his appetite normal – however I kept him in bed as I feel that the fever was caused by being over-tired and having a cold. Went to Meeting where tributes were made to Hugo Topham-Brachman who died in Australia recently . After lunch I packed up remaining parcels and addressed cards. Andrew went to make puppets with a friend. TV mending and knitting in evening. Bath and bed. Michael has done some photography.

Mon 14 December:

Michael was on leave, so we didn't get up until 7.15. Paul stayed in bed until the afternoon. He is just about alright now, but we are not sending him to school tomorrow. Did the house and shopping, meeting Michael for coffee at 11. Home and did the washing. After lunch I listened to my story on the Listen with Mother programme then rested all the afternoon as had a dull headache. After tea and addressing more Christmas cards, I watched TV and wrote a second draft of the Sally Lunn article. Michael did photography.

Tues 15 December:

Paul was up all day today but we suggested he stay home until tomorrow. It turned very cold and it was foggy. After some housework we went into town and to the Reference Library, then met my mother who took us to lunch at Dr Oliver's. When we reached home again, Paul having made his own lunch, I did the ironing. In the evening I wrestled with the Sally Lunn article and finally finished it. Only 600 words, but what an effort! Article-writing definitely doesn't come easily to me! Bed about 11.

Weds 16 December:

Did quite a lot of paint washing and cleaned the cellar stairs etc. Michael went to Chippenham to apply for a job at Westinghouse. Although he was one of 10 (out of 150) short-listed, and could have had the job, he didn't take it as it wasn't well enough paid and had virtually no prospects. By second post we heard that Farmers Weekly wanted our article and photos about Seville oranges, which was good, and after shopping(meeting Miss Stone who took me out to coffee) and doing the ironing, I spent the afternoon 'sifting' the recipe book and sorting out information for further articles. I am becoming quite keen – it is so encouraging having these acceptances! Watched TV and a little more 'sifting' in the evening.

Thurs 17 December:

Having done the washing and housework, I did about half an hour's "article research" and then Michael and I did a little shopping and met Granny and Thea for lunch at Chez Robert. (The place is not as good as it was, we decided.) Having whiled away half an hour we went to Andrew's school carol service at the Abbey. Robert Orledge, who can only be about 17, played the organ well, but we don't really enjoy such affairs. I should have gone to a talk at Mrs Panter's in the evening on drawing plans, but I felt too weary, so did a little more article research again.

Fri 18 December:

After doing some washing, house and ironing, and writing my mother, I went shopping, getting home about 10 to 1 to make lunch. Paul was home for lunch, but he is still easily tired after the germ he had last weekend and in fact I'm not entirely happy about him. In the afternoon I did some writing, then we all had tea before I went with Andrew to the doctor for the first of umpteen inoculations to cure his allergy to dust. Andrew's report had 3 As (though 3 Cs and 2 Ds also) but seemed fair enough until one read the form master's report and we learned that he had dropped from 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in class! Poor Andrew! It confirms our belief that he was not doing very well this term and since he has the ability and is conscientious, he must be disturbed about something. Paul's report was very satisfactory. Knitted and washed my hair in the evening. TV.

Sat 19 December:

Went down into Widcombe shopping early, and back to prepare lunch by 12.30. Granny and Thea came and we sat for a while afterwards, the others having coffee. Michael and Paul went with them by car to visit David and Philippa at Melksham; Andrew went to a friend and I had a leisurely afternoon washing up, taking Anna for a walk and putting the almond icing on the cake. Did some writing just before and after supper, finishing the quiz "What d'ye know?" Michael developed and printed some photos he'd taken of Mark and Sophie. The boys watched TV. I had my cheque for 3gns from the BBC today – for the story read on the 14<sup>th</sup>. (It will cover my service charge on the typewriter.)

Sun 20 December:

Went to Meeting. After lunch, as it was not nice for going out, I rested and then typed out the What d'ye know quiz. Andrew went to a friend's and Michael slept. Paul did some photography in the dark room and I joined him about 4 o'clock – 4.45. After tea we all watched TV for a while, then while the others

continued to do so I wrote the first draft of "Roly Poly Pudding and Pie visit Aunt Prizantha" (much too long). Bed about 11.

Mon 21 December:

Michael went back to work this morning. I did washing and housework and worked out some figures about our financial affairs and found, as I feared, that now we had no PGs the amount we were overspending per week was in the region of £7! For the rest of the day I felt a mixture of anger and despair, for although I worked out a way of rectifying the matter, I know Michael will refuse to budget and stick to it. This shouldn't worry me as much as it does, but I care so much that our capital shouldn't just be frittered away. Soon Michael will have none left and he will be depressed. I didn't mind being poor if I felt we were really considering together the allotting of the small amount we had. When Paul and Andrew came back from the pictures this evening (they'd had two friends to lunch), 'everything seemed to be wrong', and I fear they won't ask friends here in a hurry again. Poor Paul. Michael gave a little cherry brandy after supper which was a treat, but even that cannot overcome my sadness.

Tues 22 December:

After breakfast, the boys and I tried some different ways with the decorations in the lunge and had quite an amusing time. Andrew went off to be with a friend and I went shopping. When I returned I found a pair of trousers I had bought for Paul were much too short, although we had taken measurements. Paul was annoyed because I said he would have to go (or come with me) and change them and I was cross because I had wanted him to get them in the first place, and nothing ever goes right when I buy clothes without the boys being there! To cap it all, we found the missing trousers (in their proper place!) After lunch, however, we had recovered and I was amused to find a burnt baby Xmas tree on the lunge mantelpiece – a result of an accident Paul said, when he was playing with some candles. Did the ironing, and was just getting ahead with tea when David Phillipa Sophie and Mark came to collect the photos Michael took of them. They had some tea and biscuits then left, and Andrew and I went to the doctor for Andrew's second injection leaving Paul to cope with the evening meal. We walked back as we'd just missed a bus. Did mending in evening.

Weds 23 December:

After breakfast I worked on the lounge decorations, then at 10.30 a Mrs Finch came for coffee. She came to discuss a MS and also had other problems. I hope I was a help to her as I felt she needed someone to talk to. She left at a quarter to one. After lunch, the boys, who had played games in the morning,

went shopping. I hung up the Christmas cards in the kitchen, then had half an hour's rest before getting the evening meal. After watching TV until nearly 8.30 I baked an orange sandwich, chocolate cake, 2 trays of ginger cookies a mince pie and some cumin scones! Funnily enough, I didn't feel so tired after this as I had this afternoon before the rest, when I had felt very tense dup. The cooking had become suddenly necessary as we had contacted the Garsides from whom we had obtained Anna, and who were down this way again for Christmas, and found they could come to tea tomorrow. How tomorrow's work will get done I can't think!

Thurs 24 December:

We had breakfast at about 8.15 – early, considering Michael had the day off. Having done some cleaning etc and told the boys about the washing we left them to do it while we went down town to do the last minute shopping. When we returned, we iced the cake and had lunch. Afterwards we prepared for the visitors, and had a short rest. The Garsides came about 4 and it was all very pleasant. Anna was naughty – she swore at Bacchus (her brother) when he showed his affection for her! Paul went shopping and also went and saw Andrew Taylor. In the evening when we'd cleared up there was ironing to do and present to pack. It was 11.30 by the time we got to bed.

Fri 25 December:

A lovely Christmas day! We didn't get up until nearly nine and I rose last! After breakfast we all opened our presents. Michael gave me a most expensive accessory for my camera which corrects parallax, I had a nice lot of Boots tokens and an interesting book from Thea, also an Eileen's token and so on. Lunch, which was beef and various vegs etc followed by mince pie, fruit salad and cream, was quite satisfactory. Granny Bridges cam, and after we'd talked listened to the Queen and I'd played rummy with Paul, Martin<sup>4</sup> came. We had tea at 4.45 and watched TV. Granny and Martin left about 7, and we didn't want more than a snack supper, so helped ourselves and watched TV. Bed just before midnight.

Sat 26 December:

A lovely long lie-in reading the book Thea gave me. Rose last, about 11.30, but found that Michael was cleaning the kitchen and was very cross having found the toaster greasy. He then tripped over its trailing lead and it fell on the floor breaking a small piece off one corner. Having cleaned the sittingroom I went

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<sup>4</sup> Martin Radford, an elderly bachelor, was a relative whom I only ever remember seeing at Christmas.

back to reading and we weren't able to have lunch until 1.30 as the Xmas pudding wasn't ready before. In the afternoon, no one wanted to go to the pictures as we thought we might, so the boys and I played a new game of Andrew's and Michael went to sleep. After tea we watched two films on TV (and I knitted) – Frenchman's Creek and The Battle of the River Plate. Didn't like either.

Sun 27 December:

It was a horrid cold wet sleety morning, but I went to Meeting. There were 15 or 16 of us there. On the way home it seemed much colder and began to snow properly. By teatime there was quite a layer of snow. I wrote thank you letters and now only have one Air letter left. The others wrote some too. Polished off the aunt Prizantha story by bringing it down to size, but it may need further attention before typing. Bed about 11.30.

Mon 28 December:

Michael went into work. The roads were very snowy and icy. I hurried through the housework and washing – Andrew washing up the breakfast things for me, and we decided to walk up to the doctor's surgery rather than wait and see if there was a bus. When Andrew had had his injection, we caught a bus into town and did some shopping, then after lunch the boys began clearing the paths (and playing between whiles!) while I typed out a story. Michael was home early so we had high tea early and afterwards typed out the second story ready for dispatch to "Listen with Mother". Later started a child's poem. TV etc.

Tues 29 December:

Michael started another brief period of leave. Paul was expecting Andrew Taylor, but he didn't turn up. What unreliable children their friends are! Having done housework and ironing, I made the lunch and after a rest, spent the afternoon typing out some verses I wrote last night and this morning in bed. The boys finished their thank you letters and went shopping. I sent off some poems to Associated Newspapers. Revised an article in the evening then watched TV. Feel as though I'm fighting some germ m fighting some germ or other (or maybe it's the result of Christmas!)

Weds 30 December:

Two rejections this morning so was in quite a gloom! Felt quite OK again in health, fortunately but Michael felt rotten and spent the day in bed. His temperature was sub-normal. I did the house and went shopping, then after lunch read and rested with Michael. He is depressed about his job and the

money situation (which I made clear to him yesterday) He came down for tea and TV afterwards. I washed my hair in evening.

Thurs 31 December:

Michael went up to the doctor with Andrew (who had an injection) as he has had a painful neck and low temperature for some time. The doctor said it was a 'virus' and gave him some medicine. I did the washing and went shopping. In the afternoon I shortened a new pair of trousers for Paul and took it easy with Michael, resting and reading. Watched TV in evening and did a little writing. We didn't wait up until midnight.

Fri 1 January 1965:

I must have neglected to set the alarm last night and I suddenly awoke at 7.40 or so! We rose without tea and had a hurried breakfast so that Andrew could get to the station where he was meeting Graham Hall and his mother who were going up to London to the Schoolboys' Exhibition. Granny Bridges telephoned to say Thea was in bed with a cold so couldn't come to lunch, however we met Granny for coffee and had a long conversation. On the way home I bought a pair of shoes, which I needed. The sales are on, but I haven't bought anything. Sorted out some accounts and typed part of an article before tea. Afterwards I watched some TV then finished the typing and Michael and I went to meet Andrew at the station. More TV and all to bed rather late.

Sat 2 January:

Did housework and ironing, then wrote two letters, while Michael went down town. In the afternoon Paul did some photography (enlarging) while I did some writing – revising Wunk Tooke and Treek and the first chapter of "Determined to help" which I'm re-naming 'Toby for luck'. Michael rested. After high tea, Andrew and I went to the Friends' New Year Party. It was very enjoyable and I was glad Andrew liked it too.

Sun 3 January:

We didn't wake up until well after 8, so were rather late getting up. Had breakfast about 10.30! Went to Meeting. Not very many there. Preparative meeting afterwards. After lunch I shortened some trousers of Paul's for Andrew. John Mary and Ian came to tea and we had a very pleasant evening.

Mon 4 January:

A pretty busy day as Michael went back to work and first of all Andrew and I had to get up to the doctor by 9. Appointments ran late, however and we didn't leave till after 10. Went down town to do shopping and a couple of errands for

Michael and back to clean stairs etc. After lunch I took down decorations and Paul helped (he also did the washing this morning for me) and cleaned ground floor, before doing some ironing and writing my mother. When tea was over I did some knitting, later some writing, and watched TV including a documentary on a Bristol couple called "The Newcomers" which was quite good.

Tues 5 January:

Today I had a lovely day in Bristol. The boys didn't want to come and so I gave them 5/- each as it saved me more than that. They made their own lunch of egg, chips and peas followed by milk pudding and also bought some Meccano which they worked with. I spent the morning in the Park St area doing children's book market research. Bought one or two small booklets. Met Michael at the London Coffee House in Corn St where we had a very pleasant lunch – I had a cheese and salad followed by a lemon sponge pudding and custard. In the afternoon I found the shopping bag on wheels I have been looking for – at Boots so was able to use my Boots tokens. After this, the shops seemed so congested with people at the sales, I went home. I have picked up some travel brochures but most of the holidays are too expensive. We are wondering if one to mid-Wales may be possible. Two men answered my advert of accommodation and they said they would be coming between 7 and 8. Neither came. TV was quite good, also knitted.

Weds 6 January:

Andrew began school again today. His asthma is only just in abeyance. Paul was home. I did some housework and went shopping. Then did a little ironing before getting an early lunch. In the afternoon Paul did some school work and I did some writing. A German schoolmaster (Mr Mager) came about accommodation and took the bottom room from Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. I hope he doesn't change his mind as he seems very suitable and it will be interesting. A foreign girl student also telephoned to say she was coming at 5, but she didn't come. After tea I went to an F.O.R. meeting at Argyle. There were about 9 of us. I feel most strange tonight, going to bed on my own – Michael having gone to Plymouth on business for two nights. There has been trouble between Indonesia and the new Malaysian recently. Malaysia has British military help, which one feels is aggravating the Indo-nesians[sic]. An International police force could have dealt with this situation so much better – but how does one set about forming one?

Thurs 7 January:

Did the house and washing and from about 10.30 onwards did writing. About 3.30 I went with Anna to the Greenway Lane post box. Had intended to go

further, but it was 'murky' and the fields too muddy, so home and had a little rest before tea. Shortened a pair of Paul's trousers and knitted in the evening. Watched TV. Had a few rejections but also the acceptance of a poem today. Oh well, every mickle .....

Fri 8 January:

Did the house and ironing, then went shopping. Came back and had an early lunch, then did writing all the afternoon. An Indian student called to see the top room, but he really wanted a double room, He will ring again on Monday. Andrew and I went up to the doctor's for his injection, having laid tea. When we returned Michael was there and we had a joyous reunion. TV in evening, but I did so some typing during Wells Fargo.

Sat 9 January:

We didn't get up too early. I helped Paul put his desk in his room (instead of the study) and then did some cooling. Andrew went to a friend for lunch. After lunch I prepared tea and about 4.20 Michael and Liz and family came. Paul and Andrew were ever so good with Michael's 4 – I still think Paul should do teaching! They left about 7 or so and it was an evening of TV. Michael (my M) seems so disgruntled and fault-finding, I almost wish the boys were at boarding school. I do wish I didn't feel so cross, for I'm sure he is unable to be different – but I just can't accept it – it's like telling oneself black is white.

Sun 10 January:

Michael awoke very depressed and disgruntled and said a lot of upsetting things. I was silly to be upset by them, though, as he was obviously so beyond himself, he didn't mean it. At Meeting non one spoke and in the afternoon I watched TV – a good programme on intensive farming which I deplore. A little writing. Washed my hair. TV etc. What I would call a barren day, and feel kind of 'internally wounded'. Michael probably feels the same, and I wish I could somehow get him a better job or better conditions.

Mon 11 January:

Was resolved to really 'let go' today (this was my New Year resolution!) and completely abandon my selfish self. No one could say I succeeded, of course, but the effort (if that's the right word) was a step in the right direction! I reorganised Andrew's room a little to give him more room to do his homework and when I was out bought Paul a very nice desk light. Did quite a lot of washing, then after lunch did some writing finishing my MS Toby for Luck! Met Mr Ford

this morning who told me Mr Lee isn't too well. Michael wasn't too pleased about my giving Paul a new light (although my money) and found to his horror that Paul had wired the plug wrongly and had too powerful a fuse in it! Still, I think later he accepted it as a good thing. TV in evening. (Also had a haircut today, and bought a book on the Psychology of learning to read, with the Writer Circle money.)

Tues 12 January:

Michael very depressed this morning. By post I had a cutting of our article on Seville orange which I hadn't thought would be published for a long time. After housework, went shopping and when I'd had an early lunch, spent the afternoon ironing. I never mind ironing as there is plenty of time for thought. Took Andrew to the doctor for his injection at 6. Tried to think about holidays in the evening but no one wants anything we can afford! TV knitting etc.

Weds 13 January:

It rained all day today – sometimes very heavily. After doing the housework I wrote my mother, then went shopping and met Granny Bridges and Thea at the Gay Heart for lunch. Was very wet by the time I reached home and had to change and soak my feet in hot water. Studied some 'holiday' adverts and did a little writing. After tea we had a few answers to my advert, and eventually let the room to a Mr Marsden. He is a young mushroom worker and will have to have his breakfast prepared the night before. I shall take his evening meal up to his room too. Poor dear, I think he is quite F.M., but he seems harmless enough. At least we shall have some money coming in by Sat week, anyway. With the winter gas bill due soon, we shall need it!

Thurs 14 January:

After doing the washing and house I had a long writing session today – doing the first 2½ chapters of a story I call "Sopherico". Mr Marsden brought some things, and he is coming tomorrow instead of Saturday. Paul heard today that he has passed his O Level chemistry exam which we think is very commendable, as he has studied for it on his own since June, and had no help at all!

Fri 15 January:

A rather full day as had to prepare the two PGs' rooms, and do the ironing before having an early lunch and going shopping. When I returned I mended a loose cover and did a little writing. Knitted and TV in evening. Mr Marsden came, and a lot of luggage and asked to bring a budgie! We get more and more worried about having this man! (Had two poems accepted by Blackie.)

Sat 16 January:

A horrid wet day, and sir Winston Churchill is lying gravely ill. I had a rejection, and altogether it's not what would call a cheerful day! Went down town and did a little shopping, but Michael did some odd house jobs. Andrew went to a friend's for lunch. Herr Mager came in the afternoon and his girl friend stayed with him for a while. I did some writing in the afternoon and evening. Others watched TV. It is going to be little difficult getting used to this new routine with the fresh PGs.

Sun 17 January:

Went to Meeting as usual and it thundered this morning! Fortunately I avoided the heavy rain. After lunch we all played 'Careers' and watched TV. In the evening I washed my hair and then tipped out "The New Hat" I wrote yesterday (based on an old story of mine). Mr Marsden certainly does everything he can to be helpful, and his mother offered to come and clean his room, but I thanked her and declined. Herr Mager is not too easy to converse with, and left his key in the front door last night. He is still not clear about leaving his card out etc either. We like him, however. Andrew was rather asthmatic at times today, but a bit better this evening.

Mon 18 January:

Found it difficult to "act busy" today, as there was so much to do, and to top it all, Andrew said he had a sore throat and had better stay at home. There was little the matter with him but I agreed t him doing so. Did house, washing and shopping, home to late lunch and made a steak and kidney pudding for the evening meal. Did some pretty poor writing, then made high tea. Afterwards, went to Miss Stone's for Writer Circle. It was very pleasant – about 7 of us (MS reading).

Tues 19 January:

We suddenly remembered it was Paddy's birthday yesterday and so sent him a token and Francis a P.O.. Had a rejection, but yesterday the BBC wrote to say they were keeping "Roly Poly etc go to the Zoo" and "Aunt Prizantha" in their reserve, so don't feel too despondent. Did house and ironing, then Andrew, who had gone back to school, came home saying he didn't feel too good. I went shopping, he wasn't really ill or asthmatic. In the afternoon I wrote letters and he played. Took him to the doctor for his injection after having prepared supper. Appointments were very late and we didn't get away until nearly 7. TV in evening. Felt a little queasy about lunch time today and thought I might be in

for this gastric flu that's about, but felt rather better by evening so it may be slight anaemia.

Weds 20 January:

It was a horrid cold windy day and seemed an unsuitable time to send Andrew back to school so I kept him at home. I did the house and went shopping. We had an early lunch and I wrote a letter, then we played a game for an hour. I did a little writing, and some more in the evening. Winston Churchill still hangs on to life. It must be an anxious time for his relatives. Michael did some photography – printing for a friend.

Thurs 21 January:

Another rather cold day and I am trying to 'scotch' a cold with Vit C. After doing the house I did the washing, then spent the rest of the day writing – sending off "The new hat" and writing more of Sopherico. Had 3 puzzles accepted but for only 15/- - sweated labour! Did some mending and knitting in evening TV. Andrew was back at school today, but his cold is still about him and he is a little asthmatic at times.

Fri 22 January:

Quite a long day. Did house, some washing and ironing., then shopping. After lunch did a little writing and then made some cakes and the evening meal. Andrew and I had ours early and left at 5.30 to go to the doctor for Andrew's injection. He is rather asthmatic after his recent cold. Patrick Gordon-Walker hasn't got in at Leyton, and so we are to have Michael Stewart as Foreign Secretary. Mary John's mother has died.

Sat 23 January:

Michael went out this morning but I stayed in and in between the normal household duties I had a most enjoyable day, writing an article on sage[?] – most of the notes for which I had made some weeks ago. In the evening I started to adapt a story I wrote a year or two ago to a rhyming playlet for Child Education.

Sun 24 January:

Had a slight headache this morning which rather marred the usually pleasant "lie-in" on Sunday morning. Sir Winston Churchill died today and the whole evening, practically, was devoted to tributes to him on TV. He was a great man. His courage was wonderful, but someone said it was the end of an era and personally I hope it is an end to a time when we hope to overcome the evil of this world by material strength. Went to Meeting in the morning and id knitting most of the rest of the day.

Mon 25 January:

Quite a full day – doing house, washing and shopping, followed by a bit of clearing up in the garden. After lunch I did some writing and typing and more typing in the evening, thus finishing the playlet “Jeremy Joe” and an article called “Sage – could we use it more?” Michael says he feels very weary tonight.

Tues 26 January:

Did the house and a little washing, ironing etc and then went shopping. After lunch I wrote two or three letters then prepared the evening meal early so that Andrew and I could have it at 5.15 and go to the doctor’s. In the evening I shorted the sleeves of Andrew’s two new shirts.

Weds 27 January:

Today, after an hour or two’s housework, I did some writing, then prepared lunch for Miss Stone, who came at 12.30. After a pleasant lunch we went through the circle papers. To my horror, we found a cheque for 10/6 of Miss Holman’s that was two years old! I shall have to pay it into funds from my own money now. I can’t think how it happened! When she had gone, I did some more writing, and a little more in the evening, after watching some TV.

Thurs 28 January:

Had quite an easy day today, as after doing the house and mid-week wash, I typed out a play for Andrew (that he had written) and then worked on this backward reader I am doing. Having had 2 rejections today, I didn’t feel too cheerful!!! Michael, Andrew and I went to Paul’s school in the evening as it was Careers night. It was very very good. Paul had stayed at school for tea and we didn’t see him much as he had duties. We saw a film and many booklets. Michael spoke to the Careers master and a Careers Advisory man.

Fri 29 January:

Another rejection – so very down in the dumps! Mr Hanham came and temporarily fixed a slate on the roof where rain was getting it. It then snowed. I did house, ironing and some writing. After lunch, went shopping for an hour and a half. A little writing, then Andrew went up, and I with him, for his 11<sup>th</sup> injection for dust allergy. Andrew fell when we ran to catch a bus home, but didn’t hurt himself much. Washed my hair. Michael did all the washing up and brushed the paths.

Sat 30 January:

Another cold day. Michael went down town and I made the lunch ready. We watched the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill on TV. The sounding of the last post was particularly moving, and we liked the reading and the reader, who was a New Zealander. In the afternoon, I went down town and sought books for our holiday. Michael isn't really keen to go to Keswick. We are now considering Llandudno or Swansea (as a centre) but Michael isn't keen on these either. The trouble is that the better class places are rather dull, or too expensive to get to, or not near tourable country of interest to the boys. Am sending for the Swansea guide.

Sun 31 January:

Went to Meeting where three people spoke about Sir Winston Churchill. In the afternoon I read the newspapers and knitted. A really lazy day. TV was fairly good. Michael did some jobs in the morning and had a restful day afterwards.

Mon 1 February:

After doing the house, and washing, I went into Widcombe, then came back and spent until 4.30 altering MSS and preparing to send them out again, also finished the backward reader I've been doing called "Mystery and the antique shop". When high tea was over, I went to Writer Circle at Miss Cass's house. There were 8 of us and it was very enjoyable. We brought magazines and chose someone else's to write a letter suitable for sending to it. Received a proof copy of the reader "Matilda" today.

Tues 2 February:

Did the house and a couple of hours' ironing, then went to shopping, getting back for a late lunch. Wrote some letters in connection with writing and made the evening meal on the early side. Michael had a doctor's appointment too, so went with Andrew instead of me. A good documentary on Henderson hospital for emotionally disturbed adults that prison and mental hospital have failed to help. VG.

Weds 3 February:

After doing the house etc I wrote my mother. Had lunch and did some shopping then an hour's writing. Michael and I went to Paul's school in the evening as there was opportunity to speak to subject masters and the form master. Home by 8.30. TV. Bed.

Thurs 4 February:

Mr Marsden's room was very dirty as Anna had misbehaved herself outside his room, and he, being shortsighted, had trodden it all round the room! Did the

washing and then made some marmalade and wrote. I'm not very satisfied with the story I'm doing at the moment. The trouble is that I have no particular market in mind. In the evening we watched TV. Dr Kildare was good.

Fri 5 February:

Did the housework and went shopping After lunch I scanned a Careers book I had borrowed from the Library, then did the ironing and nearly an hour's writing. Took Andrew to the doctor and went on to Friends Annual Prep Meeting. Michael and the boys kindly did the washing up. Home about 9.

Sat 6 February:

Michael and I went down town and in the afternoon I went down on my own. We are still undecided about holidays, and also trying to suggest various possibilities to Paul as regards his career. He is rather keen to go to University and study Geography. It is difficult to know if he would find it too much. He wasn't too good during the night – must have picked up a germ or eaten something bad, but he didn't tell us until after tea! Washed my hair in evening, read and watched TV – mostly poor.

Sun 7 February:

Andrew came to Meeting with me this morning. At lunch time we heard that the Americans had raided N Vietnam in reprisal for an attack on them. This could start a major flare-up. Of course, one feels that the Americans ought not to be there, but in the absence of a UN force, what can be done? I wonder if this 'strong' line is going, ultimately, to do any good, yet one hates just to stand by and watch Communism overrun S Vietnam, and do nothing! What is the answer? Had a restful afternoon and knitted and watched TV in evening.

Mon 8 February:

Another rejection – I seem to be going in for them in a big way at present! Paul had the 'trots' again so I kept him at home, but he was pretty alright this evening again. Did housework, washing and shopping in the morning, and writing in the afternoon. Michael went up to Grannys for supper and I joined him afterwards there. Home by taxi.

Tues 9 February:

After doing the house and ironing, I ent to Library etc and then went up to Frieda and Aunt Edie for lunch meeting Hilda John on the bus. She is rather peeved as they are building all round her cottage up on Mount Beacon. Had a pleasant chat with Frieda. Went shopping in afternoon and home to make early tea so that Andrew and I could get off to the doctor at 5.15. We didn't get

away until 6.25, so as we'd just missed a bus, we walked home. Went to bed a little on the early side.

Weds 10 February:

After doing the house, I went into Widcombe, shopping, and then came back and spent the rest of the time writing letters. The window cleaner came and in the evening, after seeing a little TV I did some writing. Still getting rejections! – one from She today, and they've had it 6 weeks!

Thurs 11 February:

After doing the house and washing etc I went into town, and met Granny at the Post Office bus stop. Went to her house where Thea had made a lovely lunch. A very pleasant time, though was told that Grace and Haydon are leaving the downstairs flat so it must be a bit worrying for them. They aren't self-contained. Home soon after 3 and read paper. In evening knitted etc and TV. I seem to have a runny nose, so although I have had no bad throat I think I must have a cold. Forgot to mention yesterday that Mr Marsden is leaving – praise be!

Fri 12 February:

Michael was still in a very 'strict' mood – he has been for while. Andrew looked very washed out this morning and as he didn't feel well, I said he could stay home. By the afternoon he was better, but I felt very concerned indeed about the whole family situation, and after doing house, shopping ironing etc etc when Andrew and I went to the doctor I saw him alone for a few minutes and asked him to urge Dr Old to do something more radical for Michael for, as I explained 18 years was a long time to go on having drugs, odd rest periods, etc etc and not to be any better. He was very nice and said that he and Dr Old would try to do something more 'honest'. TV in evening.

Sat 13 February:

My cold (or rhinitis, whatever it is) was still rather heavy today. Odd jobs and cooking in the morning. Michael and I read and rested in the afternoon. TV and knitting and writing in the evening.

Sun 14 February:

My 'cold' was much better this morning until I washed and used talcum powder, then it flared up again, so I decided to take a Piriton tablet. I took another at lunch time and was quite alright all day. I think now the trouble must have been an allergy condition. Michael and I exchanged Valentines, which was fun, then I watched TV and again after lunch, also knitted. Granny and Thea came to tea. At 6 they took me down the hill and I went to Meeting to hear Mary Hooper, the

head of Sidcot talking. She brought some interesting tape-recordings of pupils discussing various subjects.

Mon 15 February:

Did the house and washing, then went shopping. After lunch did some writing and in the evening went to Writer Circle at Mrs Cooper's, Ambleside Rd. It was on a new housing estate on Southdown. Very nice, but an 8d fare from the City, and although I like these modern houses, there's too little cupboard space in them. It was a very nice meeting, with 9 of us there and we talked about markets.

Tues 16 February:

Did the house and went shopping. Bought a piece of Duravel[?] for the bathroom landing, as the stair carpet is worn. Did the ironing after lunch. Have written to ask about accommodation in Leamington. Andrew went to the doctor alone tonight as the doctor said he could. Michael also went, and he is to see Dr Guirdham again. He is rather depressed about it. I permed my hair at the back and a little in the front.

Weds 17 February:

Michael is still rather depressed about the idea of seeing Dr Guirdham again, but I am a little hopeful that this may reach the root of his feeling ill health. Mr Marsden left this evening, so after doing the housework this morning, I washed his bed linen, 3 blankets, a bed and quilt cover, and a chair cover, and sent the fourth (large) blanket to the laundry. Wrote my mother, then put some pest-destroying powder on the dog and washed the kitchen floor. Spent the whole evening mending so felt very virtuous after that! My nose is rather sore and affected by the dog's powder.

Thurs 18 February:

Had quite a busy day as had to thoroughly clean the top bedroom, do the washing, go shopping and then clean the carpets in the top room. In the afternoon there was a lot of ironing and when aired I was able to re-hang the curtains and replace the chair cover and eiderdown-cover in the top rooms. The prospective PG had arranged to come at 7.30 but didn't come until nearly 8. She seems alright but she is ringing to confirm about coming tomorrow.

Fri 19 February:

Did the house etc and decided to wash the dog because the powder I put on her coat a day or two ago has been playing up my nose. Heather Smith rang up to confirm that she is coming tomorrow. The matting I bought at Evans and Owens came and it seems good but unfortunately it's not a good colour. Went shopping,

and in the afternoon wrote some postcards in connection with Writer Circle, took Anna out and then did some ironing. Knitted in evening and watched TV but apart from the *Great War* form, there was nothing good, and Telefusion broke down early on. Michael was end-of-weekish – very critical.

Sat 20 February:

It snowed this morning but didn't pitch on the paths or road. Michael and I went down town. We bought an ailer and new bath soap tray. After lunch the new PG, Heather Smith came. When she had gone out in the evening her father visited us to say that she had run away from home. He talked for some time. It is indeed a problem for him and his wife. He asked us not to 'let on' that he had come, and we agreed, and also said we'd help if we could, to persuade her to go home. Her boyfriend is not very desirable – at the moment, in any case, and it must be worrying for them.

Sun 21 February:

Didn't sleep too well. Heather Smith walked with me to town as she went to the Abbey. She talked a little of her circumstances. After lunch, Michael was doing some photography so I did some writing. Heather's boyfriend came and spent the afternoon with her. I felt a little uneasy, but decided I couldn't interfere. Watched TV and knitted in the evening.

Mon 22 February:

It was half term and we rose a little later than usual. Did housework and shopping Michael went to see Dr Guirdham, only to find that we had made a mistake about the appointment, and it is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Did the washing, and after lunch Michael and I had a leisurely afternoon. Andrew went to David Easton for tea. In the evening we went to see "Cleopatra". It was a lavishly presented film. Bawdy in places and more was made of this than was necessary, to my mind. Interesting, from the historical point of view. The cinema was very hot, and perhaps because of this, Michael became rather edgy, but recovered quickly afterwards.

Tues 23 February:

Did the house and ironing, and then wrote my mother. The Children's Newspaper took my Sally Lunn article (but not the photo). This was the 7<sup>th</sup> publication tried, so felt relieved. Michael and I went to the Taj Mahal restaurant for lunch. We wanted Paul to come too, but he preferred to stay at home and poach an egg. (Andrew had returned to school.) Did some shopping and returned home to do some extra cooking and make the evening meal. Frank Frisby called asking

me to go the burial Ground with him, but I couldn't just then, so we are going on Friday. TV etc in evening.

Weds 24 February:

It was quite a rush, today, getting things ready for the Writer Circle who came at 10.30 for an 'extra' morning meeting. Mrs Jackson stayed afterwards to talk photography with Michael, who is still on leave. In the afternoon I wrote a letter etc and took the dog out. Washed my hair in the evening.

Thurs 25 February:

Michael was still depressed this morning so I suggested we went somewhere for the day. I did the house and washing, and I gave Eileen's order in town, then we caught a train to Bristol and went to the Zoo. It was very cold and neither of us was very enthusiastic, but we enjoyed it there very much and did some photography. The baby orangutans were lively and great fun, also a young chimpanzee. They had young giraffes, a young rhinoceros and bush babies too. We were back home by 4. TV and knitting in evening.

Fri 26 February:

Michael still very depressed this morning, but better later. I did the housework etc then we went shopping. After an early lunch at home, I did the ironing, then Frank Frisby called for me and took me to see the Friends Burial ground and gave me the key as I've taken over from him on the Burial Ground Committee. Michael developed the films we took yesterday. Knitted and TV in evening. Have finished a cot blanket for the W.V.S.

Sat 27 February:

When we first got up, Michael obviously felt out of sorts and was critical and said I couldn't go to the Friends' conference today. Later, however, he agreed to it and so, leaving Paul and Andrew to heat the stew and cook the potatoes I went to the day conference on Children's work. I met some very interesting people and enjoyed it. Home in time to cook the evening meal. TV and knitting in evening. We've heard that Heather Smith is leaving and going home tomorrow. In a way it is a relief, though we now have to find someone else.

Sun 28 February:

Went to Meeting as usual, and Heather Smith was collected by her father. There were just the 4 of us for lunch as Herr Mager had gone away for the day. Spent the afternoon watching TV knitting, reading and also had a short rest and a bath. Same in evening. Have been thinking about boarding schools. I think it would be good if these could gradually be changed into 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges doing

A Levels and cultural activities plus public service over preferably a 3 year period (prior to University at 19). They could be stated aided under a direct grant scheme, and those parents who preferred could use local technical colleges. No comprehensive schools would go beyond the O Level (or new CSE) exam at 15 or 16. In this way, the good of public schools would benefit many children but ideally no child should go to a boarding school until 16. Children whose parents go abroad should preferably live in someone else's family, as "paying guests". A home is the right place for a growing child – not an institution.

Mon 1 March:

Soon after breakfast this morning, the back gate was pushed open and instead of the baker, or a stray dog barging in, a huge badger arrived on the scene! It broke through the side gate but Andrew, who had gone out to see it, frightened it back the way it had come and it soon disappeared down the back lane. I hope it found its way back to the fields! Cleaned the house, and did the washing, then went shopping. Spent the afternoon finishing the exercise for Writer Circle and reading some stories etc for Guide Writer's badge. It snowed today, but it didn't pitch. In the evening I met a Mrs Hicks and we went to Mrs Holbeche for Writer's Circle. Two new people came from Bristol called Mrs Parr and Mrs Falla. I didn't take to them very much, though their writing was clever. I expect, however, the feeling was mutual!

Tues 2 March:

Did the house and ironing and listened to the Home Service. The schools programme was very good. Went shopping and after lunch had a rest, then typed out a punctuation exercise for the Guides tomorrow. Read a book for a while. Michael and Andrew went to the doctor, and Dr Carr gave Michael some strong Librium tablets and asked him to go back in 10 days. He was very helpful. I washed my hair and we watched TV. We had two inquiries about the upstairs room. One a "Ted" and we told him we were waiting to hear from a young lady. The young lady comes tomorrow but I don't like the sound of her either. We're resolved to be a bit fussy this time.

Weds 3 March:

Did the housework and wrote my mother, then went into Widcombe shopping. After lunch, a woman was supposed to be coming to see the room, but she didn't come. I did some writing. In the evening I had to take 3 Guides for Writer's Badge at Laura Place. They all turned up punctually although there was a blizzard! I think the buses were just running, still, but I found walking home quite bad enough! Snow blew continually in my face even though I was going in a

southerly direction! I walked in, looking like a snowman. It sounds even worse now!

Thurs 4 March:

The snow was quite deep this morning and Michael took two hours to get to work, while Herr Mager couldn't get to school>(\*Stonar) at all. More snow fell during the morning and I was thankful I didn't have to go shopping. Granny and Thea couldn't come to lunch, as planned, so I did some writing. In the afternoon I cleared snow and typed out the story I'd written. Had a restful evening reading and watching TV. Michael very tired. Paul and Andrew's schools were closed early – to their delight!

Fri 5 March:

Did the house and ironing etc and just as I'd started on some writing soon after 11, Andrew came home. Apparently, some sulphur dioxide had upset him at school, and he and another asthmatic had gone home. He looked alright to me, ate a hearty lunch and played happily until he went to the doctor's at 4.45 for his usual twice weekly injection. I did writing until tea-time but didn't so very good work. Read had an early bath and to bed at 9.30 for further reading. Snow still lying about, but I cleared a path at the side and back of the house today.

Sat 6 March:

After breakfast etc Michael and I went shopping returning just before 12. In the afternoon Michael did photography, and I amused myself by planning an educational system! In the evening I typed it out, as Michael did more printing. I feel rather dissatisfied with myself tonight. This morning I had three rejections too, which doesn't help! Andrew doesn't seem to be happy – he and Paul are so completely opposite. He likes solitude and probably needs it, but Paul won't leave him alone. I shall have to enforce it tomorrow.

Sun 7 March:

My mother rang up this morning to say she's coming up to Auntie Marnie's tomorrow and will meet me on Tuesday. Went to Meeting but didn't stay for Preparative Meeting. In the afternoon it was sunny so Michael and I took some photos up in the park. The snow was still about. I also wrote two letters. After tea, Granny Bridges came up and we saw Michael's zoo transparencies. I walked down to the bus with Granny then back and composed a riddle-me-ree while a dreadful film was on. "Dr Finlay" was good tonight. Feel much better today – more myself.

Mon 8 March:

Did the house and washing and Michael went to see Dr Guirdham. He said he was very nice, but nothing very much happened. Met Miss Stour in town, to give her the Circle Minutes and we had coffee. Did shopping then home for lunch and some reading and writing. Spent the evening ironing and Michael, who returned from work very tired, slept most of the time, but woke to chivvy Andrew about the standard of his shoe-cleaning – after Andrew had made the evening drinks for us. (Andrew is dreamy these days, though.)

Tues 9 March:

After the usual housework and a little time to myself, I did some shopping and met Mummy for coffee in town. We later had lunch at Dr Oliver's which was very nice but a huge meal! We walked to the Botanical Gardens and there met Auntie Marnie and sat in the sun, Mummy taking some photos. Walked home, giving the grocery order on the way, and spent the evening mending, watching TV and making a puzzle. Had three riddle-me-rees accepted today, but then found to my horror that one of them had been accepted by them in Jan! I am hastily sending off a substitute.

Weds 10 March:

It was a very pleasant day today. I couldn't see Mummy, as she went up to London to see "Henrietta Maria" sold at Sotheby's, but when I'd finished the house and washing I read and wrote, then took the dog out in the afternoon. It was beautifully sunny. Did some ironing in the evening. Only one answer from my second advertisement of the top room, and that, when I telephoned, was now fixed up, so it looks as though we'll have to wait for a while. Andrew says no one is turned away from first dinner now – possibly a result of my letter of complaint to the headmaster.

Thurs 11 March:

Went with Mummy to Bristol. Henrietta Maria didn't fetch half as much as the art dealers had suggested the picture was worth. Of course it was much more than it cost, but at that price she would have preferred the family to have had it. We didn't buy anything very much but enjoyed our browse round the shops – both in Broadmead and in Park St. Home about 4. Read knitted and watched TV in evening. (2 rejections!)

Fri 12 March:

Having quickly done the house, I walked up to Combe Down to collect a prescription of Michael's, then went into town. When I'd done some shopping and been to the Bank I met Mummy and Auntie Marnie, and we went to the

British Legion Coffee party at Laura Place. We then went shopping again until lunch time when we took some biscuits, cheese and fruit into the Victoria Park, and stayed there until 3.30. It was a lovely sunny day. Washed my hair in the evening.

Sat 13 March:

Michael and I went down town, and Paul went to Bristol for the day with some friends. Andrew met 'Gran' in town for lunch and went to the pictures. There were only Michael, Herr Mager, and myself in for lunch. Read in the afternoon, and Michael developed a film which he found had broken and was unexposed. It was disappointing. Mummy and the boys returned for tea and we talked and watched TV. Mummy left at 9.30.

Sun 14 March:

Didn't go to Meeting this morning but spent most of the morning and afternoon studying the "Which University?" book I got from the Library yesterday and sorted out some possibilities for Paul. In the evening I went to an evening Meeting at FMH where Eric Baker spoke on "The Student Age". He was interesting, but I didn't find him a patch on Ruth Burch!

Mon 15 March:

Our wedding anniversary. Did the house, washing and shopping, as usual. Mummy and Auntie Marnie went to Worcester for the day. During the lunch hour a German young man called as I had answered his advert. in the paper. It seems he will be coming to live with us later in the week – but I forgot to tell him the time of the evening meal, which may not suit him as he works in a garage. Did writing in the afternoon. Having made Herr Mager's and the boys' tea, I joined Michael up at Granny and Thea's. We had a very nice meal and watched TV but Granny had a cold in bed, and Michael wasn't feeling too good, and poor Thea had a job on to create a 'party spirit'. She took us home at 9.30 and was altogether very kind and thoughtful. Have booked the dog and cat for their summer holidays today.

Tues 16 March:

Having done the housework and about an hour's ironing I met my mother for coffee and shopping, then Miss Russ and Auntie Marnie joined us at the Pump Room for lunch. (I have put myself on a strict diet this week, and so far have managed to be self-disciplined!) We chatted with Miss Russ until about 3, then Mummy and I walked up to the Vineyards to see 2 houses that are for sale there – just the outsides we looked at. One was rather attractive, but the

traffic noise there would be awful. I left Mummy and did my shopping before going home. Auntie Marnie had an appointment at the hospital in connection with headaches she has been having. Did ironing in evening and later there was a TV documentary on Freemasonry. For myself, I think it is a pity that grown up men should need to have these 'tribes', like so many nine year olds, even though they may have a good basis.

Weds 17 March:

It was a dreadful rush getting the work done, and getting off to have my corns 'done' at Dr Scholl's by 9am. Afterwards I did a little shopping and met Mummy at 9.40 to go to Keynsham and visit Auntie Laura. Poor dear, she has been ill since January and her bungalow is pretty dirty. She won't have a home help or go into a home etc and she is pretty helpless, but one has to admire her fierce independence in a way. It was as much as we dared to offer to get her a hot drink, but she refused. We would have like to have cleaned the place for her, but she would have been too upset. What is the answer for these old people? Mummy felt rather cold, so we had a coffee and went back to Auntie Marnie for a nice lunch, then after an afternoon's chat and cup of tea, I went home via my grocer. Herr Tauber brought some things in the evening. Michael very tired again.

Thurs 18 March:

Heard from the BBC that 'Aunt Prizantha' is being read on April 14<sup>th</sup>, which is pleasing. Did the washing, housework and wrote 4 letters. Took a few flowers to Miriam Wells at the "Western Wallpaper" – she didn't feel too well. There is a lot of 'flu' about. Went to the dentist and was glad to have a clean bill of health. Met Mummy and Auntie Marnie and was taken to Colmers for lunch. Mummy and I sat in the park in the afternoon, then about 3.30, she walked into town with me and we went our separate ways. I have bought a new and different alarm kit for Andrew's night trouble. It is rotten for him, but I hope it works. He is still not doing as well as he should at school, though he works hard at some things. Herr Tauber moved in this evening. He has a cold, and Herr Mager has a bad one too. TV quite good. Read in the paper that Mrs Miles died early today. I only spoke to her on the 'phone on Monday.

Fri 19 March:

Did the housework, and then met Mummy at the station and saw her on the train. Did my shopping, then returned home and after lunch, did the ironing and a little writing. Read in the evening. The Telefusion service broke down so we only saw a little TV. The Times Educational Supplement has been interesting

these last 3 weeks. It is a good sixpennyworth. Other education magazines are relatively expensive, or rather 'old fashioned'.

Sat 20 March:

Went down town with Michael but it was a nasty wet day so we didn't waste any time getting home. Did some writing in the afternoon and Michael wrote some applications for two jobs – one in the Board and the other in the College of Technology that will be moving to Bath. Paul went swimming with friends and Andrew went to watch football. After tea I did more writing and watched the Eurovision Song contest on TV. Paul played chess for a while with Herr Tauber.

Sun 21 March:

When I took up Herr Tauber's breakfast this morning at 9.30 he asked me what had to do for summer time and I then realised that we should have put our clocks on and that it was 10.30! Consequently, I couldn't get to Meeting and I watched TV instead. In the afternoon I re-planted the lounge window box, typed out Michael's 'history' for a job application and took Anna for a walk. Watched TV, knitted and washed my hair in the evening.

Mon 22 March:

Andrew decided that he didn't feel well enough to go to school today so I sent him back to bed. His nose has been rather runny, but there is virtually nothing wrong with him. I shouldn't have been cross but I was and had a tussle with myself all day. Did the house and washing, some time on my own and writing, then we had lunch and I went shopping. When I came back he dressed and we played cards until I had to get the evening meal. The liver proved tough, so Michael didn't eat it – very disappointing. It obviously wasn't my day! Did ironing in the evening and Mr Hanham came. He looked at the roof and reckons we'll need to spend about £160 on it – added to which we want the staircase painted! It is a mercy we have two PGs, but Herr Tauber had two cups of milk and 4 pieces of bread after his cooked meal! He says he has a bottle of milk 3 bananas and 2 apples every morning, and fish and chips for lunch in addition to his cooked breakfast with 3 pieces of bread. What makes people want such huge amounts of food? I thought I ate heartily! And to think how many starving there are! Yet both need understanding and love. How much easier it is to give it to the poor!

Tues 23 March:

Andrew again stayed at home, but there was little wrong with him. Today, as yesterday, I spent a little while what one might call "free-feeling". I wrote down

in all honesty my feelings, and tried to discover the causes or motives, and having asked myself questions about them in writing tried to answer them from intuition, knowledge and experience. Part of me – the conditional part – tells me that this is introspective and ridiculous, but another part of me urges me to continue with the procedure – for a week at any rate. I certainly feel better for it. After all, it is a form of meditation. I don't think I shall keep anything I write down. It is intensely personal, and could be of no use to anyone else. Went to Mrs Miles' funeral at the Abbey with Mrs Wooster and Miss Stone. It was very plainly C of E and I thought it a slight pity as Mrs Miles was a very homely soul and as a 7<sup>th</sup> day Adventist would surely have preferred something different. Especially did I hate the dirge-like funeral march at the end. Swept the path and did some writing in the afternoon. Knitted in evening. Andrew bruised his toe badly on a trunk in his bedroom.

Weds 24 March:

Andrew's foot was better today and he went back to school. I went down town fairly early. Weighed and found I had lost quite 2lbs this last week. For 10 days now I have been on the following diet: - breakfast – orange or grapefruit and 1 Energen crispbread with something on it. Lunch – large salad with cheese and a mug of chocolate or coffee sweetened with saccharin. A normal cooked meal for tea, but smallish helpings of starch. Nothing else. About 9pm 1 Energen crispbread with something on it. On Sunday I allow myself anything I like!! Wrote my mother and one or two other bits of correspondence took the dog out, and did a very little writing. Read in the evening and watched TV.

Thurs 25 March:

Michael had the day off today as he had an appointment with Dr Guirdham and it was Paul's prizegiving. I did the house, washing and some shopping, then spent an hour to myself and wrote a letter. Michael had an hour with Dr Guirdham. We walked to the Tech School after lunch, and the prizegiving was well-organised but the usual rather boring affair. The Bishop of Bath and Wells gave the prizes. He said to Paul "What a horrible book!" We hurried back in the rain, as I had to get an early tea for Herr Tauber. Read and watched TV in the evening. Started today to substitute lemon juice for tea in the early morning and not to drink with breakfast – result? A horrible headache! – as it happens.

Fri 26 March:

Granny Bridges had an operation today in a hospital in Northwood. Thea rang this evening to say Granny getting on OK. Having done the house and ironing I went shopping. After lunch I had a short rest and took Anna out, posting some

Mother's Day cards to our respective Mamas. Read in the evening and watched TV.

Sat 27 March:

A pleasant rather lazy day in which apart from the necessary home work, I read and watched TV. A number of 'coincidences' seemed to have occurred in the last couple of days or so which have helped to answer one or two questions I have been asking myself. Paul sold flags.

Sun 28 March:

Herr Tauber wanted to go to Stonehenge today so I gave him a packed lunch. It was certainly a lovely day and rather few at Meeting. In the afternoon Michael and I took Anna along the canal to Sydney Gardens, into town, by bus to Devonshire Bdgs and back along Greenway Lane. Watched TV and read in evening boys spent much of the day playing with some new Meccano.

Mon 29 March:

Andrew didn't feel well enough to go to school today. He had a headache and mild asthma. He stayed in bed all day. I did the house, washing and shopping, then after lunch I wrote and gardened. Went to Writer Circle in the evening and another new member. We are collecting new members nearly every meeting. Lovely warm sunny day.

Tues 30 March:

Andrew was awake with a cough most of the night so didn't go to school again. In a way, one feels weak in allowing him to stay at home, but in a way one also feels that in staying home he is fulfilling a present need in himself. Did the house, some writing and ironing, and Andrew's bookcase came back from being repaired at Mr Hiscock's. Went shopping and later in the afternoon had a game with Andrew. Met Mrs Finch in town and she still wants to find someone to revise her story. Watched TV and washed my hair in the evening.

Weds 31 March:

Herr Mager didn't have to go to school this morning and I found he was still asleep when his breakfast was ready, so I took it to him on a tray. Did some shopping and found I weighed 9st 11½ with my summer coat on, so even allowing for the different coat I must have lost quite another 2lbs. I now allow myself an apple as well, at breakfast, and have substituted the hot drink at lunch time for some All-bran and milk, sometimes I have a drink of coffee (& saccharin) mid-morning I have no tea before or at breakfast now, but hot lemon before.

Very strict with myself, I am! Did some writing for a short while and wrote several letters.

Thurs 1 April:

Another lovely fine day, though a little chilly. Did house and shopping, then washing – after Herr Mager had gone out. Wrote, and did some letters then took Anna out. Watched TV in evening and just a little writing. Andrew had another routine injection for his nasal allergy.

Fri 2 April:

Paul's school had a day off today so Paul with about 4 others went up to Bathampton Rocks all day. It was lovely weather. I lengthened his jeans before he went and after housework, went shopping and then Herr Mager and his au pair friend, Norah, came to lunch. Afterwards, I did the ironing and writing etc. Read the Times Ed S and watched TV in evening. Andrew's form may be going to Pau in France for a few weeks in the summer on exchange with a French form – It's rather exciting! Andrew had a better report this term than last 3 As (but also 3 or 4 Cs)

Sat 3 April:

Herr Mager left for Germany for 3 weeks. Michael and I went down town. In the afternoon we rested, then I took the dog for a walk. TV in evening and I sorted out some photos to put in our album. Andrew spent the day with a friend, going to see a football match.

Sun 4 April:

Another quite nice sunny day and went to Meeting as usual, staying for Prep meeting. After lunch Michael mowed the lawn and I did a little weeding. Andrew went to play with the Eastons. Knitted and watched TV. Later in the evening I typed out the three rhythmic readers I've written and prepared them for posting. Herr Tauber seems to like a club out at Batheaston, near the old Mill, and goes there most of his spare time.

Mon 5 April:

Andrew was home today having broken up on Friday but Paul has another week's school. After doing the house I did the washing and went shopping. Andrew, too, went out and did an errand for us. In the afternoon he was out with friends again, and in the evening went to a football match. I did some typing later in the afternoon and cooking. TV and mended and read in evening.

Tues 6 April:

Andrew took the dog for a walk and posted a letter of mine, then he was out with friends all day, coming home only for lunch. He thinks he will join the Scouts. The only thing he disagrees with is saying he will do a good turn every day. He thinks you should only do one if you genuinely feel moved to do so. I did ironing and went shopping. After lunch – short rest, writing and more ironing. Knitting and TV in evening. The Budget announced today doesn't affect us very much. I think really that Mr Callaghan has done a pretty good job.

Weds 7 April:

After usual housework I went shopping - now weigh 9st 10 (summer coat). On Sunday, at the end of my 4 weeks' diet, I shall relax it just a little. Wrote my mother before getting lunch for Andrew and I, then rest and writing. Paul went to a Philatelic meeting in Bristol with a Mr Ronald Stone, and I washed my hair, shortened Andrew's new pyjamas and then had an early bath.

Thurs 8 April:

Andrew was out with friends all day and went swimming and to the doctor and to Scouts in the evening at Walcot. I went to Bristol with the idea of exchanging my Green Shield books for a suitcase, the they didn't have a suitable one, so I obtained a set of 2 trowels and a fork for one book and some very nice stainless steel fish cutlery with 2½ books. I later bought an expanding suitcase for £2.10.6 (reduced from 3gns) at Jones, also a 1965 Writers and Artists Year book. Today we were sent a copy of the "Lady" with the Infants Library article in it. In the evening I went with Barbara Stone to Marjorie Cass' house for a Committee meeting. I am to be Treasurer now.

Fri 9 April:

Did the house, washing and shopping. Paul was home for lunch. Rest and writing. Andrew had friends in, but Paul played his guitar. Michael had an interview (with 8 others) for the new post at the Board, but the result won't be given until Monday. Did ironing and read in evening. To bed fairly late.

Sat 10 April:

Stayed in and did cooking all the morning while Michael went down town, rested and did some gardening in the afternoon, writing, mending and TV in evening while Michael did photography.

Sun 11 April:

Went to Meeting as usual in the morning, rested and read and did a little writing in the afternoon. Knitted and watched TV in the evening. A very quiet day.

Mon 12 April:

Auntie Vi was 70 today Mummy told me in the letter I received from her this morning. Did the house and washing and shipping followed by a rest, writing and ironing. Paul was in a 'wrangly' mood with Andrew but Andrew took it very well. He took his revenge by not being very helpful. They have both packed to go away to Gran's tomorrow by I expect they've left something out! Mended, knitted and watched TV in evening. Michael says the Board have decided to leave the new post unfilled at present. Why, we don't know. It is a strange thing to do, and very unsatisfactory.

Tues 13 April:

The boys went off to Cornwall today and the house seemed strangely quiet! After housework I wrote my mother and went shopping. After lunch and a rest I went into Widcombe to post a present for Mark, and came home to write. Sewed some press-stud tape back on to the freshly cleared lounge pelmet in the evening. TV was useless!

Weds 14 April:

It was nice to finish the essential housework so early this morning and to have time to write for a while before going out shopping. When I returned, I had lunch, listened to my story on 'Listen with Mother' which was very nicely done, had a rest and did a little more writing, then made some Easter cakes, an almond and cherry cake and some currant buns. TV and read in evening.

Thurs 15 April:

After doing house and washing and a little shopping, went to visit Auntie Laura at Keynsham. Poor dear, she wasn't well and still complaining that her next door neighbour was a dreadful thief. She has refused Home Help, Meals on Wheels or to be moved to somewhere with supervision, so she lies in almost squalor (though is very clean herself) and cooks her own meals, the nurse and welfare worker calling daily. Read and did some cooking in afternoon, David and family calling unexpectedly as they had come to meet Phillippa's 10 yr old sister at the station and she hadn't turned up (She arrived on another train 2 hours later) TV in evening.

Fri 16 April:

Good Friday today so we didn't have breakfast until after 9.30. Did the ironing and wrote Paul and Andrew. After lunch had a rest and wrote a couple more letters before going to post and taking Anna on round the park while Michael mowed the lawn. The weather was sunny but chilly. I felt strangely restless and unhappy for no reason I could discern. Read, watched TV and washed my hair in the evening. Herr Tauber was in to all meals.

Sat 17 April:

A pleasant day. Michael and I spent the morning in town but when we returned to get lunch, Granny rang up to say that they were expecting us there. It was a dreadful misunderstanding and very upsetting, but after talking with Herr Tauber I arranged for us to go to them tomorrow for supper, and Thea was quite magnanimous in admitting it was her mistake. Her lack of bitterness was quite amazing. Rested in the afternoon, knitted read and watched TV. Michael experimented with a camera he has on trial. Today I received 6 copies of 'Matilda' which has apparently at last been published!

Sun 18 April:

Herr Tauber went off to Butlins for the day. Michael and I had breakfast in bed and got up at 10. Spoke at Meeting but felt dissatisfied with what I had said. Thea took Granny Michael and I out to see David's family. I loved their house but it needs a £1000 or two spent on it, and David is working the whole of his spare time on improvements. Back to Springfield Place for tea and supper. A very pleasant day.

Mon 19 April:

Easter Monday, and Herr Tauber was out all day leaving Michael and I on our own. It should have been a pleasant day, but for inexplicable reasons we both felt depressed. Maybe a long walk would have done us good, but we decided to develop and print our films. Mine became jammed in the camera and Michael had great difficulty in getting it out. Inevitably it was scratched. Michael's film (a short piece) had nothing on it at all! I have some fairly good snaps of Sophie although I thought I was using FP3 film and it was HP3!! TV wasn't very inspiring! Bed, and still feel depressed!

Tues 20 April:

After a night of horrible nightmares which almost made me feel I was on the edge of a breakdown(!) I did the house and washing, Michael and Herr Tauber having gone back to work. Went shopping, then had an early lunch, read and wrote a little, then rested and watched a TV educational programme. It was very very cold today and I didn't really want to go out again, but I had planned to take Anna, and take some fruit to poor Phyllis Batten who has been virtually housebound since Christmas, and go on and see Dorothy Newport, so this I did. Unfortunately Dorothy was out. Knitting and TV in evening.

Weds 21 April:

Was soon through the housework and ironing this morning, and had time to write a couple of letters before going shopping. Rested after lunch then walked with

Anna up Widcombe Hill to see how the new University was progressing, going round the golf course and via Sham Castle down to Sham Castle Lane and back along the canal. That should have got rid of an ounce or two! (Was 9st 12 today in winter coat, which means I've been about the same for 3 weeks). The boys returned tonight, and Michael has bought a camera. It's a Vito B – but a better version than Paul's and mine and has a rangefinder accessory which we can use also. TV and knitting. A revealing film on life in China. It is almost like pre-war Germany but even more bitter.

Thurs 22 April:

Having done the housework and washing, went into Widcombe shopping, then home to make some tarts and a cake and to prepare an early lunch for the boys and myself. Went to Hales Fashion and had a perm. I am very pleased with it (if it lasts) as my scalp doesn't feel sore as a result, and my fragile hair hasn't broken. Knitted in evening and Andrew went to Scouts. He was meant to go to the doctor's to have an injection this morning and we forgot. He is now going tomorrow.

Fri 23 April:

Having done the housework, I went shopping and got the boys and myself an early lunch. Listened to my story 'Roly, Poly Pudding and Pie go to the Zoo' on 'Listen with Mother' and then did ironing, having a short rest before getting tea. Andrew went to the doctor and saw some friends. He is making some model tanks. Paul hasn't been out for two days and does very little except 'wrangle' with Andrew, but he has done some geography homework today. I have had to try and overcome very aggressive feelings today. They are a great trial.

Sat 24 April:

Went down town, but back by 10.15 as had quite a lot of baking to do before having any early lunch. Michael went with Granny Bridges to a wedding of a distant relative by the name of Chavasse at St Stephen's church and at the Assembly Rooms. Having given Herr Tauber his lunch I went to the Friend's M.H. to look after children for Cl-M[?] but none came so I listened to the talk. It acted as a beautiful lullaby! Met and talked to quite a few people, which was nice. Having had tea, I walked to St Martin's to see Thea who had a small operation yesterday. She seemed amazingly bright and said she hoped to go home on Monday. Walked home and saw some quite good TV. A telephone call came telling us that Herr Mager wouldn't be back until tomorrow after all. Herr Tauber has motored up to Chester and thinks he will be back about 11pm. I

wonder! I misunderstood him and thought he wanted tea in his room at 5.45 and cooked a meal. Now I realised he wanted a cold meal left for him on his return.

Sun 25 April:

Went to Meeting and in general had a quiet day writing and reading and watching TV. Herr Tauber was tired after his long journey yesterday. Herr Mager returned this evening.

Mon 26 April:

Did house and went shopping but while out I began to have a nasty tummy pain. It grew so bad I had difficulty in reaching home and eventually went to bed for a couple of hours. After tea and 3 aspirins it fortunately suddenly left me and I played cards with Paul (who had made his own lunch) as promised. Went to Writer Circle at Mrs Holbeche's house in the evening. Only a few of us there this time. Traffic was diverted from the Old Bridge area when I went, but one of the new arches was open on my return and the dual carriageway is finished on the Wells Rd side. Andrew has been with a friend all day.

Tues 27 April:

The boys went back to school today. I did the house and shopping, then came back and did the washing and wrote my mother. After lunch I had a rest and then wrote another letter and took Anna out. Baked a cake and made what I thought was a rather successful dish for supper from lentils, cheese and egg and milk with a little mashed potato and baked in the oven. It was light and tasty, but the boys only tolerated it, and Michael found it indigestible so it was very disappointing. Herr Mager probably like it as he has suggested lentil dishes to me, but I doubt if Herr Tauber did. Spent the evening lengthening a pair of trousers for Paul, mending socks and stockings and knitting. Michael went to bed early but I stayed to see a good documentary on Einstein.

Weds 28 April:

Did the housework and ironing and some Writer circle arranging. Then went shopping. Lunch, rest, then did some 'food research' from old magazines etc. Granny Thea and Elsie Edwards joined me for a cup of tea about 4.30. TV and knitting in the evening.

Thurs 29 April:

Did the housework and washing then went shopping. Had an early lunch and a rest, then went to WVS – the first time since before Christmas. I have told them I cannot come often. It was pleasant meeting all the rather elderly people there. They all have a wonderful spirit. Andrew went to Scouts in the evening. Mended, knitted and watched TV.

Fri 30 April:

Did the house and ironing, then filled in a form re some advice I hope to get from "Health for All" magazine. Went shopping, then after lunch and a rest, I did some gardening until 4, then made some cakes and scones and tea as usual. Read and watched TV in evening.

Sat 1 May:

Not a very warm first day of May. Andrew and I went down town to buy his Scout uniform, some sandals and a new cap. Home to write a letter and get lunch. Herr Mager went to Weston-S-Mare for the day. I did some gardening, then had a rest in the afternoon. The boys watched the Cup final on TV and expected a friend to join them but he didn't come. We watched TV in evening and I washed my hair and marked Andrew's new things, knitted etc. The Americans seem to be fighting 'protective' wars in several places. One doubts if their undoubtedly good motives are really fulfilling their purpose. Are they protecting, or are they afraid of the spread of Communism? Will force wipe out Communism? Only something good will ultimately overcome it.

Sun 2 May:

Went to Meeting and stayed for part of the Preparative Meeting after which Miss Blackburn gave me a lift part of the way home. Did some gardening in the afternoon, then did knitting and watched TV etc. Paul has a heavy cold but fortunately doesn't feel too bad with it. On TV, Early Bird satellite enable us to see places as far apart as Mexico and Rome at the same time. The pictures were clear and the sound good.

Mon 3 May:

Michael saw Dr Guirdham again this morning and he sees him again at the end of June. He makes no progress but one cannot blame the doctors. They have too many patients to deal with any sufficiently well. I did house, washing and shopping. Had a rest after lunch, then did some writing and baking. TV and read and mended in evening, also a little more writing.

Tues 4 May:

Did the house and wrote a letter. The Writer Circle met her this morning but there were only a few of us. It was very pleasant however, After lunch and a rest I did a little shopping in Widcombe and then came back and did the ironing. After tea I washed up quickly and the others helped, then dashed off the meet Miriam Wells to got the Theatre. We went in "the gods" to see Joyce Grenfell. She was very good indeed. Her pianist also I think was called William Blezzard

was excellent too. Home to see the end of a very good documentary called "Born Chinese". They are such interesting people!

Weds 5 May:

After doing the housework I wrote my mother, then went shopping and to a coffee morning in aid of the Friends of Mendip Hospital. Had lunch rather late, then wrote a couple more letters and (after a rest) and took Anna out for a walk round by the park. Read, knitted and TV in evening. Michael very much of a critic and chaser today. I felt bound to ask him to tell me what he wanted to, without getting cross, as it's so wearing.

Thurs 6 May:

Did the house and washing and went into Widcombe, Collected together some things for a bring and buy stall at Paul's school in 10 days time. After lunch and a rest I typed out some copies of Michael's 'history' for post application and then did some writing. Mending TV reading and knitting in evening. Received a guinea for a letter to Woman's Own today, and also an invitation to the opening of the new bookshop, Bowes and Bowes. Nice surprises.

Fri 7 May:

Andrew didn't feel too well this morning and seemed determined to stay at home. He had had one or two headaches and a cough most of the week, but his temperature, far from being raised, is very low. I kept him in bed consuming biochemic tablets every half an hour and on fruit soup etc. He seemed much brighter by the evening, but still has a cough. I did the house and went shopping, then did ironing, made lunch, rested and having burnt some MSS, did some writing. Read and watched TV in evening. I find a letter I sent into the Friend has been published today.

Sat 8 May:

Michael and I went down town. I bought some things I need to carry out instruction received from Dr Harry Benjamin to whom I sent a fee of 30/- for advice. I have simply reams of it! Some of it amuses me very much – or rather it did. Now I've started I'm laughing on the other side of my face. It's fruit and vegetables only in 3 meals for 3 days, then a restricted diet which allows one piece of bread at lunch time, some wheat germ at breakfast and protein at supper, but not much else extra. Shall I ever keep to it for 2 months? Actually, I think I'm meant to for life! In addition there are tummy exercises (which take about 10 mins twice a day), and Epsom salt bath once a week, and I'm supposed

to read some pamphlet urging me to think positively each day! Horrible wet day so in all afternoon and evening.

Sun 9 May:

It hasn't been easy or pleasant today being on this fruit and veg diet. 2 apples for breakfast! And didn't they rattle in Meeting! A few vegs and dates for lunch, and a salad and banana for tea. Water to drink. The worst part was watching the others gorging away! I have stopped taking the herbal pills as they make me feel sort of sore inside and a trifle sick. No one did much but watch TV write letters, homework etc. Roll on Tuesday lunch time, when I can have some cheese!

End of small Memo book, except for three pages of 'diet' notes:

Hot lemon

Cereal and skim milk

2 Ryking Tomor & honey

Fruit or fruit juice

Large salad and cheese or nuts.

Piece of bread or 2 Ryking or equivalent

Low starch egg or pulse or  
cheese dish with veg.

1 'starch' item. Tea.

1 starch item

continued diet 6 days a week

Hot lemon

2 crispbread or 2 Energens

chocolate and honey drink

Mixed salad with protein

All-bran and milk

cooked meal (low starch)

1 cake or piece of bread etc

or 2 crispbread etc or 2 biscuits

Tea

1 crispbread or 2 Energens

or 1 biscuit etc

Peggy R Bridges

[xx] Lyncombe Hill

DIET 6 days a week. Anything on Sundays

Hot lemon

Orange or grapefruit

Apple

Energen crispbread butter and honey

Drink of coffee saccharin

Large mixed salad and cheese egg or bake beans

All-bran and milk

Cooked meal – small starch

Tea to drink

1 Energen crispbread with something on it

Brewer's yeast and iron tablets. 3 – 3 times a day

End of small Memo book – start of a similar new one. It starts with a new 'diet'.

Restricted diet until June 5<sup>th</sup>

A little Ribena and water

2 different fruits

Froment

Milk

A little unsweetened fruit juice

Large salad containing:-

1) Greenstuff

2) Dried fruit

3) Ground nuts

4) A little corn oil (5) lemon juice plus assorted fruit &/or vegs herbs, seeds etc if wished

Two items of steamed vegs or salad (no potato)

Cheese, egg or fish

2 crispbreads with Tomor

(1 with vecon, other with honey)

1 item of fruit

1965

Mon 10 May:

The fruit and vegetable diet seemed much easier today, and what's more, Andrew has elected to go on a diet too. I suggested he had fruit and vegs for two days only, and then had stewed fruit, cereal and milk 1 Ryvita for breakfast

Fruit and cheese for lunch. A normal cooked tea with only one cake. Small cup of coffee in evening. We would see if he found this too difficult and modify accordingly. It was beautifully sunny so went into garden after doing house washing and shopping. Did about an hour's gardening having had a short rest, then did some knitting in the sun. Grammy and Thea came for a cup of tea. After evening meal I went to Miss Stone's for Writer Circle. Mr Hicks drove Mrs Hicks and I there. Mrs Kendal of Bathampton School spoke on school books.

Tues 11 May:

Had a pleasant day in Bristol today. Went to George's book shop and Park St in the morning, then met Michael for lunch. Bought one or two items of clothing for myself -it was another beautifully sunny day. Michael mowed the lawn in the evening. I went to do some ironing and found the iron has broken down. There was an ordinary doctor on television tonight saying that many people are permanently lacking in Vit B & C and he wanted a government committee to make a report. Thank goodness an orthodox medical man has at last realised the danger of white sugar and flour! Bath and bed. Nice to be on a less restricted diet now, but it's pretty grim!

Weds 12 May:

Poor Andrew didn't want to go to school this morning in case he felt sick. He was in tears and I felt rather cruel insisting on his going, but it is clear that his feelings are due to some unhappiness, and once he gets to school he is better. He came home happily this evening. He is finding it difficult to concentrate, even on his favourite subjects. I took the iron to be mended but as they couldn't repair it quickly I finally bought a new Hoover iron, and had the old one mended as a spare. When I reached home again I had lunch, a rest, put a plug on the iron and wrote my mother. Did the ironing in the evening. Have been deaf with catarrh in one ear today.

Thurs 13 May:

I weight 9st 6 in summer coat, blouse and skirt, so must be about 9st 3. Have lost an appreciable amount this last week. Very pleased. Did the house and washing then went to vote (I voted for the Liberal, Miss Edmunds. She's very good) Went shopping. Had lunch and a rest then did about 1½ hrs gardening. Beautiful day. Came in and read for half an hour, then made the evening meal. TV and knitting in evening. Andrew went to Scouts. He hoped to be invested but the Scoutmaster only tested him. Maybe next week.

Fri 14 May:

Michael said I 'smelt' this morning and I'd better have a medical check-up as he thought I had diabetes! After he'd gone to work I remembered how he had smelt most peculiar once after eating pickled onions, so I think now the trouble was the two steamed onions I had for supper! Anyhow I've bought some chlorophyll tablets and am hoping for the best. I really can't think that I have diabetes. (Still have this heavy catarrhal germ Paul and Andrew have had.) House and shopping, then after lunch and rest, did the ironing and listened to wireless, had a while in the garden, had a hot bath (to try to help the catarrh) and made the evening meal. Herr Tauber says he's leaving next Friday. We don't know why. Read, watched TV and knitted in evening.

Sat 15 May:

Michael and I went down town. I returned before Michael to do some cooking. After lunch I read for a while then, as it was so nice, I took Anna for a walk. Andrew is finding it difficult to wait until his birthday as he wants buy some plastic soldiers, so he weeded part of the path for me (for 2/6). Paul did homework and messed about generally. Michael is still concerned about his camera equipment. He misses his expensive one which still remains unsold. TV knitting etc in evening. Bath and bed.

Sun 16 May:

Didn't go to Meeting this morning as I still have this annoying cough. Wrote letters and read most of the day, also did a little writing. Michael is thinking of paying off the hire purchase on the central heating (which has 2½ years more to go) out of capital. I can then draw this £12 per month for the Trustee Saving Bank a/c and may not replace Herr Tauber. It will be nice to have more time for writing etc. Fran Longman rang me up this evening about the burial Ground. The temporary man who has been doing the gardening has been running up too high bills. The boys went to Granny Bridges for lunch.

Mon 17 May:

It is showery, but the gardens will be glad of the rain. Andrew had a headache, but I gave him a Panet and assured him it would soon go. Did the house and washing then the shopping and soon after returning Mr Turk (Andrew's form master) rang. For the moment I couldn't think what he was talking about, and then it turned out that he had brought Andrew home and Andrew was up in bed! We discussed Andrew's difficulty a little and he said he would consult the Educational Psychologist when he came to the school next, if I wished. I said I'd welcome that. Andrew spent the afternoon painting soldiers and was quite alright. After tea I met Fran Longman and Ray Batten at the Burial Ground. The

new man has planted dahlias, sweet peas etc. which are troublesome things. It's not what we wanted at all, so we went to see him at the top of 14 Widcombe Crescent and explained that we could only afford to pay him about £1 worth of work a week and grass was the priority. I said I would help with weeding when I could. Home and washed my hair.

Tues 18 May:

Andrew was given 5/- this morning in celebration of 3 weeks without a misfortune to his bed. He also stayed at school though he said he felt ill in the morning. Did the house and shopping, a little writing then after lunch and a rest, the ironing. Made some cakes and put in a couple of plants I had bought. After supper we watched the Queen in Germany on TV and Herr Mager and Norah joined us. Later I did some writing and Michael tried to find out from Andrew what was worrying him and making him feel unwell. He seems to have most trouble with History Physics and Maths, but personally I think it is not so much the subject as the teacher's method or personality that affected him, and cross-examination on our part just increased the general feeling of pressure.

Weds 19 May:

Had a letter from Andrew's form master, Mr Turk, saying that Mr Hickish, the Educational Psychologist would be seeing Andrew shortly. Meanwhile, Andrew asked not to go to school because he felt off-colour again. However, I wrote a note to Mr Turk saying that if he still felt unwell at break he had better be allowed to come home. Fortunately he stuck the day out. I did house and shopping, then wrote my mother and a couple of other letters etc. After lunch and a rest, I went to post, then gardened until 4.30. After evening meal I went to a public meeting at the Pump Room at which the Right Hon Patrick Gordon Walker spoke on the Initial Teaching Alphabet. I am now a little more convinced in its direction. I had felt its drawback was the 7+ transfer to orthodoxy but research shows no difficulty here. Michael seems very tired and depressed tonight. His tummy has been bad again.

Thurs 20 May:

Did the house then walked up to the doctor's. Surgery started late, so had to wait some 40 minutes of so. Had my deaf ear syringed and can now hear quite clearly. Dr Stewart did it beautifully gently and it didn't hurt like last time. Caught a bus into Widcombe and did some shopping then home and did the washing. Have decided to experiment with wild leaves as salad food and today had 2 sprigs of rowan, but they didn't taste very nice, and it may have been my imagination but I seemed to feel a little uncomfortable the rest of the day, so must record rowan as a failure. I have already found that dandelion and nepeta

are quite nice. Tomorrow I shall try clustered dock. Went to WVS in the afternoon. Mrs Bethel was telling me that she has juicer and I think I may seriously consider getting one when I can afford it. TV knitting etc in evening. Andrew went to Scouts.

Fri 21 May:

Did the housework and rang Thea. Granny hasn't been too well. Went shopping and enquired about juicers. No one has such a thing in stock, which shows how little they are used. Admittedly they are expensive, but what a pity. I searched the library (as yesterday) for a book on herbs or wild plants and their culinary use, or even medicinal use, but to no avail, however I happened to see a very good book on "Child Guidance" so I now have 3 good books from the Library to get through. When Michael came home in the evening to my great surprise, he brought a book from a Mr Morass at work and lent to me, called "Health foods and herbs" by Kathleen Humber. It was almost exactly the kind of thing I had been hunting for in the Library! I read it all the evening. When I came back from shopping in the morning I found Andrew was home from school feeling unwell. He had an aspirin and later felt better and played with his soldiers, painting them etc. Poor Andrew. He looks so fit and seems so much better, It is trying that he should now be like this.

Sat 22 May:

Michael went down town but after doing house I read for half an hour and then did some cooking and made lunch. Had a beautifully lazy afternoon sleeping and reading. It wasn't a nice day, which was a pity as there was a school fete on Paul's sports ground. TV and read in evening also sewed on Andrew's scout badges. Michael isn't too good – not very hungry until teatime, depressed and has headaches. Andrew, on the other hand, is quite well.

Sun 23 May:

Michael told me early this morning that he wouldn't be giving me the money saved by paying off the hire purchase on the central heating and so I explained to him that there would not be enough to pay the fuel and rates without it. He then said we would have to continue to have a second PG. I feel very disappointed – not that I mind the extra work, but it's the strain of keeping the peace! Went to Meeting and after watching some TV went to bed to read and rest in the late afternoon. TV and writing in evening and also worked out what money was mine in the TSB so that two different a/cs could be made as Michael seemed to want that. I'm glad that he has now tonight, changed his mind about

this, as without borrowing from my personal money, we shouldn't be able to meet the bills for gas and rates in these coming weeks!

Mon 24 May:

A busy morning doing the house, washing and a lot of shopping, but came back and had nice leisurely bath, and meal and rest, then did some writing – but writing doesn't 'go' very easily at present. Went to Writer Circle – Miss Stone picked me up at the Octagon and we drove to Mrs Jackson's at Lacock. A lovely old low-built farm-house and she had an adorable Labrador puppy and very attractive garden. It was a most pleasant evening by an open fire reading MSS. Came back with Mrs Cooper. Home about 10.45.

Tues 25 May:

Michael had to catch an early train so the alarm went at 5.15 and we had breakfast at 5.45. I went back to bed to read until 7 then got up. Did the house and shopping then after lunch and a rest, did the ironing and listened to Woman's Hour. Didn't finish until it was time to get tea. TV then a little writing. Michael returned from Plymouth before 8, so I made him a meal and we went to bed soon after 9.30. Went to see the new book shop Bowes & Bowes in Milsom St this morning. I'm a little glad that I didn't go to the opening last night (although feel honoured to have been invited) because it was really rather a snob occasion!

Weds 26 May:

Mr Glissom's man was here all day inserting extra pipes as something is being added to the central heating. I can't understand why it's necessary, but I never was any good at understanding technical matters. I did the housework and wrote my mother and then went shopping. After lunch and a rest I spent the afternoon taking notes from a book on herbs I obtained from the library. In the evening Michael and I went to Andrew's school to meet the form master and two of his subject masters. They admit that he has had a setback recently but don't think there is anything to worry about. Washed my hair on return and then wrote more herbal notes. Herr Mager gave us some of his girlfriend's cake for tea. It is a German yeast cake looking like a plait. Very nice. I have decided to make some pot-pourri this summer.

Thurs 27 May:

Did the washing early before Mr Glissom's man started work. Did the house and collected some flowers to start drying for pot-pourri. Went shopping, taking some flowers to Miriam Wells but I couldn't see her as she was out. After lunch

and a rest, went to WVS, taking flowers as usual. Sowed a few extra seeds in the garden before getting tea. Read knitted and TV in evening. There was a discussion programme on Comprehensive schools. I am in favour of them and hope we shall gradually change to these – keeping them small if possible by making them cover a 2 or 3 year age range only – or even just one year. Herr Mager and Norah came in to see the programme about the Queen visiting Berlin but owing to a breakdown we couldn't see it all.

Fri 28 May:

Had a letter from Aase this morning asking me to take two of her boys for the Sunday and Monday of their half term. Michael said "no" but I could see no reason for not having them on the Monday so have written Aase and the boys accordingly. Mr Glissom's man had to change the boiler tank today so there was no hot water until the evening, but this didn't affect me much. Went shopping and after doing the house and ironing, then had lunch and a rest. Wrote two letters and corrected the entries for the Guide Writer badge. They were above the usual standard, and one was especially good. After the evening meal for which I made a tart (using up some broken cookies) and some raisin scones which proved popular, I changed into warmer clothes as it has turned much colder, and went to the AGM of the F.O.R. There were 9 or 10 of us and it was quite interesting. Raymond Batten took three of us home in his car.

Sat 29 May:

Michael and I went down town. Michael went to Desmond Tripp and he is going to try and sell his Agfa camera and equipment now. Michael also wants to sell the Voigtlander he bought recently. It does seem very unsatisfactory, as Michael has done nothing but buy and sell cameras for months and every time there is a change over he loses money. The plumber finished the work on the central heating so we could have the radiators on again, and we needed this as it happens to have gone very cold. I made some bread from a new vegetarian recipe book (from the library) Everyone liked it. Also made some ginger biscuits and a fruit cake. Did a little gardening, then rested and read till teatime. Knitted and watched TV in evening.

Sun 30 May:

We woke rather late – after 8. Went to Meeting as usual – several Friends spoke and we heard the Epistle from Yearly Meeting. After lunch and hearing "Facing Facts" on TV I went upstairs to rest and read as yesterday which was very enjoyable. Soon after tea David and his family called. Michael gave him a camera that had been given to him, and we also handed over a picture done by

one of Thea's students. TV and read in evening. Andrew was with the Scouts during the afternoon.

Mon 31 May:

Mr Glissom's man came to do some "tidying up" for 2 or 3 hours this morning so after I had done the house and made him some tea I went shopping, getting home at 10 to 12. Made some rhubarb jam during the lunch hour and afternoon and also read a little of a book "The Quaker Contribution" which I intend offering to the Free Library. Had a rest, and did the washing. Knitted and watched Tv in the evening. Michael went to the doctor. He was very tired again.

Tues 1 June:

Did the house and made Andrew's birthday cake – a rather rich chocolate one, then did the bulk of the ironing while it baked. Went shopping, and after lunch and a read and rest, did the rest of the ironing and wrote a letter and 2 postcards. After the evening meal I went to Guide HQ to rest 3 Guides for Writer Badge. One was excellent. The test was held in Chadwick room which is in memory of the person who founded my old Company.

Weds 2 June:

Andrew's birthday and apart from the fact that he has a cold he seems to have had a pleasant day. It was warmer today too, so seemed more like summer. Mr Hanham came and they started work on the roof. Wrote my mother and then went shopping, arriving home for a late lunch. Read for a short while and iced Andrew's cake, then began cooking for the evening meal. Read and TV in evening. I was on fruit and vegs only today (once a fortnight) – felt very hungry this evening! Am reading about how important the natural balance of a food is. If we tamper with this, either the body has to make up the deficiency, or something in the food isn't assimilated making the animal or person poorly nourished and liable to disease. The same viruses which will work for our good develop to our detriment it is thought.

Thurs 3 June:

Andrew's cold was worse so he decided to stay at home today. It was a lovely fine day and there were 4 men on the roof and they made good headway – but they have no respect for gardens at all! I did the house and washing, wrote 2 letters and went shopping, meeting Auntie Marnie in town. We stopped for a chat and she seemed quite well. After lunch and a rest I went to the Friends' Burial Ground and did about 1½ hours weeding, then back to make tea for the

men before making some bread and cooking the evening meal. Knitting and TV in the evening. (I took the Quaker book in to the Library today.)

Fri 4 June:

Andrew was rather asthmatic today so didn't go to school but spent the day in bed, doing models etc. It was another warm day and a man fetched the rubbish from the roof early, and 2 men worked on the roof all day. I did the house and went shopping. After lunch and a rest I worked at the burial ground until about 3.15, then came back to get tea for the men, do the ironing and make the evening meal. Andrew's asthma, which didn't bother him much during the day was rather trying this evening, so Michael gave him a sleeping pill. Mr Hanham came to discuss wallpaper for the stairs.

Sat 5 June:

Michael and I went down town. Although it was Whit Sat it wasn't quite as busy as we anticipated. We had coffee in Jolly's new restaurant which was quite pleasant. We also bought some Perspex door furniture for the lounge and kitchen doors. They were over £5 and very extravagant. Only time will tell if the extra was worth while. Hurried back as we had to have lunch at 12.30 so that Herr Mager could catch a bus to his school for an open day. It was a lovely sunny day so I gardened until 4, then came in and read and rested until getting tea at 5.15. Read and TV in evening. Andrew's cold and asthma was a little better today and he was up.

Sun 6 June:

Andrew in bed most of the day as his asthma was worse. Went to Meeting and Ray Batten gave me a lift back to Prior Park Rd. After lunch I watched the programme "Facing Facts" as usual. It is much too short for a discussion programme. Later, when Andrew had written some 'thank you' letters I took Anna out and went to post them. It began to rain so we kept to paths and went down Rosemount, round Widcombe and back down and up Forefield Rise arriving home quite soaked! Rested and read. After tea we watched TV and I knitted also started a card index of my own recipes.

Mon 7 June:

Whit Monday and having made Herr Mager's breakfast early we stayed on in bed and had ours about 10. After doing some houework, Michael and I took Anna for a very pleasant walk and I picked some hedgerow leaves for soup. Getting back at 10 to 12, I made some, bread, scones and a cake (which suffered though being in the too hot oven) and also made soup, salad meal and banana fritters for lunch to which Thea came. We were rather restful and lazy in the

afternoon. Thea left after a cup of tea. We had the evening meal at 5.45 and then I washed my hair. The two American astronauts were safely recovered from the Atlantic tonight after a 4day trip. Andrew's, asthma, though not severe, doesn't improve.

Tues 8 June:

Michael, having been quite himself yesterday, was very much on edge again this morning. Did the housework and then did the shopping, followed by the washing. Andrew stayed in bed as his asthma still proved obstinate and I couldn't get an earlier appointment with Dr Carr than the one already made for Thursday. After lunch and a rest the boys and I played Monopoly. Did the ironing in the evening. We had a fish pie I concocted for tea which was quite successful, and also made some cakes. A good documentary on a Direct Grant girls' public school this evening on TV. Although a tiny bit old fashioned, I like the education it was giving. I did think, though, that there ought to be similar Direct Grant schools for Secondary Modern level of attainment.

Weds 9 June:

The men were still mending the roof today so there is still a lot of 'clobber' in the garden. Andrew stayed in bed as his asthma was no better. I dread to think how the burning off of paint will affect him when they start work on the stairs. Having tidied the house and done some cooking I went shopping. Made lunch on returning and thought that a thick homemade soup followed by grilled gammon and tomato with new potatoes followed by raspberry yogurt was a reasonably good lunch but Paul and Andrew wanted semolina. Maybe I should have given in, but I promised semolina before week was out and refused. After a rest, and writing my mother and two other people, I made the men's second lot of tea, went to post, then played consequences with Paul and Andrew. Also made some apple and elderflower jam while doing other things during the day. It has set well but it's a very sweet jam. Cost about 1/1 per lb – a little dearer than the rhubarb lemon and apple at 1/-. Read and watched TV in the evening, then had a bath and to bed on the early side to read.

Thurs 10 June:

I felt rather 'pressed' this morning as Paul had to get off to Weston for the day with friends by 9, and his sandwiches prepared. There was plenty to do in the house, Mr Hanham to consult, and some shopping to do in Widcombe, tea for the men and elevenses for Andrew and his friends before 10.30 when a Mrs Smith came from Newton Park to 'vet' the top room for a student. When she had come and gone, the men, who had finished the roof, took up the stair carpet

and started preparing the walls. I took Anna for a walk and collected some nettles and garlic mustard for soup. Came home and made lunch. Afterwards there seemed to be a huge wash-up. Rested, and read my wild flower book for 20" or so, then started making the evening meal, tea for the men and for the three boys. A taxi came for Andrew and I at 4.40 to go to Dr Carr who told us to give cortisone pills for Andrew. He didn't have an injection as the vaccine hadn't come. We caught a bus to Devonshire Bdgs and walked down Greenway Lane to avoid a hill. After evening meal we watched TV. Knitted. Andrew a little better after cortisone. Paul had good day.

Fri 11 June:

The painters came quite early and with the removal of the wallpaper on the stairs there was a frightful mess. Mr Glissom's man was also here trying to stop the expansion pipe dribbling when we only had one or two radiators on. After doing the bedrooms and washing, I went shopping – and was glad to go out! It was a lovely day and I enjoyed the morning. Hall came up to see Andrew. Both boys spent the day in the lounge and Andrew was not a lot better. After lunch and a rest we played 'Careers' till 3.30 when I made the men's tea and then baked the weekend's bread and cakes, scones for tea and the evening meal. Spent the evening reading. TV not much good. Last thing tonight Andrew has managed to cough up a lot of phlegm and feels rather better.

Sat 12 June:

We rose early for a Saturday as we thought the painters were coming, but they didn't. Michael very critical at breakfast and at last I felt obliged to say I didn't really think everything was as bad as it seemed, whereupon Michael became most provoked and Andrew was obviously upset. His asthma seems to be not better in spite of the cortisone. Went down town with Michael and we had coffee at Jolly's. I got 3 books from the Library for Andrew. It is now closed for a week as the new extensions are to be opened. Home, and did ironing. After lunch I took Anna and went up to the doctor's to get the prescription of cortisone I had asked for at 8.45 this morning, only to find that it wasn't ready, so had to leave 4d for them to send it. Walked back a long way round, through fields and lanes, reaching home about 4, having picked some leaves for salad and soup and 2 plants for identification. Read my flower books for a while, then made tea. Spent about two hours gardening in the evening and then came in and took notes on minerals etc from two library books. Bed well after 11.

Sun 13 June:

Herr Mager was in Westbury for the day today. We had breakfast just before 10 and I went to Meeting but didn't stay for Preparative Meeting as lunch had to be got under way today and there were some scones to make. Gardened in the afternoon, then John Mary and David came to tea and we had a good old chat before they left to go on to Granny's at 6.40. We then had some supper and I mended, made the week's menu knitted and watched TV. I put Andrew on a fruit and vegetable diet today but so far he doesn't seem to have improved greatly. He isn't too terribly bad and he has maintained his appetite, but it is trying for him to have this cough and wheezing for so long.

Mon 14 June:

Andrew's prescription for cortisone didn't come by post although, when I telephoned the doctor's they assured me it had been posted on Saturday. Still, Dr Carr kindly rang Hodder's and asked them to dispense them so that was alright. Andrew was rather better but not fit enough for school. It was fortunate he was home as Peter and Stephen Mayo-Smith came for the day. I did the house (bar stairs which men are still preparing for painting), washing made men's tea, went shopping. Home and took Anna up in the fields and picked some nettles. Made a chicken casserole dish using nettle 'soup'. Am keeping Andrew on an 'alkaline potassium' diet, avoiding salty and acid things ie low protein, but imagine my horror when at lunch, too late, I found him dredging salt all over his meal! I wasn't at all surprised to find he was rather worse later. The two boys went to a film in the afternoon and after a rest I did some baking and made the evening meal. Went to Writer Circle at Miss Cass' in the evening. Miss Stone gave me a lift to Forefield Rise, and then I remembered I'd left a coat at Miss Cass and had to walk back and fetch it!

Tues 15 June:

Michael had a day's leave today but instead of it being lovely day like yesterday it was chilly and overcast. I did the house and ironing and then met Michael at Fuller's for coffee after doing a little shopping. We then went to the Health FS where we saw a Vita-mine Juicer which we could have immediately so Michael decided to cancel the Moulinex that still hadn't come at Green's and I paid for this better one. It teemed with rain and we were drenched on the way to the taxi. Mary came to lunch and then about 2.45, when the rain lifted Michael drove their Austin Princess to Rode Tropical Bird Gardens. It was Andrew's first outing for nearly 10 days and the fresh air did him good. We are sure the dust caused by the workmen is the chief cause of this asthma. We came home

at 5, and after evening meal, talked and watched TV etc until it was time for Mary to meet John off the London train. They are staying in a farmhouse until Friday.

Weds 16 June:

Andrew went back to school today. He is much better. Having done the housework, I began to write my mother. The painters had a transistor radio which blared out pop music all day. It was bit much! I was glad to go out shopping! When I returned I finished the letter and wrote one or two others. After lunch and a rest I wrote another letter and went to post (in the rain) then experimented with my juicer and made some carrot watercress, dandelion and apple juice (about ½ a small jug). I made quite a mess! Michael came home rather fed up from work as they have appointed a deputy now – someone from the north. He says he wonders if he'll be given notice as he, and the other appliee were rather cynical when told about it by Mr Frost. Washed my hair after the evening meal, and later John called to see us and we enjoyed a chat. Auntie Helen is now in Bath, but we haven't seen her yet. (I tried the juice I made, but didn't like it too much.)

Thurs 17 June:

Another day of blow-lamps! – Blow-lamps and cricket commentary! Having tried to get rid of some of the fine white dust that permeates every room, I did the washing, then had a big 'bake'. After lunch and a rest I cleaned the oven and also took Anna up in the fields where I picked some nettles and elderflowers to make 'soup' for adding to the evening dish and tomorrow's soup. Andrew went to Scouts tonight. Watched TV and knitted.

Fri 18 June:

Did the house and ironing and directly I had made the painters' tea, I went out shopping and also went to the reference Library and read the Vegetarian magazine. Arrived home at 20 to 1, but found the noise of the men's transistor radio so trying, I took Anna and went out as soon as I had liquidised tonight's soup and a mixture for Sunday lunch, and had my lunch and a rest. I took the shears back to The Friends Burial Ground and clipped the hedge by the Memorial Plaque, then walked round Church Lane and back along Lyncombe Vale, picking a few things to make stock for the soup. TV and read in the evening. I have persuaded Michael to start taking Cal.phos. (biochemic) Paul had an O Level art exam today. Andrew looks quite himself and well again now.

Sat 19 June:

Quite a nice fine day today. Michael and I went down town, back to get lunch, then after a rest we went down town to go to a Fete. Michael didn't feel inclined to go to it so I went on my own. It wasn't too good, but I enjoyed walking round and also looked at some shops before meeting Michael and the boys at 10 to 5 and going on to Milsom St to meet Auntie Helen and Carol. They took us to Fuller's for tea and bang went my diet! However, I was cheered this morning to find my weight was 9st 2 (summer coat) whereas Michael's was 14st 7. I am surprised my weight hasn't increased as I've eaten bigger teas the last fortnight. Auntie Helen's foot is still not right after her fall many months ago. Carol seemed very well. We left them soon after 6.30 and when we reached home I did some gardening. A man from the Order of Foresters came to see Michael. We had a light supper about 8.30 and I had a bath later.

Sun 20 June:

We rose later than usual. (Herr Mager was staying with Nora's family) I didn't go to Meeting but as it was a lovely day Andrew and I took Anna for a walk. She started limping in Watery Bottom so we carried her for while, then she seemed better. However, she has been biting her foot and we wonder if she has a small thorn in it somewhere. After lunch and watching an ITV programme followed by identifying some plants found in the morning, Michael and I went up to bed for a rest and slept until 5 or so! After high tea, and listening to Meeting Point, I did some gardening – making a new border at the top of the lawn until 9pm. TV and knitting. Made the week's menu, and bed soon after 11.

Mon 21 June:

Did the house and washing and was glad to get out shopping as the men's wireless and blowlamps were no joke! Stayed out until after 12 and was relieved when after lunch the men softened the radio and took it to the top of the house for their lunch hour. Read and did some cooking in afternoon, and Granny and Then called and brought a gooseberry tart and some eggs etc, It was very kind. They said I looked too thin! Could that ever be? Wrote letters etc in evening.

Tues 22 June:

The blow-lamps were both outside the door of the kitchen today, but – wonder of wonders! – there was no radio! Having done the house, I did the ironing and then went down town. Bought a brassiere, but once more I've bought a 'pup'. I tried on umpteen and thought this was alright – although felt rather undecided, but it is a deep one, and after an hour or so's wear, all deep ones feel as though they are sitting on my tummy rather than hugging it, and I feel I must get rid

of it! After lunch and a short read, I made some bread, scones, a cake and a flan for tomorrow, then made a souffle and carrots in sauce for supper. Made some clothing alterations in the evening.

Weds 23 June:

Having done the house and made the men's morning tea at 9.30, I went shopping. Had a slightly early lunch, read and rested then wrote my mother. Made the men's tea and went to post then cooked the evening meal and some scones etc. I found I kept losing my balance this afternoon. Rather funny – just as if I'd had strong alcoholic drink. It went off after the evening meal. I wonder if it could have been the camomile petals I had in my salad? I won't have one tomorrow, but will try again on Friday and see what happens! Read in evening and saw an excellent play on TV about a mentally handicapped boy.

Thurs 24 June:

Paul went in late today so having done the house and washing we had a nice talk, and then he went to school and I went to Granny Bridges for lunch (via Auntie Marnie with a few plants and flowers). Went on to WVS in the afternoon and Mrs Bethell gave me a book on juices and lent me another. Read and watched TV in evening. Andrew was rather late back from Scouts but has passed some second class tests.

Fri 25 June:

Andrew was wet again last night, which was disappointing for him, having been alright for so long now. Did the house as well as I could (it was very dusty) then did the ironing and went shopping. Had a rather longer rest and read than usual after lunch, then made bread and other things for the weekend. The men have been sandpapering and painting today. Washed my hair read and watched TV in the evening. Andrew had an injection for dust allergy again today.

Sat 26 June:

It was rather a rush this morning getting the lunch under way and rooms free of the worst of yesterday's dust before going down town with Michael. We booked train seats for the return. Journey to London next Saturday and after a long search had Michael measured for a summer jacket. I also bought a grey cardigan. Andrew had a friend to lunch, but Herr Mager was out. In the afternoon I went up to Fran Longman's cottage in Frome Rd to an F.O.R meeting. Peter Jones and another young chap were "answering questions" and discussion followed. Peter said that hope lay with the Peace research which was finding practical solutions. The peace movements have been too idealistic in the past. Bussed back to Hatfield Rd after tea, and walked along Greenway Lane getting

in before 5.45 in time for a second tea. Did gardening and knitting in the evening. Feel I've badly overstepped my diet today. (Weighed 9.1½ - summer things – in the week.)

Sun 27 June:

Rose the usual time for a Sunday and Andrew went on a form 'tramp' from the Glasshouse to Beckington taking his lunch and tea. Went to Meeting and after lunch watched the Facing Facts programme on TV then read and rested. Spent the evening making the waists smaller in four of my skirts, and shortened another, also knitted and watched TV which wasn't too bad.

Mon 28 June:

Michael went for an appointment with Dr Guirdham this morning, and he recommended that Michael go into Weston Lodge for about three weeks tomorrow week. Of course Michael is rather appalled at the idea, but has accepted the suggestion I hope they will really be able to help him feel better. Paul was home today as he had no exams. It was a lovely sunny day. After doing the house and washing, I went shopping. Wrote a story for the Circle in the afternoon, and went to the meeting at Miss Stone's in the evening There were rather few of us but it was very enjoyable – about 7 of us.

Tues 29 June:

Paul was home for the morning. I did the house and after getting the painters' tea I went shopping and home for an early lunch. Met the old lady who lives in Darlington St and has an allotment above here. She is truly marvellous as she is eighty-odd, has Parkinson's disease, yet gardens nearly every day of the year. In the afternoon, after a rest and read, did the ironing and then some cooking – trying to make some rye bread. I found to my cost that rye meal does not rise well. What a waste! Mended and knitted in the evening.

Weds 30 June:

Did the house and wrote my mother, then went shopping and visited a W.I. exhibition at the Assembly Rooms. The work shown was excellent but not enough information about how it was done was given and I begrudged the 4/6 I spent on the entrance fee and catalogue. After lunch I read and took notes about herbs and food values. Mrs Angell came and said she was afraid The teapon[??] we want to sell is too new for her (early Victorian). Was more successful today with the cooking for tea. Both the scones and the vegetarian pie were liked. TV reading and knitting in evening.

Thurs 1 July:

Did the house and washing and a few odd jobs before doing some shopping and going up to Granny and Thea for lunch. I took some coloured photos of them in their garden which I hope come out. Val Fleming came to lunch too and was very interesting. I went to WVS and Thea very kindly met me out at 4 and took me home in the car. My brand of scones today were particularly good, I thought – though I say it myself! Andrew went to Scouts intending to come home early as he has exams tomorrow. He came home after 11pm! Apparently the Scoutmaster hadn't come they went to his house to find out the plans for the Jamborette that begins tomorrow night! It is still extremely vague and no one seems to be in charge of them, so I have said Andrew may go, but not camp there. I can't remember when I last laid down any law, but the time seems opportune!

Fri 2 July:

Did the house, ironing and shopping, then after lunch a rest and read until after 2.30. Spent the afternoon cooking – bread, w/e puddings cakes etc. Andrew didn't find his exams too hard. The Scouts are not camping because there must be three and as Andrew can't go, the other two can't either! I said "Well, you'll spend the day there tomorrow, won't you" and he said "no I shan't bother."

Later, however, Graham telephoned to say "come" and so he is going, though the arrangements are still quite vague. I have to laugh when I compare this with how we were organised for Jamborees – down to the last detail! Washed my hair in the evening and wrote up some of my recipes. The house painting is still not quite finished.

Sat 3 July:

Rose the usual time for a Saturday and after breakfast I prepared and laid lunch for Paul and Herr Mager, and Andrew made lunch for himself and set off for the Scout Jamborette at Longwood. At 10 am Herr Mager told me he wouldn't be in for lunch and wouldn't be back until tomorrow evening. We were rather upset about the short notice especially as Paul would be alone all day, Michael and I having been invited to London. We went on the 10.33 train with Granny and Thea, and went to Veeraswamy's for lunch, which was very enjoyable, then went on to West Finchley to Jim and Marka's house to meet Jessica and her husband Dandridge. Jessica was very different - no glasses, taller and slimmer. We had wonderful 'eats' and took photos and talked to lots and lots of people. We left about 6 and having had a light meal at Paddington caught the train home. Andrew has had a good day and spoken to and shaken hands with the Chief Scout. Paul says he made himself a splendid lunch, so all was well.

Sun 4 July:

A leisurely rise, and then went to Meeting. Found that the new matron of the Riverside Day Nursery to whom I wrote when Mrs Hunt died, is a Friend (Betty Plowright) and I've spoke to her once or twice without realising this. Stayed for part of Preparative Meeting. After lunch, listened to TV and then made two cushion covers, pressed Michael's new dressing gown I bought him on Friday and washed a pair of his pyjamas. We had tea on the early side then I made out the week's menu and took some notes on herbs.

Mon 5 July:

Did the house and washing then went shopping. Back to do a little ironing and read the newspaper before lunch and a short rest. The men were here, and the carpenter, and still we had 'pop' music blaring away all day! Spent the afternoon taking notes on herbs and while we were having supper, Granny Bridges brought us some strawberries that she and Thea had picked at Cheddar. We had some to eat and kept some for tomorrow, then made 15lbs of jam. Only had 3 lemons for the 8lbs of strawberries and wondered it if would set. I added some gooseberries and although it took a long time, it eventually set nicely.

Tues 6 July:

Michael went into Weston Lodge this morning. He was quite lamb-like about it in the end and he has a very nice room to himself. Bought some material for spare room and bathroom curtains at Mitchell's sale afterwards, also a remnant for cushion covers. When I'd done the ironing I began making them up. Mr Hanham papered most of the stairway today and it looks very nice. Went to visit Michael after supper and Thea met me and brought me home. She kindly lent her transistor for Michael but Michael said he didn't want it as permission had to be obtained from the Matron. I think I should have felt the same. Andrew forgot to take his lunch to school today and survived on an icecream! Herr Mager has rheumatism and I gave him a hot bottle and suggested a bath.

Weds 7 July:

Usual housework, started a letter to my mother, then went shopping while Mr Hanham finished the papering and his man did the remaining painting. When I returned they had gone, so I had lunch, read a little and finished two letters then took the dog to post and back. Sowed some herbs in the garden, but then it came on to rain, so I finished the spare room curtains. The boys and I had tea on the early side, then I went out to see Michael, He is still having pills and sedation baths and ample food. Thea fetched me again (unexpectedly) and came

in for coffee and to see the new wallpaper. Herr Mager's rheumatism is still troublesome and he only went to school because he was on duty tonight.

Thurs 8 July:

Quite a full day! Moved the stair carpet out of the spare room into mine, and cleaned the top cupboard and put back the cases etc. Thea brought Mrs Banks about 9.45 and she thoroughly cleaned the spare room, carpets and all. Meanwhile I did a large wash, finished and hung the bathroom curtains, wrote a letter etc. She left just before 12.30 and I had an early lunch so that I could walk up to Combe Down, pick up Michael's medical form and then bus out to Weston to visit him at 2.30. He was up this afternoon. Did a little shopping, then home to tack down some of the spare room lino and hang the curtains, then made tea. Merr Mager stayed home today as he has rheumatism still. I see in tonight's paper they are asking for a German teacher at Stour for Sept and I wonder if he is staying until April, as he told us, after all. Made up the spare room bed ready for Bobby after tea, and then did the ironing. Had planned to wash my hair but felt too tired. Had a bath instead. Andrew has done quite well in exams for far, except in Maths.

Fri 9 July:

I feel most fortunate in appearing to have endless energy these days. Today, for instance: 6-7am read and had tea, got breakfasts and did house. Made a net curtain for top landing, aired Bobby's bed, went shopping and had such a lot I not only had my "wheely" [shopping bag on wheels] bulging but had a carrier bag as well. Home and re-sealed the lounge floor. Lunch. Hung the new curtain (fresh wire) then sorted and Hoovered the stair carpet in my room. (Mr Hanham worked on the new carpet fitments.) Did about an hour's gardening then made Mr Hanham's tea and made scones, cakes, a gooseberry pie and the evening meal. Washed up, and gave Mr Hanham who was working late, another snack, went by bus out to see Michael for an hour, and Thea very kindly took me home in the car. She stayed for coffee then left and I washed my hair. When it was dry I laid most of the stair carpet – or rather, all of it, but I shall have to relay the last flight as it is wrongly done. (Thea wants me to write to Dr Guirdham about Michael as we all feel they will think he is better than he is. It seems such a pity if this opportunity for recovery is missed.) Exercises morning and night complete the list. It is now 20 to 12 and I must go to sleep.

Sat 10 July:

Spent from 6 until a quarter to eight drafting a letter to Dr Guirdham which I hoped might be helpful. It's not an easy task. During the morning I finished

adjusting the stair carpet and doing other odd things, cleaning the house etc. Herr Mager stayed in bed until about tea-time. After lunch I gardened until about 4, then Bobby came, bringing some strawberries and cream and also some wine. We had tea and then went for little walk, but it began to rain so we came home. We played darts, and then, about 8, had some supper followed by card games. Andrew had a bath and we had coffee etc (except me) and watched TV Bed about 11.

Sun 11 July:

Woke early for a Sunday and wrote out the letter for Dr Guirdham, made tea for Bobby and I, read, and rose about 8.45. A leisurely and pleasant breakfast, then when I had done the potatoes etc Bobby and I went for a walk and we all did some sketching or some other 'art'. Thea joined us at 12.30. During the morning Paul found a baby sparrow caught in the strawberry net being attacked by Tiffin. He rescued it, gave it some milk and then put it in a lined box as it was too wet and shocked to fly. We only just saved it from Tiffin again when the cat was let in by mistake. Eventually when the sparrow recovered we released it in the back lane, and it was touching to see how quickly its parents came, and how obviously pleased they were to see it safe after all. In the afternoon Thea took me to Weston Lodge and we brought Michael home for a little while. He still seemed very touchy and irritable, we thought. He had a taxi back to the Nursing Home after tea and Bobby and I met my mother off the train, chatted in the bus station, saw Bobby off home, then Mummy and I went home for two hours with the boys and a light supper. When she had gone on to Auntie Marnie, the boys and I went to bed early.

[End of small blue exercise book – new book a much thicker, pink, 'Duplicate Memorandum' book. It seems Peggy had used the first few pages for something else, then cut those pages out, then used the rest of it as a simple 'non-duplicate' notebook.]

Mon 12 July:

It was very wet indeed today. I did the house and washing, and my mother came up about 10.30-11. After a drink, we did some cleaning in the bedroom and then had lunch. We had a rest and a cup of tea then went shopping and to the Library. I came home about 5 and made some scones and the evening meal. We were given some raspberries and cream and some cold beef. In the evening it was the Writer Circle's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party, held at Mrs Wooster's house, Some old members and Keynsham Circle came, and Mrs Singleton spoke on novel writing. It was very enjoyable. Miss Stowe very kindly brought me home in the car.

Tues 13 July:

Herr Mager didn't go to school today, but this evening he said his pain was better, having taken the Benerva pills I suggested. I think it must have been neuritis he has had. Did the house and ironing, and then did some shopping and met Auntie Marnie and mummy for coffee at Jolly's. Spent the rest of the day looking at shops and Mummy bought several things and I bought a piece of towelling with which to make 2 towels for 12/6. (I am getting rather short of large hand towels.) Mummy came home for tea then she had a taxi home dropping me at the bus stop for Weston. Michael seemed much more relaxed and contented today. I was very glad to see it. Thea took me home in the car, which was ever so kind. Watched TV with the boys.

Weds 14 July:

Did the house and the rest of the ironing and then did some shopping before meeting Mummy for coffee and doing more shopping. My colour photographs of various gardens and the reunion at Jim Seth-Smith's house in London are not very good, but I have a good one of Tiffin. It was certainly not worth over 3/- per En-print, which is what it cost me! Auntie Marnie joined us at Colmer's for lunch and after calling at one or two other shops, Mummy and I came home. My typewriter was returned to me at last, and while Mummy knitted, I did a little gardening. When tea was over Mummy went back to Auntie Marnie's by taxi again, dropping me at St James' Parade where I caught a bus to go and see Michael. He wasn't as good as he was last night, which was disappointing, and he admits that basically he feels no different. Thea took me home again which was so kind, then I made the two towels out of the material I bought yesterday. Mr Adlai Stevenson had died suddenly today.

Thurs 15 July:

The proofs of "The Magic Shoe" and "Laurie the Fine Fir Tree" arrived this morning. I did the house and washing, and picked some flowers for the lounge (and Herr Mager, as it was Laura's birthday). Met Mummy and Auntie Marnie at Carwardine's having done some shopping. While having coffee, an almost overwhelming desire to burst into tears came most unexpectedly over me. Fortunately it was controllable and soon passed. I've had this feeling once or twice recently. Haven't had it before since I was about 12 or 13 years of age. Mummy did some shopping then to the Library, followed by lunch at Colmer's. We both went out to Weston Lodge to see Michael, Mummy leaving on the early side. Michael is feeling very 'like a pudding' he says, but not better. Certain he doesn't seem better than he is – say – on a Sunday evening most weeks i.e.

rested, but still basically lacking in energy, subject to tummy trouble, and easily irritated. Met Mummy and returned into Bath by bus. Mummy bought a pair of pyjamas for Andrew and gave me some money for some article of clothing for Paul. After tea I did some mending etc watched and read. Andrew left Scouts early as he is getting up early tomorrow.

Fri 16 July:

Andrew had to have breakfast at 10 to 7 and leave at 10 past, which he did, and had a very good day in London, going to Madame Tussaud's, the Planetarium down the river to Greenwich to see the Maritime Museum, then home and I met the train about 10pm. During the day, which was finer than it has been of late, I did the house and shopping, then Paul joined me for lunch (having broken up) and I had a rest before doing the ironing and some gardening. Paul found two fossils in the garden. Went and saw Michael after tea and he still seemed to be little better. It is disappointing. Thea came again to fetch me. Did some mending and later met Andrew. TV was very good tonight – Dr Finlay, a film about Bolivia and an excellent documentary about a Thalidomide child.

Sat 17 July:

Didn't get up until 10 past 8, which was nice. A lovely day, so did some leisurely gardening until 11.30 and Paul was with me and mowed the lawn. After lunch I had a rest, then Andrew, who had played with Graham Hall in the morning, came with me to his school fete. I bought a lettuce and we had an ice, then I came home and he soon followed. We had an early tea and I altered some trousers for Paul, then went to see Michael. He still reckons he is making no improvement. It is disappointing. Barbara Stone met me and took me in her car to her house. We had some nice refreshment and a chat, then soon after 9 she drove me home. I thought it very kind of her. Washed my hair, then we all went to bed.

Sun 18 July:

Rose about 10 past 9. At Meeting we spent until 11.15 listening to a radio broadcast from Sidcot School. Richard Brayshaw, the head, was very good. After lunch, having made some scones, I had thought we might go for a picnic. It was a nice day. But the boys hadn't written the letters they had to do, and wanted to stay home, so I rested and then gardened, making a new border in from the path – rather a bold move which I hope Michael approves. He has agreed in principle some weeks ago. After tea, and watching TV, pressing Paul's altered trousers which I washed etc we had a game of Monopoly. Andrew won, and I was in a 'sorry state'!

Mon 19 July:

I didn't have to get up until 10 past 7 as breakfast didn't have to be until 8. Did the house and washing then went shopping. Paul went out to Woolley to help bring in bales of hay. It is very heavy work and the bales are nearly cwt each. He had to load a great many on to a tractor with his friend Stephen Kurle. He enjoyed it, especially driving the tractor but the machine sounded very Heath Robinson, and the more I heard about it all, the more I wished he wouldn't tell me! I rested after lunch and read, then did some gardening. There were only Andrew and I in for tea, but I left a cold meal for Herr Mager in his room. Mr Morass intended calling for me at 6.35 to take me out to see Michael. As he hadn't come by 7.10 I phoned for a taxi, but before the taxi came Mr Morass turned up having been delayed in a traffic jam, so Andrew had to pay off the taxi. Michael seemed rather better, but bored by Mr Morass's conversations on smallholdings – which I found very interesting. When we left at 8, Mr M took me into the city, which was kind. He was a most interesting man, but feel his safety on the roads is due to very good luck rather than even a soupcon of good driving! Paul returned from haymaking about 9.30.

Tues 20 July:

From 5 am this morning there were heavy thunder storms, and they persisted on and off most of the day. Paul was unable to go hay-making and it would seem as if operations will be held up for a day or two. Did the house, ironing and shopping, then after Paul and I had had lunch, I rested and wrote a letter. Made a gooseberry tart and some scones with the evening meal, then went out to see Michael. I thought he still seemed rather better than last week, though still impatient. Thea brought me home again and came in for a very short while – but left in yet another storm. There were 2 power cuts, At 9.25 there was a documentary on young adults (teenagers) which was interesting.

Weds 21 July:

Paul and I went to Bristol this morning, rather on the spur of the moment. I did the house and a little shopping, then we caught a bus. We walked up Christmas Steps but the Stamp shop was closed. Perhaps it was just as well, as in George's bookshop Paul found two expensive Geology books which he bought. They should be very useful. We also went in the museum and looked at the Geological and other sections. As there was nowhere else we wanted to go, we then went home and had a late lunch. We both rested and I wrote a letter. After high tea Paul and I went to see Michael, and Thea fetched us home. Wrote up a little on herbs and to bed. Paul admitted tonight that he didn't feel too well this afternoon and thinks he's tired. I shall have to leave him to his own devices tomorrow. Andrew had heard that he is to be in 4L next term – not with his

friends. I think he is disappointed, but there it is. I feel a little depressed about the family tonight. Somehow I find myself feeling that their failures or ill-luck are my fault in some way and that I am responsible. I am proud of their good health and success, and dismayed at the opposite. How stupid this is!

Thurs 22 July:

Did the house and washing. Paul removed an embedded broken screw from the leg of the settee that broke late last night. It was a difficult task. Getting another one wasn't easy either but Weaver's took one out of a spare leg they had and gave it to me, which was very kind. After shopping I met Granny, Aunty Kitty and Thea at the new Italian restaurant in Northgate St, and they gave me lunch, which was very nice in that it was quite different from a usual meal. (though fattening!) Went to see Michael in the afternoon meeting June Phillips on the way. Michael certainly seems rested, and is regaining some of his lost energy. After tea Andrew and I went to the pictures to see "Ghengis Khan". It was one of the 'spectaculars'. It is wonderful how they make these films, but they leave me cold. So many horses suffer in the making of the, and they make so much of the sexual and brutal side, when more could have been left to the imagination with advantage. When we reached home, Paul was back from Woolley. He hadn't worked very hard today, as the rain had kept coming. Andrew had an injection (for dust allergy) again before tea.

Fri 23 July:

Did the house and ironing and then went shopping. Had a rest after lunch, then did some note-making on herbs, which is my chief hobby at the moment. Made a cake for tomorrow's garden party, then the evening meal. Andrew and I hurried off to see Michael. Two friends from the Hospital Board also came to see Michael so he saw them for a while in the lounge. It was so nice of them to come, I thought, and they brought him some cigarettes and a gift token. He also has a card with a huge number of signatures on it. People are terribly kind. Andrew broke up today. His report speaks of him working hard which is good as we were half afraid that he was being rather slap-dash. The form master says he thinks his form position reflects his true capability, but although I think he will work better in the lower stream and am therefore happy for him to be in it, I think his lower standard is due to poor concentration, and application in subjects where has had strong competition. He would do well in a small group, or if someone was interested in him and encouraged him, without in any way criticising or pushing him. He needs to feel he is doing well. If he gets behind through absence he loses interest. When he takes the GCE he will really get down to it. Thea came in for some coffee and stayed a little while, but we all went to bed in the early side – 9.30-10.30.

Sat 24 July:

Paul was asked to go thistle-cutting at Woolley today so he cut sandwiches and left early. Andrew, too, decided to take his lunch with him to Graham Hall's and so I went shopping then came back to get lunch for Herr Mager and his girl friend Laura, who joined us today. Did a little washing and had a rest, then went by bus to the Friends' garden party. Unfortunately I caught a 7 instead of a 15 and ended up in Haycombe Drive instead of the top of Englishcombe Lane so had to walk some way and was rather late arriving. It was quite pleasant there, and Charles Marsh showed us some slides of Iceland and Africa. Although rather old, they were quite interesting. Was waiting for a bus to go back when Betty Plowright gave me a lift to the Bear Flat. Went into town and bought some fruit, then went on out to Weston to see Michael. He definitely seemed in good form. Thea fetched me and brought Auntie Kitty. They both came in for coffee. Paul returned later, and when Thea and Auntie Kitty left I cooked the boys some eggs and we had some tarts and cake too. I had some cheese. Bed.

Sun 25 July:

Rose nice and late. Herr Mager was at Westbury so there were only the boys and I for breakfast and lunch. Went to Meeting. After lunch, I wrote a couple of letters and then did gardening all the afternoon. Aase rang up to say they were back in Bath until August 6<sup>th</sup>. In the evening I did some knitting, washed my hair and wrote a few herbal notes. Andrew went to Graham Hall's in the afternoon. He is learning to ride his bicycle. TV not very good. Very stormy still.

Mon 26 July:

Herr Mager didn't return last night. We had the usual early breakfast, and I did the house, washing and shopping followed by an early lunch with Andrew, Paul having done farm work. Went out to Weston Lodge while Andrew, who had been to a friend in the morning, went to the Pictures. Met Dr Guirdham and talked with him for a while. He was so positive in his outlook of Michael that I felt dreadful having to emphasise all the bad side, but nevertheless I did. I got nowhere however, as Dr G said he felt Michael's trouble was due to nervous tension caused by a long period of bad luck. He thought Michael had bottled up so many feeling that he couldn't have been anything else but violent. He thought it was a pity Michael wasn't prepared to move and take a job in another hospital Board. The only alternative he could think about was in a small engineering firm or as a bursar, but I said that applications he had made had never apparently been considered. I was a little disappointed in the interview – although I don't know why – it really just about confirmed the view that I have always held, that the trouble was primarily psychological, and the physical symptoms a result.

Herr Mager joined Andrew and I for tea, then A and I did a jigsaw and watched TV. Paul returned about 9.30. Tomorrow they start voting for a new Conservative leader. I hope Mr Maudlin [sic] gets in, but I think Mr Heath will.

Tues 27 July:

Herr Mager left after breakfast to go to Westbury where he is staying until Sunday. I did the house and ironing, then made lunch for the Mayo-Smiths and their three boys. They were a bit late coming so the flan I had made was rather over-cooked! I'm not a good hostess and I felt horribly inefficient, but apart from that I enjoyed having them very much as they had lots to tell me about their year's experiences. Paul went farming again all day, and Andrew was out in the afternoon. When my visitors left, I did a little ironing that remained and had an early tea, preparing Andrew's also. Went to see Michael and he said he was coming out tomorrow. I was glad and we had pleasant conversation for while until Andrew was mentioned, then we fell into an argument. He said he intended making Andrew have a more productive pastime than plastic soldiers, and making him tidy his desk. I agreed that some time he'd have to tackle the desk, but as for dictating about the boy's hobby I thought this all wrong, and – yabber yabber! Oh dear, it was most depressing. In the car, when Thea met me, she gave me some of the thoughts on our family that had crystallised with her. She is certainly a staunch support to me, and her caring is very upholding. After I had made the boys' drinks the tense noisy film on TV was too awful, and I went upstairs and read until it was over. The boys and I then had a short conversation and we went to bed.

Weds 28 July:

We got up a little after 8 and having done house, went shopping and Michael came home from the nursing home soon after 10.30. He was fairly 'scratchy'. Andrew had a friend here for the morning. After an early lunch Paul went farming and Andrew painted soldiers, while Michael and I rested, then went shopping. When tea was over I spent the evening on my food and herb research. TV was fair.

Thurs 29 July:

Up nice and late for a weekday, and after doing house and washing Michael and I went down town. We didn't get home until 12.25. Lunch just before 1, and Paul then went farming. Andrew spent the morning and afternoon with Graham Hall. I had a rest after lunch and then did gardening. Did some mending after tea and some plant research. Michael went to the doctor and later we went out to post off his National Health certificate and went for a drink in the fairly new Berni-Royal.

Fri 30 July:

We rose at the leisurely hour of 8 or so and having done some chores did a large amount of food shopping etc. getting home in time to cook lunch and some scones for tea. Had a rest, then wrote a letter and did the ironing. We had tea about 5, then the boys and I played Devil's Patience, until the TV became rather interesting. I did a little plant research also. Herr Mager returned unexpectedly.

Sat 31 July:

We had to rise punctually but nevertheless not too early. Michael and I went down town and had a pleasant morning there, returning to make lunch and a salmon flan for tomorrow. After lunch Paul went to Woolley to do some more bale-hauling as it was a fine day. Andrew went with the Eastons up in the park. In spite of the sun I rested all the afternoon and read, which was a real treat. After tea and watching TV I did some gardening then washed my hair and read. Michael hasn't taken any of his anti-depressant pills today and says he feels much better. He is still taking the tranquilliser. I am sure it is the anti-depressant (which I think stimulates) which has made him feel so very irritable, but we shall have to see.

Sun 1 August:

I opened my birthday packages and felt very lucky. We rose about 9. Michael seemed very irritable and breakfast was rather unfortunate. Went to Meeting then hurried home to make sandwiches etc for a picnic lunch in our lounge with Granny and Thea. Spent a pleasant afternoon talking and listening to records. They left about 4 after a cup of tea, then I typed out a 'history' for Michael and posted his letters at the sorting office. We had tea then I watched TV wrote some letters and plant research.

Mon 2 August:

Woke early. I made tea soon after 6.30 and as I was about to get up at 7.30 Michael was very disgruntled and said some very hurtful things. The trouble is that I do not know how much notice to take of them. Although he says I'm a drag on him I also feel he needs me. We didn't go to Salisbury for the day as planned as it poured with rain nearly all day. After cleaning Herr Mager's room (he has now left) and doing the washing, Michael and I did some shopping. Lunch, then read and rested all the afternoon, played cards with the boys. Tea. Watched TV did the ironing, knitting etc. Had quite a tussle with myself not to feel 'down'. I must not be a victim of my feelings.

Tues 3 August:

We rose late this morning and the day was a delightfully leisurely one. We went down town shopping, then back to cook and have lunch. Rested and read in the afternoon. Worked on plant research and watched TV in the evening. Paul went thistle-cutting again this afternoon. Andrew spent the morning with a friend and tidied his desk in the afternoon.

Weds 4 August:

Michael went back to work today so we had to get up at a quarter to seven. After housework I did the shopping and bought myself two second hand and two paper-back books with which I am rather pleased. After lunch, and cooking some cakes and scones, I had a rest and wrote my mother while Andrew went to see a friend and Paul went farming, not returning until a quarter to ten. Did plant research in the evening.

Thurs 5 August:

Having done the washing I went down town and did the shopping. We had a rather early lunch, then Paul went to do some farming, I had a rest then washed my hair and played a game with Andrew while it dried. In the evening I did some mending and ironing. TV wasn't very interesting.

Fri 6 August:

There were a hundred and one odd jobs to do today in preparation for the holiday. The dog was collected for the Kennels, and there was mending etc. Paul went farming in the afternoon. In the morning the boys did the lawn. Watched TV etc in the evening.

Sat 7 August:

It was a nice day for the start of our holiday. We did sundry last minute things and I did the washing, then we went by taxi to the bus station and caught the coach. It was late leaving, and late arriving in Cheltenham, but a very pleasant trip during which we ate our picnic lunch and some extra fruit that Granny Bridges had kindly given me. At Cheltenham there were so many extra coaches that it was bedlam, and we didn't reach Leamington until about 4.30, nearly an hour late. We walked to the Veleta hotel, which we found was quite a long way but Mrs Proctor offered us some tea and we were very grateful for it. We soon afterwards caught a bus into town and after exploring we separated. We learned later that the boys, like us, had gone to a Chinese restaurant for a meal. We went to bed in the early side.

Sun 8 August:

Tea was brought to us at about 8 and we had breakfast at about 8.45. Later we went into town and booked a coach trip for tomorrow. We then went to the Jephson Gdns where we picnicked. It was a nice fine day. Paul did some

sketching. In the afternoon we walked to Lillington and Paul drew Lillington church while we rested. We walked back to Jephson Gdns and then, having sat for a while had a meal in the Chinese restaurant and walked back to the hotel. Read. It was a pleasant, easy, day but apart from taking photos and finding a few unusual wild flowers I do not feel I did much that was worth while so will get something to do tomorrow.

Mon 9 August:

Another fine day. We shopped in the morning and then had lunch at the Pump Room – which is far less ‘posh’ inside than Bath! After a brief sit etc out of doors, Michael, Paul and I went to Dudley Zoo by coach, while Andrew, who didn’t want to go, went to the pictures to see “Mary Poppins”. There were some very badly behaved boys in the coach, but it was pleasant journey. We liked it at the zoo. Came home at 7.30 meeting Andrew, we went to the Chinese restaurant, then walked home. Read. I bought a very good wild flower book today which is better than my other one for identification.

Tues 10 August:

We went to Coventry for the day today and saw the new cathedral. I liked it all except the Sutherland tapestry. After lunch Andrew and Michael went to the Museum and Paul and I searched for bookshops. We liked the lovely new shopping centre but only found 2 bookshops, neither of which were very good. We did buy one or two books, but weren’t terribly satisfied. After a very early tea, we returned to Leamington. Had supper later in the Chinese restaurant. Wrote a letter when we reached the hotel. Bed.

Weds 11 August:

Today we went to Stratford-on-Avon, and it was a lovely sunny day. We walked along by the river and then crossed in the ferry to go and see the Shakespeare Exhibition which was pretty good. After a snack, Michael and Andrew went for a river trip while Paul and I went into town. We met on the river lawn and sat and sketched for a while, each going off alone or in pairs for short sorties as we felt inclined. At 4.30 we went back to Warwick by a different route, and having found a seat (in a very dusty and noisy place!) we read until the Chinese restaurant there opened and we had a meal. We then returned to our hotel in Leamington and read. The others also watched TV. I have read that my Writer’s cramp is due to repressed hostility or guilt – in several books or periodicals – but this knowledge doesn’t effect a cure! Perhaps I’m too unforgiving a person. I hope not.

Thurs 12 August:

It's Anna's birthday today and we miss her. It was beautifully sunny again. We went into town and did some shopping, then later Andrew left us as he wanted to stay on in Leamington, and Paul Michael and I went by bus to Stoneleigh. We picnicked did some photography etc and Paul sketched the church, then we went back to Leamington and sat in Jephson Gardens until Andrew, who had been to the Pictures, joined us. We then went up to a restaurant in the Parade for supper, but its value was very poor. Back at the hotel the others watched TV while I wrote a letter and 'polished' a couple of poems I had written.

Fri 13 August:

We had another beautiful sunny day, and having done a little shopping and had elevenses we caught a bus to Kineton. It was a pleasant journey, but Kineton was not particularly picturesque and we had a little difficulty in finding a picnic spot. When we did we spent a pleasant leisurely couple of hours there, then came back to the bus stop and caught a bus back to Leamington by a different route. We had tea in the Jephson Gardens, then first Andrew and I played a game of putting, then Paul and Michael. We went to the Chinese restaurant for the evening meal and had a bottle of wine and ate pretty well tonight, returning to the hotel more than full! The others watched TV but I rested and did some writing and packing.

Sat 14 August:

Thea's birthday today. After breakfast Andrew and I went into town to collect some food, while the others labelled the cases etc. We had a taxi at 11.20 and soon caught our coach. It was sad that the holiday was over. At Cheltenham there was the usual chaos, but we finally got away shortly before 2.30 and were only 15 mins late at Bath. We had another wait for a taxi, but at home Granny had left us fruit, chicken and meat etc so we were very lucky. During the evening I ironed the washing I had done last Saturday, and washed my hair. The others watched TV.

Sun 15 August:

After breakfast I went to Meeting, and the boys went up to Granny and Thea's for lunch. Directly after the midday meal Michael and I did the washing. I then wrote some letters and did a little gardening. Thea brought the cat back, and the boys, and we had tea, then we watched TV all the evening, and I also did some mending and ironing. Anna was brought back, and we liked having our animals again. Started sewing together squares for my fifth cot blanket for the WVS.

Mon 16 August:

We didn't get up till about 8. After breakfast Michael and I went shopping and then home for an early lunch as Michael had an interview in Bristol at the Ministry of Labour at 2.15. I made bread and cooked some cakes, had a rest, read etc. Paul played golf at the approach course with Stephen Kurle, and Andrew went shopping and forgot he had an appointment at the doctor's! (He went late and had to await his turn.) He had an injection and his next isn't for a month. In the evening I worked on the WVS blanket. TV was very interesting. There was an enquiry into the riots that have flared up in Los Angeles. It is very disturbing, and difficult to see how anything other than control can master the situation, nevertheless, just as Nature Cure methods must eventually prevail in medicine, it must come to be realised that suppression of violence does not cure it, and all citizens must feel that the police are their friends, and 'on their side' – like doctors, they are just against the sickness, the evil.

Tues 17 August:

We rose early so that the boys could catch the 7.53 train. It is a much better train than it used to be as they had no change, and arrived at Par at 12.40. It used to be 2.20. When they had gone, I did some chores then went shopping. Michael stayed in as the window-cleaners were expected! I bought a Pressure cooker with some of my birthday money. After lunch Michael and I rested and read, and after tea I did some plant research and watched TV. Michael did several odd jobs during the day and also watched TV which was quite good tonight.

Weds 18 August:

Rose about 7.45-8, and went shopping with Michael between 9.30 and 11.30. We had an early lunch, then I wrote my mother and we went to the Little Theatre to see "The Incredible Journey". This was about a labrador, a Bull terrier and a Siamese cat who travelled over 200 miles back to their home. The animals were wonderfully trained to be as a team, and although the thoughts put into the animals by the story-teller were quite impossible, the story itself was feasible and as usual in animal or child films, my emotions were quite uncontrollable – especially in the happy parts! After tea I weeded the strawberry bed and piled compost on it. Then did some plant research and watched TV.

Thurs 19 August:

Rose at the nice leisurely hour of 7.45 as usual this week, and having done the washing etc we went shopping. After lunch and some odd jobs I had a luxurious read until about 4, while Michael did some odd jobs. We had pot of tea and then read and looked at our Coventry colour slides. When supper was over I did some plant research. TV. We're not having such good weather this week.

Fri 20 August:

We went shopping as soon as we had had breakfast and done the house. Coming back in good time, I made some apricot jam, some cakes and scones before lunch. I was pleased with the jam – 10lbs from 11lb of dried fruit, 2 lemons, 6lbs of sugar and a bottle of pectin, costing 1/1 per lb. Did some gardening after lunch for about 2 ½ hrs, then had a rest until nearly 6. Made high tea. (Michael rested all the afternoon) Did the ironing and then washed my hair. TV.

Sat 21 August:

It was a horrible wet day, but we had paid for our seats to go on the Natural History outing so we had to go. I liked the people, though as the day progressed I felt very much the greenhorn – everyone else was so knowledgeable! Michael bore up well because of course he wasn't very interested in birds and flowers. At Frampton-on-Severn, which is an attractive village with Tudor and 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, we went out to the river for lunch, and between storms saw quite a lot of birds in the distance – sheldrake, sandpipers, yellow wagtails pipits and a wheatear. Many were too distant to identify. We then went on to the Westonbirt arboretum which was more sheltered from wind and the sun came out. At both places we saw flowers new to me – Red Bartsia Mouseear, Knotweed etc. When we came home, we had a drink in the Berni-Royal, then home for supper and TV etc etc Michael staying up for the end of the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Sun 22 August:

We didn't get up until gone 9. Went to Meeting. After lunch, we watched TV and slept a little on the sofa. Finished the squared blanket for the WVS. After having tea and watching the religious programmes I worked on plant research until nearly 10, when we went to bed. Michael has been depressed today and has indigestion tonight. He goes back to work tomorrow.

Mon 23 August:

We heard this morning that Paul has managed to get grade 2 in his Art O level, and as we also heard from Mummy that the boys were going to Holywell Bay for the day and might not be back till late, I decided to ring him and wish him a happy birthday and tell him the good news. He was pleased. After doing the housework, Michael having gone back to work, I went up to Auntie Marnie with a small present and then went to have a perm. Went shopping afterwards and after lunch took the dog for a good walk, picking one or two flowers for identification. I intended doing plant research in the evening, but TV was quite good so I started a child's jumper with WVS wool instead.

Tues 24 August:

Did the washing and a few chores then worked on plant research until 1.30. After lunch I went shopping and called to see Miriam Wells. She hasn't been too well and has an eye infection. Her doctor gave her Vit B but she was then sick. Michael went to the doctor directly after tea and he says the pain he has had the last two days is a strained tummy muscle. Did more plant research and knitting in the evening.

Weds 25 August:

Did the ironing directly after breakfast and then rang Granny Bridges to ask Kenneth up on Friday – but he is going home tomorrow. I wrote my mother then went shopping coming home for an early lunch. At 1.55 I met Granny, Kenneth and Richard Barr at the Abbey and we went to the American Museum. I was glad to see it again as there were some additions since I saw it last, and the herb garden and shop, also the Memorial garden enthralled me. We had tea there, then caught a bus back. I got off at Cleveland Walk and went home along the canal. In the evening I wrote a letter to someone advertising for accommodation and also knitted the front of the jumper I am knitting Sophie.

Thurs 26 August:

Having done some housework, I prepared my talk for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Went out about 10.30 shopping and when I came home did about an hour's work on the garden. After lunch, I slept in the lounge for about half an hour then worked on an article on berries that I plan to do. The boys came back with Michael and it was very nice to see them. Knitted and did some more plant research in the evening, also wrote a letter and watched TV (nothing very good).

Fri 27 August:

We didn't have to get up so early as usual as Michael was going to see Dr Guirdham. I went shopping and soon after I had returned Michael came back to say that Dr Guirdham had said he should go in to Weston Lodge again. We discussed it a little, but it was obvious that there really wasn't a satisfactory alternative. He then went to work and the boys and I had lunch, did some gardening, rested, made some cakes etc. Knitted read and watched TV in the evening – but Telefusion broke down and we missed some.

Sat 28 August:

Went shopping with Michael and to Thea's art exhibition where we happened to meet Mary, Ian, Francis, David, Phillippa and family. After lunch I wrote a letter, then read while Paul did a portrait of me in pastels. Did some gardening and later in the evening was working on my 'berry' article when the Mayo-Smiths called and stayed for coffee. Did a little knitting and watched TV.

Sun 29 August:

Went to Meeting and found myself besieged with the idea of Michael taking a training in something. The idea persisted all day. Gardened after lunch while Paul and Michael did photography all day till tea time. Did a bit more on my article, then after tea I looked through the careers book. To my surprise I found that photography was a distinct possibility for Michael and there was a good demand for photographers but Michael thought the idea completely useless and impractical. I asked him to think about it while he was in Weston Lodge. Watched TV had a bath and to bed early to read.

Mon 30 August:

August Bank holiday, so we didn't hurry to get up. Did some gardening in the morning. Finished my "berry" article after lunch and then had a rest. We had a cup of tea, then Granny and Thea came to see us and we looked at photos and slides. When they left, we had high tea quickly, as we were hungry. TV in evening and I also did some plant research.

Tues 31 August:

Michael went to work and I hurried to clean the house and do the shopping. Andrew went to the optician at 9.15. I enquired about courses at the Tech for Michael but there are practically no full-time courses and none in photography. Paul and I had lunch at 1, but Andrew didn't appear. We both said he must be with a friend and has forgotten the time, but secretly we were rather concerned, as we had expected him home about 10.30. He turned up at 1.30. I went for a rest, and to do some writing, up on my bed, when a Mr Lane and his mother called to see the downstairs room. When I showed them the kitchen, I don't know what they thought, as Andrew hadn't cleared the table and there was washing awaiting ironing and muddles everywhere! Made some cakes before we had tea, then spend the evening ironing. Watched TV and did a little knitting between 10 and 10.30.

Weds 1 September:

It was quite chilly this morning and we were reminded that it is practically autumn. Having done the housework I wrote my mother and then went shopping. After lunch I had a rest, then did writing until tea time. The boys and I had tea the usual time, but Michael rang to say he'd be late, and didn't get back till about 8. Spent the evening knitting, reading and watching TV. Andrew spent the morning with a friend. Paul was in all day. He really needs some outlet for his energy as he takes it out on Andrew who would really prefer to be painting his models. Paul also did some work (geology).

Thurs 2 September:

We didn't get up too early and after breakfast and housework I left to do the shopping and Thea drove Michael to Weston Lodge. After lunch I went out to see Michael. He is in a bedroom with three others this time. Another visitor gave me lift back into town. Finished the knitting of Sophie's jumper this evening and watched TV which wasn't at all interesting.

Fri 3 September:

Wrote a story in bed, and rose about 7.30. Paul helped me move my 'writing' cupboard down into the kitchen after breakfast, and Andrew kindly did some washing for me. Met Mrs Hancock at 10.30 and she very kindly gave me some vegetables from her garden and also some lovely bacon etc. a friend of hers obtained from Harris' Bacon Co. Did some shopping then after lunch took it easy, and read and did some writing. When tea was over I visited Michael who had some treatment today but didn't seem half so affected by it as before, and was quite bright and cheerful. Had a lift back to the Eye Infirmary from which I walked home. Read the newspaper and wrote a couple of letters. Bed about 11.

Sat 4 September [entry appears after the 5<sup>th</sup>]:

I have suddenly realised that I haven't written up yesterday's doings (Sept 4<sup>th</sup>) so am inserting them here: Did some housework then went into town with Andrew, collecting his new spectacles, and going to the Book Exchange and Library. Did the ironing after lunch, then washed my hair and did a little writing. Went to see Michael after tea and he was feeling pretty washed out and grumpy. Paul and I had put up some curtains across the study shelves this morning but he didn't approve of anything we had done. Have finished Sophie's jumper and am getting on with one for Mark now.

Sun 5 September:

Did some writing in bed, then after breakfast, went to Meeting and Preparative Meeting. Home about 10 to 1 and directly after lunch hurried off to catch the bus to Weston to see Michael. He was a little better, but still pretty down in the mouth. Bussed home, and after tea we got ready to go to Aase's for supper. It was very enjoyable – a good meal and a pleasant chat, and the boys enjoyed it too. Andrew was rather wheezy this evening.

Mon 6 September:

Went down town shopping quite early, as there was a lot to do. On returning a Mr Wright called to see our basement room. He said he would let us know whether he would be taking it. Did some housework, then we had lunch. Andrew was in bed with asthma. I kept him on a fruit and vegetable diet. He tried to take a salt and water emetic as sickness is said to clear asthma and migraine,

but he gave up! Thea came unexpectedly, and bringing her own she stayed for lunch and we chatted till 2.15. Paul and I worked in the afternoon and I managed to type and send off two stories for 'Listen with Mother'. Paul went shopping at 4.30 while I made tea, and Andrew dressed. After tea, I went to see Michael, and took him in his camera I had collected from Desmond Tripp. He had had more treatment, and as on Friday, he seemed better. He had even been out for a walk in the afternoon, and started making a lampshade during the occupational period. A visitor called Mrs Vaughan again gave me a lift to the Eye Infirmary from which I walked home. Mending and to bed 10.30. Andrew a little looser this evening.

Tues 7 September:

The boys went back to school. Andrew was asthmatic, but he managed to 'make it'. Did the housework, some writing and washing, then went shopping. After lunch I wrote a couple of letters and then typed out some notes I had made from a book. We had the chicken from Aunty Billie for supper, and Thea joined us. Afterwards she kindly drove me out to Weston Lodge. Michael was fairly alright. Had a lift to the Eye Infirmary and walked home. Did the ironing and watched TV. The war going on over Kashmir is worrying.

Weds 8 September:

Andrew still has asthma but it's not too bad. Had planned to go out early but it rained heavily so I cleaned the study and moved Kimmy into the lounge as I agree with Thea who suggested she was rather lonely now we use the study so seldom. It was drier later so went shopping, but long before I came home it positively poured and I returned very wet. Wrote a letter and did some writing in the afternoon, taking Anna out afterwards to post. Went to see Michael in the evening. He said he felt very 'fenced in' and wants to come home. Did some plant research for a while on my return. Andrew still improving so far.

Thurs 9 September:

Did some washing and housework, correspondence etc and left at 11.30 to do some shopping. Caught the 12.25 bus to Barbara Stone's and we had a pleasant lunch and chat, a rushed picking of blackberries which she gave me, then caught the bus to Weston Lodge. Michael and I went into town and we walked home. He isn't really allowed home but it wasn't a nice day and seemed the best place to go. We had some tea then he had a taxi back at 5.30. People began telephoning re the downstairs room, and first a young teacher came to see it (but she wanted to live with the family and thought she'd be too lonely) and then a young man working for a telephone company said he'd like to have it. I wasn't quite

sure, so I told him about a French master who had rung earlier and who arranged to come tomorrow, and it was decided that he ring me at 1pm to see if the Frenchman had taken it. Read paper etc did ironing and made 3 ½ lbs of blackberry and apple jam during evening.

Fri 10 September:

Awoke rather early and was wondering about the PGs. After doing the housework etc I sat down to do some correspondence and plant research as I had to stay in for the expected French master. 10am came, 11am, 12 – and no sign of him. I had one or two other calls re the room, then at 1pm Mr Potter, the telephone company man rang I said he could have the room but I'd like a reference from his employer. He is coming tomorrow at 2pm and I hope everything works out well. Went shopping after lunch and no sooner had I returned than the Frenchman appeared! He just said he'd been too busy so I told him the room was taken. Prepared the room for Mr Potter and turned on the central heating. Made some cakes and the evening meal. Went to see Michael and had a lift back to the Eye Infirmary from which I walked home. Watched TV and read. Chatted with the boys. Andrew is now president of the Junior Puppet Club. Paul has told the Headmaster he wants to study geology at University.

Sat 11 September:

We got up at 7.45 and after breakfast Andrew went off to his friend for most of the day, and I went down town. Paul did some work. We had lunch early as this new PG Mr Potter was expected at 2. I seem to be fated to wait for people who don't turn up this week! I waited in the whole afternoon (doing plant research) and he didn't come. Andrew returned and we had high tea then I went off to see Michael. He was a little better than last night and had been allowed out to the pictures with another patient. Had a lift to the Eye Infirmary and then walked home. Did plant research and watched TV. Bed after 11.

Sun 12 September:

Read in bed and up about 9. Went to Meeting and Paul went to Granny Bridges' to pick some pears. When I came home I just painted a part of the ceiling in the top bedroom. After lunch I prepared tea and listened to a part of "Let's face facts". Thea brought Michael for the afternoon at 2.30, but Michael was very low and out of sorts the whole time. He badly wanted me to come and see him tomorrow evening instead of going to Writer Circle. In my own mind, I am quite happy about the arrangement since his mother would like to see him, but as he is so abnormally upset about it, it did cross my mind whether I should change my mind. Such decisions I find very difficult. He is obviously very depressed, and I

get the feeling the he imagines no one loves him. It is such a pity he doesn't enjoy the companionship of Paul and Andrew more. For my own part, after Michael had gone I would have been very low if it hadn't been for the boys, but we watched TV and had a glorious discussion, Paul and I not getting to bed till nearly 11.30!

Mon 13 September:

Felt quite unhurried today and did the house and washing, then answered an advert in the paper re the bed sittingroom and went out shopping. After lunch, I must have had a good  $\frac{3}{4}$ hr rest, then took Anna for a walk and picked some elderberries and other berries. Home and made about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of jelly and some scones. When tea was over Andrew, who had hurried on with his homework, went to watch a football match. Paul did some work and I soon set off for Writer Circle at Miss Stone's, meeting two new people on the way. It was MS reading and very pleasant. When I reached home I was glad to hear that Thea had rung to say Michael was much brighter and more settled. We were pleased for Paul today as he is to be a prefect. Also Mr Alois [?] thinks he has a good chance of getting to University and taking an Hons degree in Geology. I rang my mother this evening to find the time of her train tomorrow.

Tues 14 September:

Did the house and ironing and a man from Prior Park College came to see the room for another teacher arriving today – however he rang in the evening to say he'd obtained other accommodation on Combe Down. It is disappointing. I did the shopping, had lunch and a rest, then met Mummy and we had tea and a chat. She left to go to Auntie Marnie, and Mr Dunn arrived. I think we are going to like him. Went out to Weston Lodge to see Michael and he seemed better than Sunday though feeling a bit jaded he said. On the whole it's been a bit depressing today: the BBC have rejected two stories I was very hopeful about, the room has been turned down yet again, and Andrew is being rather worrying. He just won't concentrate on his schoolwork and thinks of nothing but football. It is heartbreaking when one knows he is so clever.

Weds 15 September:

Did the housework and some shopping and met Mummy and Auntie Marnie for coffee at 10.30. Went shopping with Mummy for an hour or so then she took me to lunch at the new Chinese restaurant – the Four Seasons. It was very nice. We saw some actors who were taking part in the film "The Wrong Box" that is being filmed here. We went home and were surprised to find Michael there! He was very low in spirits to begin with but relaxed and was happier later. He returned

to the nursing home at 5.30 and after tea I visited him as usual. He seemed brighter than I'd seen him for a long time by then. Mrs Vaughan whose husband was also much improved, kindly ran me back to the bottom of Lyncombe Hill. I telephoned to know if Monsieur Massoulier had accommodation now, and learning that he had, I have regretfully come to the conclusion that I must advertise again.

Thurs 16 September:

Another pleasant day – housework and washing followed by shopping with Mummy and Auntie Marnie part of the time. We went to the new Chinese restaurant again, but it was a little disappointing this time as the first course tasted a little 'high' and the "cream" on the pudding tasted sour. I seem to be no worse for it fortunately, however. Met Michael and said goodbye to Mummy, then we went to Library etc and back home. Michael returned to nursing home, we had tea and then I did some plant research. I've written an application for a job in Market Research but I may not post it until Saturday so that I can think it over for a day. I don't expect Michael to think it's a good idea!

Fri 17 September:

Housework, washing and shopping then an early lunch and rest. While resting there was loud cracking noise and I found that the bulbs of our bedside light, which Michael only replaced on Thursday (and mended fuse) had gone again – although they weren't in use! Had planned to visit the Friends' Burial Ground but it was too rainy to garden so did some plant research instead, and also made some cakes. Went to see Michael after the evening meal. He had pain in his shoulders and a thick head. He had had some treatment again. He wasn't too keen on the Market Research idea, and as I, too, can't decide whether I should or not, I have decided not to send off the application. Feel happier tonight, having done this. Read paper and watched TV on return. Good documentaries on Bedouins and on 'Life sentences'. To bed late (and boys!)

Sat 18 September:

Breakfast at 8.30 and went down town with Andrew. We agreed that although he didn't apparently need so much sleep as Paul, he should be in bed with the light out at nights by 10.30 (or make it up the next night) so that he had at least 8 hours complete rest. He is playing me up rather, since Michael is away and necessitates arguments. I can't be too lax, but any pressure often causes bed-wetting. (He has been practically free of it lately, though) After lunch I rested, and Michael came home. We had tea, then he returned and I washed my hair, made supper, and did some plant research. Bed about 11.

Sun 19 September:

Had a pleasant read in bed and later went to Meeting. After lunch I did some gardening, then Michael came and we chatted etc. Had tea at 5 and Thea collected him to return to the nursing home at 5.30. Watched TV and did plant research in the evening Mr Dunn joining us about 8, after church, when we had drinks bread and butter and cheese. We then tried to dry off some sports wear Paul had washed. Obstinate boy! He has had ONE vest and ONE pr of games shorts for over 6 years. Now he may be in the cross-country team and has extra practices but he still doesn't want to have another set!

Mon 20 September:

Seemed to be slow getting started on the housework, but by nearly 11 I had done it and the washing. Then went shopping. There was still only one not very hopeful reply to my advert and no one has rung in connection with two adverts I answered on Saturday. It is very queer how difficult I am finding it to get a second PG. Yesterday the central heating refused to work again and after 3 telephonings and a letter from Michael, Mr Aldridge of the Gas Board came and got it going. Had a rest after lunch and did some ironing. Went to see Michael in the evening and Thea kindly brought me home. She has some lumbago which is trying for her. Michael was in better spirits than of late, but not, I feel, basically improved. Bath, and to bed a little earlier than usual.

Tues 21 September:

Spent the morning doing housework, ironing and writing a letter, then made lunch and Barbara Stone arrived at 12.30. We spent a pleasant time together then, as it was fine I did an hour's gardening followed by over half an hour's plant research. Aase called while we were having tea and stayed a little while and took me to my bus stop. Michael was certainly fairly bright this evening. He had been out with Granny and Auntie Helen in the afternoon. Home and did more plant research.

Weds 22 September:

A lovely sunny day which was pleasant for me too. I did the house and shopping, going to the new Sainsbury supermarket in Southgate St, which is quite good. Revised my talk for tonight's visit to Keynsham Circle and after lunch typed out some market notes for them. Had a rest, then made tea and a young girl rang and asked to see the downstairs room at 6.30. When we had had tea, I was just leaving for Keynsham when she came. She seemed very nice and was quite sure she would like it, so I hope she comes. The buses to Bristol were different from what we had expected and I had to wait nearly 20mins (Mrs Watts at Saltford had to too) but we reached Mrs Taylor's house fairly punctually. Everyone was

very friendly and I enjoyed the evening. Afterwards Mr Blackburn drove me back into Bath. When I got home Paul told me that the girl will be telephoning tomorrow lunch time and wants to come in the afternoon. – Well, let's hope the letting is settled at last!

Thurs 23 September:

Another pleasantly fine day. Did the house and washing and then went shopping. After lunch, Philippa Davies rang to say she'd be coming in the late evening. Had a rest then Michael came for the afternoon. He was good company but still awfully edgy, then it became apparent how very worried he was about his future, as he feels that directly he re-starts work his health will break down again. Auntie Helen very kindly came to collect Michael and gave the boys some money and me some chocolates (she had already given Michael a cheque) and then she took Michael back to Weston Lodge. After tea I did the ironing and then plant research. Our new PG arrived after 9.30 and a Dr and Mrs Clements brought her. I immediately realised that he knew Michael and worked for the Board but he didn't say so, and neither did I. Having settled her in and chatted to the boys I went to bed.

Fri 24 September:

Did housework and went shopping, getting home in good time for an early lunch. Had a slightly longer rest than usual, then did plant research for a good hour and a half. Made a chocolate and nasturtium cake and some marigold and currant scones. It was an experiment, but although they sound queer they turned out very well! It was a pleasant tea – I like our new guests and feel very lucky. Hurried off to see Michael, and the boys and Pip washed up. Home at 8.30 in wet windy weather. Read paper and watched TV. Started to go to bed at 9.30 or so but Paul and I began chatting and so it wasn't very early in the end. In fact Paul played up and I had to tell him off for being in Andrew's room after 10.30 and not getting on with his bath.

Sat 25 September:

Went down town with Andrew and bought him some rugby boots. Went to the library and bought a shirt for Michael. Home and did some mending before making lunch. Had a rest in the afternoon and read. Paul worked and Andrew had a friend in. Directly after tea I went as usual to see Michael. He was so-so. He'd had a postcard from someone at the office. This is only the second contact he has had from anyone on the Board in over 3 weeks! They do seem to be unfeeling this time. One doesn't expect gifts and visits, but a card or two.....?? Thea kindly fetched me and she gave a lift to a Mrs Barratt too. Thea stayed for a cup of coffee but the boys were engrossed in TV so she soon left (and we had

to give her a push as her car battery was low.) Watched TV and tidied my work basket.

Sun 26 September:

Didn't go to Meeting this morning as Michael came home for the day. He did one or two jobs in the morning and I did some knitting, then after lunch we had a rest. Thea joined us for tea at 5, but my PGs were both out. She took Michael back to Weston Lodge and I did some plant research and watched a funny film (Private's Progress) on TV after Meeting Point and other religious programmes. We all had supper at about 8.45 while watching TV then the general idea was that we went to bed, but after Pip and John had gone on, first Andrew and then Paul came for a chat and it was gone 11 before I eventually went up!

Mon 27 September:

Another pleasant but full day. Read, as usual, from 6-7, and after getting breakfast did housework and washing till 11, then went shopping getting home just before 1. After a salad lunch I went upstairs for a 50' minute rest, but was interrupted twice by a salesman at the door, and the telephone. Took Anna, and we went up in the fields and picked some elderberries. Came back and made some elderberry and apple jam (3½lbs), some elderberry cakes and spiced cookies, and also some scones before making tea. Just had time to wash-up with Pip and Paul helping, and run (in pouring rain now, after a lovely day) to catch the bus to Weston. Michael had good news. He is coming home on Wednesday, but not to return to work yet. Thea nobly came out in this filthy weather to take me home, which was very gratifying as Mrs Vaughan, who usually gives me a lift into Lansdown wasn't there. On getting home, I read the evening paper and then did a good 1½ hours ironing. Was quite glad to get to bed tonight, but I must say I feel fortunate to like my work and feel sorry for Michael who is so unhappy at present.

Tues 28 September:

In contrast to yesterday's busy day, today was enjoyably quiet. I had finished the housework by 9.30 and spent the morning writing – not with any market in view, but just because I felt I must! Had a late lunch and a rest then wrote my mother and went to post. After tea I read the paper, watched TV washed my hair, knitted etc. There was a documentary on Eton which was interesting. I like the fact that every boy has his own room and works in his own time, but I don't like the dress, the compulsory chapel or the system of fagging.

Weds 29 September:

Was endowed with a rather wonderful feeling of optimism and well-being today. Did house and shopping, and Michael came home. We had lunch and a rest, then he mended our bedroom bedside light while I did plant research and went on with it in the evening. Good documentary on Suez on ITV but I felt rather too sleepy to take it in.

Thurs 30 September:

Having done the housework and washing, Michael and I went shopping. He thinks he will be home for 3 weeks. We had lunch and a rest, then I did some plant research while Michael listened to the wireless. Made some scones and cakes and we had tea. Michael went to the doctor and then I did the ironing, read and watched TV. Michael still feels uncertain of himself as a result of the electric shock treatment, but is otherwise not too bad. The prospect of returning to the same unhappy position at work is holding up progress, to my mind, and because the problem is on his mind he is scratchy at times. Bath and bed.

Fri 1 October:

Did the housework and we set off shopping about 9.45. Michael is very much on edge and unsure of himself which is very trying for him. We didn't get back until lunch time. We had the usual 'something' and salad, but also had soup, and followed it with fruit (me) or bread and cheese and coffee (Mike). Had a rest, then he wrote letters while I did plant research until 4. Michael made us some jasmine scented china tea which was very nice. I made the evening meal, then spent the evening doing more plant research, TV and read paper. Bed 10.30.

Sat 2 October:

Michael awoke in his usual rather critical and 'everything wrong' mood which is hard for both of us! It passed off by breakfast fortunately and we went down town, returning about 12.30, so lunch wasn't until 1.15. Pip and John were away for the weekend. Rested after lunch then did plant research for rest of day. Paul has bought an excellent windcheater and some jeans for his field study week. Andrew went to Whittleton [sic] in the morning then painted soldiers. Everyone watched TV in the evening.

Sun 3 October:

Went to Meeting and stayed for most of Preparative Meeting. After lunch and watching a little TV I took Anna out and I picked elderberries in Lyncombe Vale and the footpath off Church Road. We had high tea about 5.45 and then watched TV again and knitted. Planned the week's menu and wrote my mother. To bed on the early side to read.

Mon 4 October:

A busy morning – doing the house and washing followed by shopping and going up to Granny Bridges and Thea for lunch. Rested afterwards then had a cup of tea and went home. Cooked the tea and also the elderberries and apples ready for jam. A friend of Michael's, Ron Scudamore, came over to visit us. He is a wheelchair case and our house isn't the easiest of places for a person like that. Paul and Michael lifted him in and we chatted over coffee and had a very enjoyable evening. He is a plucky hard working chap, and I admire him. It was very kind of him to come.

Tues 5 October:

We went down town fairly early this morning as we had quite a few calls to make. Had a slightly early lunch and rest, then did the ironing and made a good 6½lbs of elderberry and apple jam. Over tea we all fell to arguing about education and comprehensive schools. It was quite fun. Paul seemed quiet and rather tired tonight – I think the excitement of going to Wales tomorrow may be the reason. Afterwards, having read the paper, I wrote some letters etc sewed up a sheet as a sleeping bag for Paul etc.

Weds 6 October:

Paul felt better today. He says he was a little feverish yesterday, so the slight cold he has had recently may have been the cause. Anyhow, I was glad he felt better, as having packed etc he met the others at the station and went off to Wales for his field course. Michael and I stayed in this morning doing odd jobs and after lunch and a rest, did shopping in the afternoon. It was still pretty warm for the time of year. Did plant research in the evening. I am a very slow worker, but I enjoy doing it. Michael watched TV and Andrew joined us after doing his homework.

Thurs 7 October:

Michael went down town early. I did the house and washing then went up to Granny's to help move some plants. It was quite warm again and it was a light job and very pleasant. We then walked through to the park via Gay St where we found the new Health Food shop was open and bought some yoghurt and a booklet. We walked through to see the new estate being built in Audley Park, but were not greatly impressed, and we couldn't find the show house that was meant to be there. Caught a bus on the Bristol road into town and walked home. There were only Michael Andrew and I in for tea. Read and did ironing in the evening.

Fri 8 October:

It was nice to be able to get down town on the early side and we did our shopping, coming home for an early lunch. Afterwards I planted my herb plants that came yesterday and had a rest on the sofa, then after tea I washed my hair wrote a letter to Paul and read. Andrew wants to take a course in Esperanto so I said if he still wants to do so at half term and will promise not to let it interfere with homework, I'd pay 16/- of the £1 fee. Michael has ordered a book and also some stainless steel dessert knives.

Sat 9 October:

Directly after breakfast I took Andrew to buy some shoes then managed to find some wooden trays in a greengrocer with which he was delighted as he wants them to make scenery for his soldiers. Met Michael at 11am for coffee and we did some other shopping including getting a large ball-like paper lampshade for the lounge. Michael didn't like at first but as I did he is trying to get used to it and likes it better now. After lunch I had a rest, then did gardening for about 1½hrs. We had a cooked tea and Thea called and joined us. Both John and Pip are away this weekend. We washed Anna and then I did plant research all the evening. Michael and Andrew watched TV.

Sun 10 October:

Went to Meeting. After lunch I did some mending and watched TV. We had tea at about 5 and I spent the evening puzzling over Steiner's theory of the 4 humours and elements and how they fitted into the different age-groups, parts of plants etc. Also did some plant research. There was a Friends' discussion I should have like to have gone to, but decided not to leave Michael twice in one day.

Mon 11 October:

Did the house and washing and then we went shopping. A perfect autumn day and I hope Paul has the same weather in Wales. After lunch we had a rest, then I spent the afternoon ironing. In the evening I went to Writer's Circle and set the exercise, which was a topical article. We met at Mrs Hicks' house and admired her husband's workmanship in their lounge, - book shelves, fireplace, ceiling, floor, all looking very beautiful.

Tues 12 October:

We left the house early, having rung Granny Bridges to ask how Thea had got on with Dr Wholfeldt yesterday (apparently he thinks her back is healing on its own and assures her there is nothing too seriously wrong). When we reached Bristol Michael went to his office and had a helpful time. They seem willing for him to start part-time, to arrange for hospital experience or help with transfer

etc. It sounds reasonably hopeful. I spent the morning shopping and felt quite fortunate to find a navy black coat, for which I had come, and hoped to find, for 7gns, a little black hat for only 10/6 and 2 pairs of winter stockings @ 8/11 and 7/11. We met at Boots, had lunch in the British Home Stores, then soon came home. A little housework, rest, and cooked some tarts and cookies before the evening meal. Did plant research in evening.

Weds 13 October:

Having done the housework Michael and I did the shopping and arrived home soon after 12. We rested in the lounge after lunch and then about 2pm Paul returned. I was pleased to see he looked much fitter than when he left home a week ago, and had enjoyed the course very much, bringing back one or two fossils. The only slightly poor thing was the food. I took Anna and carried the cot blanket I finished some time ago to the WVS then collected some Guides' Writer's badge work from Guide HQ. In the evening I examined this work, read, and watched TV. Andrew, who sprained his leg rather painfully yesterday at rigger, was better today.

Thurs 14 October:

Michael went to Weston Lodge for an appointment with Dr Guirdham, and he said that he'd like Michael to come in again to Weston Lodge for different treatment and also see another specialist about his tummy. I went into Widcombe and then back to do some cooking and washing. Granny Bridges, who had visited an old man in Forefield Terrace came about 12, I having tried twice to meet her with Anna, but had gone at the wrong time. After lunch she left, and Michael went out again to Weston lodge (via the Combe Down surgery where he picked up a certificate) and I wrote some letters etc. After tea we watched TV and I read some University prospectuses and the paper, did plant research etc.

Fri 15 October:

Having done the housework, Michael and I went shopping, and after lunch we had a rest, then I spent the afternoon ironing while a man from Bristol Wireless came and arranged for us to have BBC2 which is now available on Telefusion. The reception is very poor, however, and reception of the other stations is now a little upset too. In the evening I did plant research and watched TV. Michael was rather 'strict' with the boys today.

Sat 16 October:

Michael heard this morning that he was to go into Weston Lodge again on Tuesday. I'm glad he has heard something definite before the weekend. He and I had a pleasant morning in town, then, in the afternoon, as Pip and John were

out to tea, we decided to go to the pictures and see "The Fall of the Roman Empire". Paul didn't come as he has rather a lot of work to make up because of his absence on field study. Michael and Andrew thought the film was not very good, as it was so drawn out, but I thought it was a pretty fine film of its kind. Good cast, good photography, - but oh dear, the poor horses! How they must suffer! We came home for an evening meal about 7, then I washed my hair and read, while the others watched TV. BBC2 was clearer tonight. Had a bath and went to bed before 10 as felt very tired tonight. The last week or two I've been very hungry and eaten too large a tea. I'm sure I've put on weight!

Sun 17 October:

Went to Meeting as usual taking a jar of elderberry and apple jam and buying some marmalade and oranges at the children's harvest sale. In the afternoon I did some sewing jobs and watched TV also played cards with the boys. Did plant research in the evening. On Meeting Point there was a programme about healing and the Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox church the Most Rev Anthony Blook was on the panel. He is the most Christ-like person I know. Ray Batten telephoned to ask us both to one of their gramophone recitals tomorrow evening and offered to fetch us. I thought it most kind, but I think it unlikely that we shall go especially as Michael seems to be developing a cold.

Mon 18 October:

Did the housework and washing with Michael's help, then went shopping. We had lunch soon after 1 and I took a half hour's rest. Made some notes on various universities to help us decide in which order to choose them and sent off for two more prospectuses. After tea I did the ironing, then typed out a punctuation test for the Guide's Writer's badge on Wednesday and corrected one lot of work that came in late. We all discussed the Aberystwyth syllabus that Paul obtained today and feel it is first choice.

Tues 19 October:

Michael went back into Weston Lodge this morning, the taxi coming at 9.30. When he had gone I felt strangely depressed and it was difficult to finish the house work and put my mind to the shopping. After an early lunch I did about 2 hours gardening, then had a short rest and made some chestnut cookies (which tasted quite nice but were rather crumbly). After the evening meal I went out to Weston Lodge and found that Michael was sharing a room with a Mr Last. He seemed a nice enough gentleman but Michael didn't appear to be happy and was in rather a carping mood - cross-examining me about Universities and saying Paul's form must be in to the Headmaster tomorrow. Left just before 8 so that

I could catch the 8.1 bus and on reaching home, watched a play on TV called "Martin Luther" by John Osborne. Luther is portrayed as being so angry from start to finish it is difficult, somehow, to feel 'with' him.

Weds 20 October:

Did the house and at 10.30, three writer's circle people came for a meeting and coffee. We had a most interesting chat and then as no one had a MS to read, we each wrote 200 words on fog. It was amazing how different they were: Mrs Hicks was a general survey, as it were, on fog. Mine was more subjective - searching for something good about it. Mrs Snelling's was almost a fog 'rapture'. She loved it, she said! While Mrs Jackson wrote a very beautiful and poetic description of a certain fog. When they had gone, Mrs Snelling stayed on for lunch and we enjoyed chatting until 3.15 when she had to go. I went out and gave the grocery order, then, and while the joint was roasting for evening meal, I washed up the day's 'debris'. After tea, I went to Guide HQ to take Writer's badge and was able to pass the three Guides who entered. Home about 8.20 and had a pleasant chat with the boys and read the paper etc. Bed about 11.

Thurs 21 October:

This morning about 4am I woke up and seemed to be unable to sleep any more, and found myself planning the day. I ate some biscuits but still I only dozed so was rather tired today. Gave the house quite a good clean and did the washing, then went shopping. By the time I returned I had a rather wearing tummy pain and didn't feel like my usual salad lunch. I decided to have some china tea with a good oz of nepenta [?] added! I expected this to be unpleasant, but helpful to the pain. However, it wasn't too bad at all, and I had 3 mugs, also some crispbread and Vecon. In half an hour the pain had gone and I had a little sleep, then went out to Weston to see Michael. He had the first of his new abreaction treatments this morning and wasn't feeling too good as yet, after it. However, he seemed to like the doctor who gave it so that's good. Came back, doing a little shopping en route. Just the boys and I for supper, and so we had a nice chat, and then I did the ironing and some plant research. Paul is reading the lesson at School Assembly tomorrow so he practised in front of me. Went to bed at 10.

Fri 22 October:

I had to hurry quite a bit to get the housework done before leaving for the bus station. Fortunately, Granny rang to say that we didn't have to be there until 5 to 10 (instead of 9.30). When we met Phillippa and the children we went up to Granny's house, and then Phillippa went to the dentist while I tried to amuse the

children and Granny made lunch and also made a packed supper for Phillippa as they were going up to Norfolk when David came back from school at 4.30. A taxi took Phillippa and the children to the bus at 1pm and I stayed on a short while to finish washing up, then walked down, getting an adaptor for Michael and a book for myself on the way. Had a pleasant read for an hour before cooking tea, then went to see Michael. The doctor is pleased with the treatment he had yesterday. Home and watched TV and chatted with the boys.

Sat 23 October:

After breakfast I took some plants to the Friends' Burial ground and had a look round as well as planting them. The grass was rather long, but otherwise it didn't look too bad. Did a little shopping then home and wrote one or two letters and made lunch. Had a really glorious afternoon reading and dozing and thoroughly enjoying myself. Only the boys and myself in for tea so we had it about 5, then later I went to see Michael. He wasn't feeling too grand and didn't want the bar of chocolate brazil I brought him. Home about 8.30 and did a little plant research. Bath and bed. The clocks go back tonight.

Sun 24 October:

Went to Meeting after a nice long read in bed as we had put the clocks back. After lunch Thea kindly gave me a lift out to Weston Lodge and then when I came home she joined us again (after the UN service) for tea. In the evening having watched some TV I washed my hair.

Mon 25 October:

Did the house, washing and shopping. It was a very pleasant day for late October. After lunch (and both boys were home for half term) I read for an hour or so, and a man came to service the Hoover equipment. We had chicken for the evening meal and immediately afterwards I went out to Weston Lodge. Michael had had his second abreaction treatment and wasn't feeling so bad as he had on Thursday. We are both hopeful that this treatment will be helpful. Home and did the ironing and made a trifle for tomorrow. Bed 10.45.

Tues 26 October:

Awoke with an idea about the four elements and the four parts of one's character. Spent much of my spare time trying to develop the idea. I feel pretty satisfied with it, but although I thought it was the same as Rudolph Stenier's I find it isn't. I feel I must ponder over it some more before differing from so great a man. He calls 'watery' people phlegmatic, while I think of them as sanguine. His earthy types are melancholic while mine are phlegmatic and the airy ones are melancholic. I think mine agree with the 'ancients'. Went shopping

and Andrew had David and Graham Easton for lunch. John went away for a week's half term holiday today. Pip was out. So the boys and I had tea at 5.30, then Andrew and I visited Michael. He seemed definitely a little better I thought, but it is difficult to know if it is just a passing 'better' phase which he frequently has. Home and read paper etc Bed 10.30.

Weds 27 October:

Having done the house, I wrote my mother, and Andrew and I had an early lunch. After a rest, I went shopping, and when I came home I continued the same study as yesterday. I am trying to bring my views alongside Rudolph Steiner's and to crystallise my thoughts. I need time. After the evening meal I went out to see Michael who still seems that little bit more open and relaxed and the doctor is pleased with him. Home and read. Bed about 10.45.

Thurs 28 October:

Did the house and washing, then went shopping. I bought 5 doz Christmas cards in aid of the British Empire Cancer Research. After Andrew and I had had lunch, he had Graham Hall up to play and I went to see Michael. He had another treatment this morning and I was pleased to find that although he was pretty tired after it, the improvement in how he felt had been maintained. Home, made some cakes and had tea, then had a leisurely evening with the boys, watching TV reading and talking.

Fri 29 October:

When I awoke this morning I was delighted to find that I knew how to end a fairy story I had started some months ago and which lies unfinished. Having done the housework and ironing I went shopping. Then came home and started some writing. Andrew and I had lunch, then he returned to Graham Hall with whom he had spent the morning. When we had had the evening meal I went to see Michael, but the bus was 15 mins late and I also ripped one of my new dark red winter stockings on the bus seat. It was very annoying. Michael still continued to be better, but his visit to the Manor Hospital this afternoon bore little fruit. He has to go again and have a barium meal. The boys and I watched TV – a documentary, on natural disasters – so soothing at bedtime! Everyone is concerned about Rhodesia who seems set on declaring unilateral independence.

Sat 30 October:

We didn't hurry to have breakfast this morning as there were only the boys and I. I was obsessed with a theory I was trying to formulate about the four elements as seen in personality and health. I went shopping etc and after lunch Paul went out to watch a school match and Andrew visited friends. Paul brought

Stephen Kurle home to tea. I visited Michael in the evening, then back and read the paper and watched TV.

Sun 31 October:

Didn't get up until about 9.15 and I went to Meeting. Had a delightful cosy day watching TV reading etc. I wish I was a quicker reader as I get through so little. There was quite a good play about the English Civil War on BBC2 – very well done.

Mon 1 November:

I didn't look forward to today as there seemed to be so much to fit in, however, when the housework and washing were done, I found I had time to make a bacon, cheese and egg pie for supper and some cakes (which didn't turn out too well) before having an early lunch and setting forth for shopping about 10 to 1. When I'd finished, I met Peter and Clutter Mayo-Smith and they said they'd like to go to the pictures so I went home and did the ironing. We had the evening meal and I went out to see Michael. During the afternoon Paddy telephoned to say that the Hospital Board Had asked him to come and see them and reluctantly he had. They are very anxious to do anything at all that may help, but will not promote Michael without a qualification. They would, however, give 'day-release' to help with this. I thought Michael would be pleased with this obvious caring for his welfare, but the part about the qualification overshadowed everything else (as there definitely are superiors without qualifications) and he was a little cross. He remained, however, still reasonably relaxed and is still considerably better. When I reached home the Mayo-Smith boys had had tea and gone back to school by taxi. I read and watched TV and talked to the boys. Pip may be leaving to share a flat with someone who has a piano. She's very nice about it, and knows a boy who'd probably like to come here.

Tues 2 November:

Did the house and a little writing, then went out to meet Miss Stone for coffee and to talk about Writer's Circle business. I then did shopping and home to draw up the a/cs and report for the Circle AGM. Had a late lunch and then spent a leisurely afternoon by the fire writing and reading – I am still trying to formulate ideas on the four elements of personality. When I try to read the ideas invade my mind and I'm obliged to put down my book. It's most queer. A boy by the name of Sweet came to see the room about 5.30. He seemed very nice, but it isn't at all certain that he will be coming. Paul brought Stephen Kurle back for the evening meal, and it was a bit of a scramble to get Andrew off with

a school party to Bristol to see the "Merchant of Venice" – shoes cleaned etc and myself off at 6.25. Paul and Stephen kindly helped with washing up and left themselves at 6.40 to play chess for the school against Bath Whites. They lost hopelessly, but I think Paul enjoyed the experience. Michael was still brooding over the Hospital Board and qualifications, and as a result was most vindictive about anyone one cared to mention. Home, and read the paper etc until the boys returned.

Wed 3 November:

Having done the housework I wrote my mother and another letter, then had lunch, a short rest and then went shopping. I seem to be getting more and more insight into the four element theory and it's very exciting. Made some apple tarts and chocolate cookies before getting the evening meal, then went to visit Michael, who, having now spoke to Dr Newbauer was the same released self he had been at the weekend. He is not to have any more treatment just yet, and may, in fact, go back to work quite soon. Washed my hair when I came home, read, etc.

Thurs 4 November:

Went to Fortts for lunch today with Martin, (Michael's cousin) and Granny Bridges, after having done the house and washing and spent a short while working on this four element theory followed by shopping. In the afternoon Martin and I drove out and picked up Michael. We sat in the car on Lansdown for a while, talking, then went to Granny's for a cup of tea while Martin went to Aunt Edie. I left at about 4 and came home, leaving Michael to return to Weston Lodge by taxi. He is coming home on Monday. After supper I did the ironing and then read. I felt tired tonight so went to bed on the early side.

Fri 5 November:

Did the house and shopping, then, after an early lunch I did some writing. Michael rang up to say he was able to come home tomorrow for the weekend. After tea we had a a bit of a scramble to get ready and then went to the Theatre at Granny Bridges' invitation to see "Mr Wilberforce MP" – an MRA play by Alan Thornhill. It was quite good – both the play and the acting, though I thought the production could have been speeded up.

Sat 6 November:

After breakfast I went down town, then did some tidying up in the garden. It was very cold last night and the nasturtiums have mostly perished. Michael arrived back from Weston Lodge for the weekend. When we had had lunch and I'd made some cakes, Michael and I took a rest. I soon fell asleep and didn't

wake until 4.20! In the evening we watched TV and I still worked on this four element idea. Michael found it irritating, and asked what sense there was in bothering to do it. I can well understand his perplexity as I cannot give a sensible answer – there is just this inner compulsion to do it!

Sun 7 November:

Went to Meeting and after lunch did some mending and rested on the sofa with Michael. In the evening I watched TV and did some writing. Thea came and took Michael back to Weston Lodge for the night.

Mon 8 November:

Pip stayed in bed today as she was tired after several late nights. I did the house and washing (the latter first) and then went shopping. When I returned, Michael had come back from Weston Lodge. We had lunch and rested in the afternoon. I was quite sleepy as by mistake I had put the clocks an hour fast last night and consequently had made tea at 5am! In the evening I went to Writer Circle and the whole committee was re-elected. We had a discussion on a possible meeting place and the forthcoming programme. Bed about 11.

Tues 9 November:

Michael had a doctor's appointment this morning, so I did the housework and went shopping, then came back and did a lot of ironing. After lunch I wrote a letter, rested and we cleaned the oven. I then made some cakes and the evening meal. Watched TV and read in evening.

Weds 10 November:

Michael had no breakfast as he had to go to the Manor hospital to have a barium meal and X rays. I had a letter from Lloyd George and Coward that they cannot find a publisher to take 'Dumpy' which might have made me despondent if I hadn't also this morning had a letter from Blackie's accepting "Toby for Luck", though I have to shorten it. Having done the housework I wrote my mother, then did some shopping before meeting Michael for lunch at Colmer's. On the way the top came off the handle of my shopping bag on wheels and I had to buy a screw for it. After lunch we bought a new pair of shoes for Michael and did some other shopping, then home for a cup of tea and little writing. After the evening meal I made 4lbs of lemon and apple jam, washed my hair and watched TV, staying up late to hear John Macmurray.

Thurs 11 November:

Did the house and washing, then Michael and I went shopping. We had lunch, a rest, and then I did some writing. There were only the four of us for tea. Did a little mending watched TV, and did a little more writing in the evening. It is

distressing to hear that Rhodesia have declared unilateral independence today which we in Britain cannot accept in what we consider to be the best interest of the people of that country. Ian Smith's regime represses the Africans. We are declaring economic sanctions, but I hope all friendliness will be maintained and they will realise their mistake, and we shall do more than we have to date to help with education etc.

Fri 12 November:

Pip said at breakfast that if convenient she might as well move into her flat tonight and Jim Sweet would come tomorrow. I said 'Alright' and while Michael went to the doctor I did the house and a little writing. We went shopping about 11 and met Granny and Aunt Ursula for lunch at the Pump Room. It was very nice and we had jugged hare which I don't think I have ever eaten before.

Afterwards we bought some things for a little birthday party we hope to have Monday evening. When we reached home we had a cup of tea and I made some apple tarts and cake before getting the evening meal. Pip fetched her things and brought Jim's, while I did the ironing and then cleaned the room. And was just finishing when Pip returned to say she had lost her handbag. I gave her back the money she had paid me to help her over the weekend. TV was quite good. Bed about 11.15.

Sat 13 November:

Michael and I went down town to do some shopping. Then we came back and I managed to find time to do a little writing before getting lunch and making a tart for tomorrow. Afterwards Michael and I went up to Andrew's school for the annual bazaar. Andrew's group of puppeteers were really quite good and one could see what a lot of work they had put into it. We had tea there, bought some cakes and saw some exhibitions then walked home to join Paul who had spent a lazy afternoon after an energetic morning in an inter-school cross-country race. He came 15<sup>th</sup> of 29 which we thought very good, and the Tech were 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jim Sweet arrived in time for the evening meal and we were relieved to hear that Pip's handbag had been recovered from the police intact. Watched TV did mending and read in evening.

Sun 14 November:

Went to Meeting and Andrew came with me. Stayed for part of Preparative meeting. After lunch I saw "Let's face Facts" on TV then took Anna for an hour's walk across to the Moorlands estate. Read, knitted and watched TV (which was quite good) before and after the evening meal.

Mon 15 November:

Michael went back to work today. He has been having slight bouts of asthma this last week and was awake with it in the night. Did the house and washing, then went shopping. Wrote a piece of doggerel for Michael's birthday card, had lunch, and tea and a short doze then did some typing. After the evening meal we had a bit of a rush to get ready for Granny, Thea and Aunt Ursula who were joining us for a wine and savoury party in honour of Michael's birthday tomorrow. We had a pleasant chat and the boys joined us later. They left about 9.30 and we were in bed before 10.15 – quite early!

Tues 16 November:

Michael's birthday and a cold east wind! After doing the house and ironing I was glad to get the shopping over. Had an early lunch, a short read and rest then typed the story I am re-doing until about 4.15. Started cooking and when Andrew came home he said the path was icy so in the semi-darkness I gritted the path with grit from the garage and Andrew finished it for me. Came in only to find we had no electricity! We found the candles, but of course the joint in the oven just stopped cooking and we had no heat, nothing to cook with, no doorbells or TV and only one torch and the candles. I telephoned the Elec Co and they said the power would be on in half an hour. When it came on we were greatly cheered. We had a cup of tea about 10 to 6, and the meal was cooked by 10 past – fortunately none the worse. I had planned to go to a Natural History Lecture this evening but it was so cold and we had had snow this afternoon, so I decided not to. Watched TV then had an early bath and bed about 9. I now feel properly warm for the first time today – London had its coldest November day for 25 years and we have all been caught unawares. There have been lots of power cuts. Paul went to a Philatelic Meeting tonight – brave boy!

Weds 17 November:

Michael went up to London today to do a vocational guidance test. Before he went I was heartened to hear that he was seriously thinking of applying to train in Organisation and Methods in the Hospital Service. I did the housework and wrote my mother, then had lunch and went shopping, buying a camp cooker to boil a saucepan in an emergency, and another torch. Had a short rest before getting the evening meal. When Michael came home he said the report would come in a couple of weeks' time but it would seem that work study certainly would be suitable, but social work would be even better! I must admit I had never thought of him as such – though when I think about it I think it might well bring out all good qualities. But would he do the training? TV was fairly good so didn't go to bed till 11. Washed my hair.

Thurs 18 November:

I tried to get the house and washing done as quickly as possible this morning but Jim was late – I had to wake him and then he did not leave until gone 10. I also find that he needs an early breakfast on Saturdays. Nice as the boy is, I fear he is not as suited to our household as other PGs have been. As my MS Dumpy came back from the agents I sent it off to another publisher. Also did a little shopping and then went to Willsbridge [?] and spent the day with Mrs Snelling. We read her book and it was beautifully warm in front of her coal fire. Came home about 4.45, made the evening meal, watched TV and did mending. We saw a horrifying film of the Warsaw ghetto. I think it right that these atrocities should be remembered but it led to an argument between Michael and I on the question of war. He has not time for pacifists, and even I find it difficult to reconcile allowing such evil without doing anything to prevent it. We wouldn't let one mad man run berserk. Is there to be no control of several thousand? – Yet I believe in pacifism on principle, for how can force do anything but eventually increase the power of the opposing side?

Fri 19 November:

Did the house, then went shopping on the early side. Met Auntie Marnie. I definitely felt better today – I've had a germ that is going around that gives you a "chill on the liver". Fortunately I've only had it very slightly. Many people are quite sick. I hope no one else in the family gets it. Did the ironing, then had lunch and read. Finished typing the revised MS for Blackie's. After the evening meal I read the paper then Miss Stone picked me up to go to Miss Cass for a committee meeting. In tonight's paper a Mrs Beryl Hilary-Smith who once tried to join our Circle but who was asked to leave as we considered her writing in poor taste, has advertised a newly published book of hers. She describes herself as "the writer whose work was banned by Bath Writer's Circle"!

Sat 20 November:

Had to get Jim's breakfast for 7.45 as he has a Saturday job. The rest of us had 8.30 breakfast. Went down town with Michael and was dismayed to find that the funny tummy feeling I've had earlier this week has returned. The afternoon was a chance to write, but as so often happens on these occasions I couldn't find words to do so. We had tea at 5.30 but Jim didn't get back until gone 6. I felt better in the evening, but I threw away the dried apricots which I had this morning in case they are the cause of this indisposition. Did some knitting, had some games with Andrew while Paul was at the pictures and watch TV which was the usual Saturday night rubbish.

Sunday 21 November:

Rose the usual time. Went to Meeting. After lunch Michael and I took Anna for a short walk – although Michael is still pretty tight with asthma. We then watched TV for the rest of the day and I knitted. Jim was in for tea, but John went out after lunch. There were some good films on – The Purple Plain, Dr Findlay [sic] etc.

Monday 22 November:

Did the house and washing then went shopping. Andrew stayed in bed today as his cold had made him a bit chesty and it was very cold. After lunch I typed some work on “New beginnings”. Whether saying anything will come of this I don’t know. The subject is a little ‘dead’ in my mind at present and I’m waiting for further inspiration. Michael went to see Dr Newbauer who was very nice. In the evening I went to Writer Circle at the house of Miss Russ. We were amazed to hear how many books and documents etc there were on Bath and enjoyed her slides. Walked back with Mrs Hicks.

Tues 23 November:

Andrew stayed at home again today, but he was better and got up in the afternoon. Having done the rooms I went shopping, then started the ironing. After lunch I went on with the ironing finishing at about 3.30. We had a chicken for the evening meal and also made some cakes. I was thankful that there was no electricity cut. About 8.30 Granny Bridges brought Rosemary Barr for coffee. It was nice to meet her as I’d heard of her so often for so long. Jim asked me today if he could make a drink in the evenings in the kitchen. I felt I shouldn’t refuse such a simple request, but how I hate the idea! In fact tonight I have decided to suggest he makes it downstairs and buys his own heating device (Michael’s idea).

Weds 24 November:

As soon as the work was done in the house I wrote some letter, had lunch and a short read, then went shopping. I actually bought my first two Christmas presents.. After tea we watched TV and I did some mending and a crossword puzzle. Found the boys were late going to bed as Jim had had a bath without first asking.

Thurs 25 November:

I have a cold, which is rather annoying. Went out as soon as I had done the rooms as there is a baker’s strike and bread is very short. I was glad I had bought some yesterday. I managed to get 2 small loaves in Sainsbury’s a small

brown in Woolworths and a large wholemeal with caraway seed in the Market. Elsewhere they had sold out. I think we may manage now till Monday. When I came home I did Jim's room (he was late leaving this morning) and the washing, then after lunch I had a short read, and spent the afternoon writing. Jim returned for the afternoon – probably because there was shortage of fuel oil in the all the schools and colleges and some classes didn't operate. He must have found it cold here too as the heating wasn't on. (It is quite warm for me in the kitchen, though.) Read and watched TV in the evening. Andrew went to Scouts. He is also preparing for a puppet show tomorrow.

Fri 26 November:

Michael didn't go to work today as he had an Xray at the Manor Hospital today and an appointment with Dr Carr at 6.15. When I had done the housework we went down town. There were still only a very few loaves from private bakeries being rationed and queued for. I bought one or two Xmas presents. Came home and did the ironing and then Michael came back and we had lunch. Had a quiet afternoon listening to some new records of Michael's discussing etc. Had tea, then Michael went to the doctor. Andrew had also gone to the doctor for an injection and gone on to Widcombe to help give a puppet show for the Church. Paul returned from a chess match at 7 and we had supper but Michael didn't return until well past 8, as appointments were running late. Had an early bath and bed.

Sat 27 November:

Rose earlier to make Jim's breakfast but he didn't come for it so called him and found he was still asleep. After breakfast I wrote a letter and typed out a story, then made lunch. Andrew had Graham up and in the afternoon his puppet group gave some more performances at Widcombe. Michael and I read and rested in the afternoon and Paul worked much of the day. After tea, Michael and I went to visit Rosemary Barr who was in Weston Lodge. We said she could come and stay with us for a short while when she came out of hospital and I think she was grateful for the offer. When we came back we washed up Jim's tea things (Paul having prepared it for him) and I washed my hair. Looking back over the last two or three weeks I feel I've been passing through a 'dead' and restless time whereas before that I had two weeks of great inspiration and enlightenment. It is rather strange. Neither condition seems to be helpful to Andrew – I feel quite sure that any "ripples" in the subconscious seem to cause Andrew went nights, and Michael, too, has been asthmatic at night. Can it be that I affect them both? It seems a strange theory, but I am coming to believe

it's true, and it's very disturbing. – Yet I should be able to be a channel of good influence equally easily!

Sun 28 November:

Didn't go to Meeting today but stayed in to try to rid myself of my cold which is getting better. Michael isn't at all well as the Franol tablets given him by Dr Carr for his asthma, have little good effect and make his heart race and then he feels pretty feeble. He was sneezing a lot too today. TV was quite good but I also made myself a skirt and continued with Mark's jumper. Andrew went to see Graham to work on a puppet. Paul did school work. I told Jim today about us wanting his room for Rosemary Barr, but I assured him that we wouldn't turn him out – the boys could sleep together if necessary. I hope we can make some arrangement for him satisfactorily.

Mon 29 November:

Michael's asthma was no better and so he stayed in bed and the doctor came and said it was bronchitis. I did the house, the washing and shopping, then we had lunch. After a short rest, I spent the afternoon writing. Michel was not too grand and wasn't allowed much supper as he is having an Xray of the gall bladder in the morning. Did ironing in the evening and watched TV – also finished Mark's jumper. Bed about 10.20.

Tues 30 November:

Michael had another bad night and I suggested that I accompany him when he went to the Manor hospital for his Xray, however in the end it was decided that I'd better do the shopping as there was a lot to do and the sweep was coming in the afternoon. When I came home at 11.30 Michael was back and had such a pain in his head he didn't know what to do. His cough made it worse. I took his temperature and it was ultra low so I gave him 3 hot water bottles, some Panets and hot water, a pot of china tea (with nepeta in it!) and sent for the doctor. He was rather better when the doctor came and he said it was migraine. He is much better this evening but no better than he's been for the last fortnight. The sweep came and said the chimney was full of soot so we are glad we had it done. Watched TV and knitted. Wrote my mother in the afternoon. Bath and bed.

Weds 1 December:

Michael was definitely better this morning. His migraine headache had gone and I thought his cough was slightly better. After doing the housework Granny Bridges came with some gifts of food and when she left we had an early lunch and I went out for about 2 hours shopping. When I returned about 2.30, I sat

with Michael and worked out Christmas presents, then I made us some tea. Made the evening meal and spent the evening reading, watching TV and knitting. John didn't feel too well tonight. Michael's chest is still rather troublesome and it makes him feel very tired.

Thurs 2 December:

Michael has been no better as regards his asthma today which he finds worrying. I didn't do the washing this morning as Jim was using the laundry. Went shopping and made an early lunch, then took Anna for a walk (she was very naughty last night – barking so much that Paul had to have her box in his room) Did some knitting then before making the evening meal I made four lots of cakes for Saturday's sale. TV and more knitting in the evening – I am making a child's jumper for WVS out of small pieces of wool.

Fri 3 December:

Michael's chest was still no better so I phoned the doctor again. Did the washing and went shopping etc. Rang Granny Bridges and learned that she wasn't well. The doctor came to see Michael and prescribed fresh treatment, but tonight he seems no better – in spite of the fact that Anna and I went straight back into town again after lunch to get the prescription. Did a little knitting, we had some tea, then I made the evening meal. In the evening I did ironing, read and watched TV Michael is badly irritated by this continuous asthma.

Sat 4 December:

Up early for a Saturday to make breakfast for John and Jim. We had breakfast later, and having done some housework I spent the morning with Michael knitting. Made lunch and knitted and mended with him till 5 to 3 when Paul and I went to the Friends' sale. Paul helped until about 5, but I went to the Library, then back to the Sale to buy a few things then home. Andrew had made some tea for Michael and I made the evening meal. We watched TV and I knitted etc in evening. Michael came down, but he is still not better. Andrew thinks he has a sore throat too! What a house!

Sun 5 December:

During the night, one of Michael's hot water bottles burst and leaked right through the mattress! He spent most of the day in the lounge so that we could dry it out. Went to Meeting and stayed for most of the preparative meeting. In the afternoon after writing Rosemary Barr and watched 'Let's Face facts' I took Anna for a short walk then knitted. After tea – more TV and knitting. Also washed my hair. The others worked or watched TV.

Mon 6 December:

It was a busy morning as there was the house and washing to do before going shopping and Michael still home with this bronchospasm. He decided to get up before lunch and afterwards we sat reading in the lounge and Mummy came about 2.40 so we chatted and had tea. Michael went to the Manor Hospital for an appointment with Dr Neubauer and when he returned Mummy went to Auntie Marnie. After the evening meal I met Mrs Hicks and we went to Writer's Circle where we composed limericks. It was quite fun. Bed rather late after trying to see the "Seekers" on BBC2 – but Telefusion were not very good.

Tues 7 December:

Michael went to the doctor fairly early and I did the housework, went shopping and met my mother. She took me out to lunch and we did quite a lot of shopping. I reached home at 4.45 and made tea, but Michael rang to say he'd be staying on at Granny's for supper (He had met her and sister Mary for lunch.) BBC2 was 'misbehaving' on our set tonight which was maddening as there was a good programme which I could only hear. Did the ironing in the evening. Paul went to a stamp 'do'.

Weds 8 December:

Paul went off by train to Leicester for a University interview early this morning (I had train nightmares all night, as I was worried he would miss his connections). Although several of the trains were late he seems to have arrived on time and had an interesting session. He likes the professor, but 90% are rejected, the students were told! Michael and I spent the morning at home. I made an early lunch, then went shopping and met Mummy at 1.30 for more shopping. Home about 4.15, made tea and then made our Christmas cake. Had to stay up till 11.20 to take it out of the oven!

Thurs 9 December:

Michael was still home. We went down town shopping and met Mummy and Auntie Marnie at 11. It was frightfully wet so we had a taxi home for lunch at 12.30. After lunch we chatted, then Mummy went on to see Mrs Davis. The Telefusion people came about our BBC2 reception. They say it's set, not aerial, trouble. Michael and I had a bit of an argument about things in general. It's a pity they're necessary but they are so much better than a 'cold war'. I cannot I feel ever agree with Michael's present views, but can understand why he thinks as he does, and only hope this understanding is never marred by irritability, which is a failing I have to wrestle with. TV and knitting in evening.

Fri 10 December:

Did the house, washing and shopping. It was a pleasant mild day (though the river is flooded) and so I did some tidying up in the garden on my return. Did writing in the afternoon and ironing, knitting and reading and watched TV in evening. Michael has been trying to give up smoking this last week. He is very restless and crucial in his thinking. Maybe he'll feel better when back at work.

Sat 11 December:

Up on the early side to get Jim's breakfast and later the others! Michael went down town and so did I separately. Returned about 10.30 and typed out a story so that I could send it, and another to the BBC. Made lunch, and soon afterwards Jim collected his things and left. Spent a restful afternoon reading and sleeping. After tea, Michael and I visited Rosemary Barr who was much better. On the way home we went into the Fernley for a drink. Knitted and watched TV. Bed late.

Sun 12 December:

We didn't wake until 8.20 which put paid to a good read! Went to Meeting and in the afternoon watched TV and finished the WVS child's jumper. After tea – more TV, mending etc Bath and bed early. Have had a headache today, but the bath has eased it. (I had meant to pack Christmas presents.)

Mon 13 December:

Michael went back to work this morning. He had asthma again when he got up, but it fortunately eased up before he reached work. Did the house and washing but I didn't go shopping as Telefusion said they wanted to check our reception. Not only did they come, but the gas people inspected the site for the gas poker, Bristol Wireless came and re-tuned the TV set, and the coal was delivered! After lunch I went shopping, having done some writing in the morning, and I did a little more on my return. In the evening I did the ironing and then some knitting. Watched TV.

Tues 14 December:

John left for home this morning. I cleaned his room and did the other rooms, then packed some Christmas parcels. Went shopping and after lunch read and wrote my mother. In the evening we watched TV and I knitted.

Weds 15 December:

Paul went to Swansea University for an interview today. He had rather a game getting there as Cooks told us wrongly about the train, however he arrived on time. His interview was pretty gruelling, but he said the man (not the Professor) was very nice. I packed up some more parcels and after a very early lunch, went shopping. Did a little writing when I returned. Knitted in evening.

Thurs 16 December:

Just as Andrew was going off to school I noticed that he had muddy shoes, muddy trousers, and a button off his blazer! – and he had a carol service today too! Well I blew my top and said that even if he was late we were going to make him look presentable! Later, after doing the washing I bought him some new trousers, a pullover and plastic mack and as luck would have it he came back home before the service so was able to change. It is certainly difficult for him to look alright when he has to cross this muddy field. I am trying to persuade him to wear boots and change at school. I washed some things of Andrew's in the afternoon, rested and read. Spent the evening ironing and knitting. Paul went to a social and dance at the school.

Fri 17 December:

Having done the housework I wrote the Christmas cards (about 4 doz) and then went shopping. It was simply pouring with rain the river is pretty high still. Bought some more cards and wrote them on my return. Paul came home for lunch and afterwards we lit the lounge fire. We had an easy afternoon. I didn't feel 100%. After supper, I washed my hair, made a coal glove, knitted and had a bath. Michael saw Mr White (the Sec of the Board) today and he was very nice and recommends that Michael apply for a job in the Planning office and eventually try to get training in work study or for the exam of the Corporation of Secs.

Sat 18 December:

After breakfast Michael and I went down town. It was still raining and the river was still high. When we came home I cooled some cakes etc and the lunch while Michael wrote letters. In the afternoon Michael and Paul developed a film of Paul's while I typed some "histories" for Michael's applications for 2 jobs in the planning section. TV and knitting in the evening and I also played a game of Careers with Andrew who had been doing puppets with friends all day.

Sun 19 December:

I had a really luxurious morning – breakfast in bed and then snoozed until 12. Michael went out and took some photos. Andrew went to a friend. In the afternoon there was TV etc and I took Anna for a short walk. Granny and Thea came to tea. Paul spent the morning afternoon and evening in the dark room and has produced some very good photos taken on his Field Study course in Wales.

Mon 20 December:

Did the house and washing, then went shopping. After lunch I wrote my mother while the boys iced the Christmas cake. Andrew who had been out with a friend in the morning was home until 4 when he went to the doctor. On the way he

posted some cards with photos of himself to the Grannies and Thea. On the way back he suddenly saw one of the envelopes (without the card) blowing about in the road. The postman must have dropped it. Michael saw Dr Neubauer and spent the evening printing some photos. I did the ironing and watched TV.

Tues 21 December:

Having done the housework and a little writing, I went shopping, then we had lunch. Did some mending and Paul and I had a discourse on physical evolution etc. It was interesting and I learnt quite a lot. I did a little more writing. Then after tea – knitting and TV. Michael was a little less tired tonight. Last night he was almost beyond himself and ate practically no supper.

Weds 22 December:

When I had done the housework including cleaning the bedsprings, I went shopping and Paul and I had an early lunch when I returned, Andrew having been invited out to a friends' followed by a visit to the pictures. After lunch I inserted a patch of stair carpet in the stairs strip and it was more successful than I expected. Paul worked on *Geology* most of the day, but we chatted in the late afternoon on the possibility of holidaying in Wales next summer. Knitting in evening. Bath.

Thurs 23 December:

Went down town as soon as I could as I had to buy the Christmas joint. Shopping seemed to be quite easy which surprised me. Managed to get some holly with plenty of berries on it but I rather begrudge the money on such things. The rest of the day was taken up in house decoration, washing etc. the boys helped and also did some shopping. Did ironing in the evening.

Fri 24 December:

Did the house and Andrew and I went down town early to get the bread and last minute foodstuffs etc Came back and made some cakes, mince pies, hard sauce etc. Then we had lunch. Afterwards I cleaned Kimmy's cage and the silver, the boys helping with odd chores, then I went into town again as I remembered I'd forgotten to order the anchovy paste for tea tomorrow. Michael returned about 4 and we had a cup of tea, with a cooked meal later. Prepared tomorrow's vegetables, and other odd jobs then washed my hair. We all feel tired to night: Excitement?

Sat 25 December:

A very pleasant Christmas Day. Michael and the boys took Anna out after we had opened our presents and dressed. Rosemary Barr and her two children joined us at 1 for lunch and we talked and watched TV the four children playing

games. We had a cup of tea about 4.30 and high tea about 6.15. They left earlyish as they had to cook a turkey to eat cold on a journey the next day.

Sun 26 December:

Rose about 9 and after breakfast and tidying around etc went to Meeting. Was glad to hear that Christopher Batten is getting a job at Sidcot next autumn. Went for a walk round the shops and met Michael and the boys at the Fernley Hotel at 12.30 where we had a most enjoyable lunch. Home, and Martin came about 3.15 and stayed to tea. We listened to records and talked. (TV had a Telefusion breakdown from 11 or so until about 6pm) TV in the evening and knitting.

Mon 27 December:

Boxing Day and we got up late and Paul and I walked with Anna while Michael and Andrew went by bus to Auntie Edie and Frieda for a drink and chat, then we went on to Granny and Thea for lunch. After a restful afternoon we went home and wrote thank you letters and watched TV.

Tues 28 December:

We had breakfast about 9 this morning and I spent the morning on housework and washing. Also saw a part of the Service in Westminster Abbey for the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence. It was rather wonderful. Wrote thank you letters in the afternoon then posted them and took Anna for a walk. Andrew came with me and bought a coach ticket to go to Bristol tonight to see Wolverhampton play Bristol. I wasn't keen on him going and Michael was very cross with me for letting him go as he thought he'd either be caught in a drunken brawl or die of pneumonia. I sent him off warmly clad and with a bag of food and not a few prayers. We watched TV and I wrote some more letters and I'm thankful to say that Andrew arrived safely back about 10.40. 'His' team (Wolves) had won.

Weds 29 December:

Michael went back to work and I went shopping as soon as I had finished the housework. I bought a book on mythology with Michael's book token and when I reached home I found that the first of my books on the Bookplan had come. I am very pleased with both and now I want time to read them! After lunch I did the ironing and some mending began looking at one of my new books but within 15 minutes it was time to get supper. Watched TV bath and early to bed. The rain is seeping through the ceiling of both John's and Andrew's room. It is annoying. The boys played games, wrote letters and Andrew went shopping. Paul did some work. We have heard from Mary John that John's job is 'uncertain'

and that he is looking for another. This is a big blow to them just as Ian is about to start his doctor's training.

Thurs 30 December:

Rang Mr Hanham about the leaks in the roof and he is coming as soon as it's fine. Did the housework and prepared the supper which is to be cold with hot mashed potato. Went shopping, then on returning I read for a short while before getting lunch. Afterwards I did some writing and Paul did geography. Andrew was out in the morning and in the afternoon two friends came and they bought and sold some things off each other. We had snack tea, then Auntie Kitty and Buff came at 6.45 for supper, and we had coffee and talked afterwards. It was interesting hearing all their news. Bed about 10.45.

Fri 31 December:

The gas board sent a man this morning to fix a gas poker. They finished the work to my satisfaction but Michael isn't at all pleased now with it and wants alteration in the placing of the pipe. I did the house and washing and wrote a couple of letters, then Paul, who had been to do some jobs at Granny Bridges, came home, and while looking at his new book he had bought I let a frying pan overheat and catch on fire. It was quite frightening but no harm done. Went shopping, came home and read a short while, snack tea, then Andrew came back from friends' and we joined Michael at the Fernley Hotel where Aunty Kitty and Buff gave us a splendid dinner. Had an interesting talk with Buff. We left about 8.30. Bed about 10.15.

Sat 1 January 1966:

Having made some new year resolutions, made breakfast about 8.30 and took Andrew to buy a blazer. We couldn't get one, but I bought him a duffle coat. Met Michael and we had coffee in the Pump Room. An early lunch as Andrew went on a Scout walk. Did the ironing, then took Anna for a walk. Planned a Welsh tour for Michael and I in the summer! Washed my hair after tea. Nothing very good on TV.

Sun 2 January:

We got up about the usual time for Sunday and I went to Meeting and stayed on for Preparative Meeting. After lunch I watched TV and wrote some letters. Michael printed photographs morning and afternoon. Knitted and more TV in the evening. Michael is not too good. He says he feels depressed and he grumbles about everything.

Mon 3 January:

Michael didn't feel too good this morning and only had a dry Ryvita for his breakfast before work. Andrew and I set off early for Bristol and having bought a blazer at Lewis's he soon left me and I went to several shops including some Park St ones, getting "The Bible as history" with my book token and a record for Michael with his Boots token, also 2 geology books at the HMS office shop for Paul. Came home again before lunch and was surprised to coincide in arrival at the halfpenny bridge with Andrew! However, I noticed he was not carrying his new blazer and he remembered he'd left it in the Stamp shop, so had to go back and get it. After we'd all had lunch, I did some paint washing and some washing then had a game of "Go" with Andrew. In the evening I did the ironing and some knitting. TV was awful, I thought – nothing intelligent. Paul worked on geology all day.

Tues 4 January:

After I'd done the housework I did some writing until 10.30, then went shopping. Returned at 12.30 and Andrew brought Graham Hall back for lunch. Paul returned to school today. Anna has been so naughty about barking in the kitchen at night and having to be taken up to sleep in Paul's room that I decided to start acclimatising her to the study, so that we can leave her to bark ad infinitum without disturbing others (except Andrew!). I put her box in there, barracked off the stairs, shut the lounge and thus she could only be in the kitchen or study. When she came to me in the kitchen I patted her, but she soon wanted to lie down and was obliged to go to her box in the study – thus she spent most of the day there. I put her in the garden several times and took her to post, and I shall take her for walks as often as I can. I hope this scheme will overcome this nervousness of hers. Wrote my mother in the afternoon. Mended and read in the evening and TV wasn't too bad.

Weds 5 January:

Left the house early this morning to go and have a perm. All the girls at the hairdressers had shocking colds. Did some shopping on the way home and Andrew had Graham Hall with us for lunch again. They set off soon afterward to give their puppet show to the old people on Odd Down while I took down the Christmas decorations and washed some paint in the kitchen (which Michael says he will have to do again properly!) did a little writing and wrote some PCs, then cooked the evening meal. I had a headache, but fortunately when I went out in the evening it went. I visited the Bowman-Beers on Combe Down and had a very interesting evening with refreshments. They were even better talkers than me, so I had good practice in listening! Home about 9.45.

Thurs 6 January:

Was in a 'spring' mood, so I re-organised our books and threw away some magazines. Andrew started school. Went shopping about 10.30 and on the way back met Mr Hanham who said he had mended our roof for us. After an early lunch I washed more paint and gave parts of the kitchen a coat of white emulsion to cover up dirty marks etc also cleaned the shelves of the food cupboard. Did some writing, then after tea the Gas Board man came to say he would do the gas poker pipe again and the Electricity Board man came about a new 'frig' Michael wants to get. Did very little in the evening. Tried to write but to no avail. Bed about 10.45.

Fri 7 January:

Had a letter from the BBC this morning saying they would keep a couple of stories of mine. Did some clearing out of a cupboard in the kitchen, cleaned the house, did the washing and did a repair job on the stair carpet. Went shopping and after lunch wrote a letter and did some writing. Did the ironing in the evening and the boys went to a party at the Barrs. Michael gets very niggly by the end of the week. I hope a transfer of job comes up soon. It might help.

Sat 8 January:

Anna is progressing – we left her box in the study last night – but with the door open. She wandered about a bit at first but soon settled in it and stayed there until the early morning (we left our bedroom door open). Our alarm clock's mainspring went in the night, so among other shopping we had to buy a new clock and Michael has also arranged to change our frig. and get it on the HP. After lunch I planned to read my new history book but didn't get far before I fell asleep. Andrew went to a football match. Paul worked at home. In the evening I did some writing. The others watched TV.

Sun 9 January:

Went to Meeting and spent an easy day watching TV discussions, having a game with Andrew and reading mythology. Michael complains of not feeling too good in the morning, but has an insatiable appetite. He slept all the afternoon and has had a restful weekend.

Mon 10 January:

After doing the housework and washing I wrote a couple of letters, then went out shopping. Had a slightly early lunch, and spent the afternoon writing. We were heartened to hear at tea time the Indian and Pakistani heads of state had reached an agreement in Russia, but our joy was later turned to sadness when we heard that Mr Shastri had died suddenly of a heart attack. It snowed during the evening and Michael and Andrew cleared the path while I was doing the

ironing. Later, however, it snowed again. Also did some mending and watched TV Took some clothes to the WVS today – but there are still more to sort out and take.

Tues 11 January:

Having done the house, I turned out the bottom of the cupboard where the silver is kept, re-cleaned half of the silver and re-packed it, then went shopping. It had snowed so the hill was pretty treacherous. I ordered some more grit to put on our paths and when I came back I finished the job begun by Andrew of clearing a path through the garden and gritting it. After lunch I spent the afternoon writing. Granny Bridges rang to say she had returned from Aunt Ursula's last night and had had to walk all the way home from the coach with her case. Fortunately a gentleman helped her some of the way. In the evening I read, watched TV and did a little mending. John returned.

Weds 12 January:

Having done the housework I finished the re-cleaning of the silver, and wrote my mother. The gas people came to re-install the gas-pipe for the gas poker. When the job was finished in the afternoon I went shopping in Widcombe and came back and did a little writing – started a second draft of "The Captain" for Midsomerset and Morning Story (I hope). The joint of beef we had for the evening meal was very tough and I wish I'd pot-boiled it. I shall know another time. Didn't do much except read the paper and watch TV in the evening.

Thurs 13 January:

Did the house and washing and turned out a kitchen drawer. Went shopping and then had an early lunch and a read. Wrote in the afternoon and in the evening Rosemary Barr came to supper and for a chat. Michael was very tired and easily irritated, but I found it enjoyable being able to talk. We went to bed when she left, to read, as TV reception was poor.

Fri 14 January:

Having done the housework and a little washing, I went shopping. Met Frieda and she kindly invited me to coffee. As soon as I reached home I thoroughly cleaned the 'frig' which the Elec Co fetched in the afternoon and brought us a new Kelvinator which we are getting on the HP. [hire purchase] It is bigger and nicer than my last one and will make things easier, for not having a larder, it was difficult to keep everything cool before. On the other hand, I feel there are other things we should have spent the money on first. Spent the afternoon writing. I am trying to spend Mon. Tues. Thurs and Friday afternoons writing as (a) it is going to be difficult to manage without the income from a second PG and

(b) I feel I should develop this 'inclination'. I try to enjoy writing, write what I feel the urge to write but at the same time try to discipline myself to a market. Did ironing in evening and also read a new little book on the history of Combe Down brought out by the T.G. [?]

Sat 15 January:

Michael and I went down town this morning. Michael exchanged a record token and we had coffee in Colmer's. In between getting meals and doing a little mending I spent the day writing a poem for the Midsomerset.

Sun 16 January:

During the night I was sick and continued so until after lunch-time. Fortunately Michael was able to get meals and I stayed in bed. Felt better in the evening but restless and had a temperature. Bath to sleep early.

Mon 17 January:

The family made their own breakfast but I felt much better and when they had left the house I did some housework in my dressing gown, and made some telephone calls. Wrote a letter, read the paper and listened to a historical play on the wireless. Michael returned at lunch time with groceries and he cleared the roof of snow before going to see Dr Neubauer on a routine check-up. Watched some TV in the evening. We are very concerned about Nigeria and its attempted coup. We are wondering if the Mayo-Smiths are alright.

Tues 18 January:

Did the housework and washing but took my time as was feeling a bit washed out. Went shopping and after lunch spent a long afternoon writing. I had the electric fan heater on instead of the central heating and was much warmer and used much less fuel I'm sure. Of course the central heating came on later for the evening. Paul has definitely decided to accept Swansea's conditional offer and turn down Aberystwyth University, so I think everyone is pleased. I hope he won't regret his change of mind or feel he was persuaded. Did the ironing in the evening and watched an excellent play on Gordon of Khartoum. Thea has a bad back after a fall.

Weds 19 January:

Having done the housework, I cleaned the oven and then spent the morning writing letters etc. It was bitterly cold today. After lunch I went shopping, spent just a few minutes reading, then made tea. In the evening, as it was so cold, we lit a fire as well as putting on both radiators. My feet didn't warm up properly until about 9. We had a hot water bottle too as my feet wouldn't get

warm last night. Spent the evening shortening the sleeves of Andrew's new blazer and watching TV.

Thurs 20 January:

It was dreadful weather today. Early this morning we had rain which froze as it fell and made a sheet of ice. I put ashes on the paths and steps, then stayed in for the rest of the day. Did house and some extra tasks, then typed out my two things for the Mid-Somerset, making changes as I went. Washed my hair in the evening. I still feel far from my usual self. Andrew had a Mock O Level Latin exam.

Fri 21 January:

Having done the house, and washing, and made a couple of telephone calls, I went shopping. It was very slippery but fortunately most places were well gritted. I bought myself some Benerva Compound tablets, and whether it was psychological or whether the tablets were immediate in their effect, I don't know, but I felt much better this evening. Wrote all the afternoon, and did ironing in the evening. Andrew has had quite a bit enuresis since Christmas (and just before) and I have noticed that it occurs very frequently when I have been writing i.e. if my sub-conscious is active. He also suffers if I am anxious or upset – which is again when my sub-conscious is active. It's as though he is my safety valve. I wish I understood it.

Sat 22 January:

Michael and I went down town and had a pleasant hour or so there. Back about 11.40 with some good library books. We had a chicken pie for lunch and in the afternoon it was tempting to stay in by the fire and read, but as it was somewhat warmer we decided to take Anna out for a walk, and went to Sydney Gardens and back. Walking through the gritty slush Anna 'grumbled' most of the way. Read in the evening and watched TV. A report of Andrew's puppet club was in the evening paper. Continue to feel better.

Sun 23 January:

Went to Meeting. John didn't feel well, and spent the day in bed. It was much warmer today. After hearing "Let's face facts" I went to the Greenway Lane post box with Anna and sent off my entries for the Midsomerset. Watched a film "Hatter's Castle" and in the evening more TV and knitted. Michael in a very funny mood – couldn't bear anything to be left out.

Mon 24 January:

Having done the housework and washing I went shopping. In Woolworths, a young girl, who was paying an assistant for something and standing next to me suddenly fainted. Several assistants came to her aid, but I felt sorry for her. Met Mrs Hancock for coffee at Monks coffee bar and we had a pleasant chat. Came home and spent the afternoon writing. Stephen Kurle came to tea as Paul and he were playing in a chess match. Andrew spent the evening with Graham Hall. He has done fairly well in the Mock Latin, but not well enough in Maths to be allowed to take O Levels this year. I did ironing and read and watched TV.

Tues 25 January:

A mild day again. Having done the house and given the study a bit of a turn out, clean and polish, I too Anna for a walk to Moorland Road and back, to find out how long it would take us to go to the Victoria Wine Co to spend a token Michael has been given, one Saturday. When I returned I wrote my mother, then, after a late lunch, I spent the afternoon writing. Read and watched TV in the evening.

Weds 26 January:

Did the housework and cleaned the stick stand, then went up to the CBBS as Andrew had a medical at 11am. When I saw the school nurse, she looked familiar and later asked her if she was Marjorie Shipp. She was! I hadn't seen her for a good 25 years and of course she was married, but found she lived off Widcombe Hill! She didn't recognise me at all! I didn't wait for Andrew's examination as the doctor was very late. Went shopping and wrote in afternoon. During the evening we heard that Phillippa had a nervous breakdown and was having to go into hospital. Bed early and bath.

Thurs 27 January:

Having done the house and washing and turned out some cupboards in the kitchen, I did some writing. Mary John is going to have David's children which is a relief to us. Thea has helped today. After lunch I took Anna for a walk and met Franceys Longman at the Burial ground so that we can make a report at the Annual Prep Meeting. Home for more writing. Our TV set has broken down and I forgot to ring Bristol Wireless about it until after they'd closed for half day. A nuisance. Listened to a programme on MRA in evening on the wireless after doing the ironing. I thought it fairly dealt with and agreed with the summing up.

Fri 28 January:

Did the house and then washed two pairs of curtains. Did some writing and Bristol Wireless came and mended the TV set. Did some shopping and then met Miss Stone at the Gay Heart for lunch. Went afterwards to the reference library to try to find Mrs Ealing's\* (Marjorie Shipp) name in the Directory, but couldn't find it, or any name like it in Tyning End where she said she lived. I shall

have to hope she (Marjorie Shipp) contacts me. Did more shopping, home, made two telephone calls then writing until teatime. Read in evening.

Sat 29 January:

We were unexpectedly able to accept an invitation out to lunch with Granny and Thea today as John was going to Bristol. Paul had a cross-country match and his school won. He and Andrew cooked their own lunch. Michael and I went shopping and on up to Springfield Place. We also went to see two cupboards a Miss Walker in St Stephen's Close wanted to sell, but they required quite a lot of attention which Michael doesn't feel inclined to give at the moment. When we came home we watched TV and read before and after tea. Michael isn't at all well.

Sun 30 January:

Paul had the gastric flu virus that is going like wild-fire round the schools at present. Fortunately he isn't very bad with it. Went to Meeting and in the afternoon wrote a letter, did some mending, watched TV and knitted. The same in the evening. Both Michael and Andrew are rather asthmatic, and Michael seems to be very bloated in the tummy and unwell. He wrote to Dr Neubauer today to ask to see him. Mummy telephoned to know how we all were.

Mon 31 January:

Paul stayed at home in bed today although he was much better. It was a muggy misty day – quite unlike January. Did the house and washing then went shopping., and after lunch spent the afternoon writing. In the evening I went to Writer's Circle at Mrs Wooster's house, meeting Olive Hicks on the way. A Mrs Bishop (Sheila Bishop) spoke to us on "the historical novel" which was interesting. I had to give a vote of thanks. Rosemary Barr came, and she very kindly gave Olive Hicks and myself a lift home afterwards.

Tues 1 February:

Did the housework and found I felt strangely 'rushed' and strained inside – rather as I had the week before last, after my illness. I now wonder if I have had Paul's 'flu' but very mildly, as I haven't felt very well the last two days – though not really ill. Andrew also complained of "tiredness" today and had a sore throat and looked very pale yesterday. I wrote one or two letters and went to the WVS with some clothes. Bought some wool for blankets at Evan's and Owen's sale. Home, and made Paul's and my lunch, and 10lbs of marmalade, also did the ironing. Then did a couple of hour's writing and after tea, went by

arrangement to see Mr Hall in Widcombe Crescent who looks after the Friends' Burial Ground. Unfortunately, I found a note for me tucked in the bell-push saying he was sorry to be out. Came home and knitted and watched TV.

Weds 2 February:

Did the house and then on the spur of the moment spent a little time moving furniture in Andrew's room. I have some ideas I want to carry out there, but they need 'development'. Wrote my mother, then went shopping. Home, and did a little writing Did some ironing and knitting in evening. Felt glad to sit down.

Thurs 3 February:

Did the house and washing, doing Andrew's curtains. Went to several shops inquiring about a carpet for Andrew's room. Met Rosemary and Olive Hicks for lunch at Lee's Chinese restaurant. It was very pleasant and we talked about writing. Afterwards, we went down to the Help the Aged shop and met Mrs Wyman there. I feel I would like to help, and must find some 'bits and pieces' for them to sell. Did some writing in the afternoon, then ironing and knitting in the evening. My page proofs of "Laurie the fine fir tree" and "The magic shoe" came and I'm very pleased indeed with the illustrations.

Fri 4 February:

Did the housework and hung some pictures that have been sitting about unhung for several months. Went shopping, and after lunch and a read, did some 2½ hours writing. Went to Annual Preparative Meeting in the evening and read the Burial Ground report. Michael is certainly none too good at present.

Sat 5 February:

Michael went down town early, and I met him at 10.30 (actually 10.40 as we had a misunderstanding as regards the place) after I'd done some shopping etc. We had 'coffee' at Prince's – a new 'salon' opposite the York Hotel. It turned out to be most mediocre. On the way home we went to Best's and I bought a mat for Andrew's room. After lunch I did some mending and sewed a fringe on a shawl I've knitted from odd wools. After washing hair in the evening I did some knitting. A mild, wet day. Russia has recently succeeded in making a soft landing on the moon and the photos are interesting.

Sun 6 February:

Went to Meeting as usual and spoke about the TV film on Trevor Huddleston's work. Thea met me and came back to lunch. She left soon after coffee

afterwards and Michael wasn't too good. Watched TV and knitted in afternoon and evening. Michael is rather asthmatic tonight.

Mon 7 February:

Did the house, washing and shopping. Lunch, time to myself and writing. Michael had an unsatisfactory interview with Dr Neubauer and is undecided about keeping the next appointment. He has been prescribed more Nardil pills but is going to refuse to have them as he can't eat Marmite or cheese with them. I wish he seemed better, but he is not only niggly and critical, but has constant indigestion and is getting fatter almost from day to day. Granny Bridges is getting better.

Tues 8 February:

Did the housework, then, after Andrew's new mat had arrived I did some re-organising in his room. I am still dissatisfied with the fact that his mahogany bookcase is sitting on a stripped pine chest of drawers which is 'wrong'. No one will back me up – they all think I'm being fussy! Went down town and back and after lunch, TTM [time to myself, I think] and writing in afternoon, made tea. Michael had an appointment with Dr Carr so was late back. Knitted in evening. TV rotten.

Weds 9 February:

Another rejection – and I feel quite depressed! Did the housework and then, as the boys agreed I moved the drawers towards a general switch around of chests of drawers. Wrote my mother and two others, had lunch etc and out shopping for an hour. Did some writing on return and when Andrew came back he helped me move one or two things. His bookcase looks quite good on Paul's chest of drawers as the wood matches. They've all been very good about this change around – and hope it satisfies me! Paul was late home as he went to an inter-school debate. When he returned he and Michael moved up the remaining chest of drawers to his room. Did knitting in evening.

Thurs 10 February:

Did the housework, some furniture polishing and washing. Then did a little shopping and Paul and I had lunch about 12.15. Paul was home in the morning but went to school for a Current Affairs exam in the afternoon. He had a painful eye – felt as though he had a bit of grit in it, but there was no sign of anything. Did ironing and knitting in evening. Writing in afternoon – still no acceptances, but less depressed about it.

Fri 11 February:

Another rejection and I felt a mixture of anger and dejection until I came back from shopping and found a letter from Oliver & Boyd saying that Matilda had sold over 7,600 copies. I didn't know exactly how much this will mean in cash but it should mean a reasonable cheque in April and I was quite heartened. Did some writing in the afternoon, read and knitted in evening. Have been spending an hour to myself every day this week and hope to continue. Michael has a heavy cold.

Sat 12 February:

Michael's cold has come out and he feels just a little better today. We went down town together and bought some new handles for Andrew's chest of drawers from Mr Vince. Paul went to Trowbridge for a cross country event. His school tied with its opponents. Graham Hall came to lunch and he and Andrew went to the opening of the new Scout HQ in Grove St in the afternoon. I had an hour in bed after lunch, but it was rather cold and for some reason I felt unwell and couldn't get my feet warm, so lit the lounge fire and after tea was alright again. Knitting and TV (nothing to interest me) in the evening. Thank goodness the threatened rail strike has been called off.

Sun 13 February:

Went to Meeting and in the afternoon Andrew and I went through his cupboards and drawers and managed to clear out quite a bit of rubbish. TV and knitting in the evening. It is getting colder and we had a fire yesterday and today.

Mon 14 February:

As it was half term, the boys stayed on in bed until about 9.30. Later two of Andrew's friends came to play and I did the house and washing and some shopping. Lunch, a rest and then about two hours writing. Just before going to Circle meeting at Miss Cass' I dashed off a 'Valentine' which was tonight's prepared exercise. Some had written poems and there was also an article. It was a good meeting. Mrs Barr joined and so also did a Mrs Horsfield whose husband is a blind physiotherapist. We are getting quite healthy in numbers now, and we have such interesting, lively young people. John returned from Nottingham.

Tues 15 February:

Having done the housework and turned out one of Andrew's cupboards, I spent the morning writing. Lunch, time to myself, then went to the Burial Ground to meet Franceys Longman and Frank Frisby, to do some hedge 'reducing'. It was quite hard work and the others were still busy when I had to leave at 4.30.

Made tea and afterwards did some ironing until 9pm. Read the paper when I'd made the usual evening drinks. Then bath and bed. John had to leave at 7.20 this morning but I'm relieved to hear that he can have breakfast at 7.45 as usual again from tomorrow.

Weds 16 February:

Paul was home this morning because of the exam period, and he had an offer of a place at Southampton University. I think he is going to accept it provisionally though there seems little point in it. Having done the house, and tidied a drawer in the lounge, I went shopping. There was a nasty east wind. Paul and I had an early lunch, then he went off to school. I had usual hour to myself, then wrote my mother and went to post. Mr Burgess rang up this morning from Newton Park to ask us to take another student. Michael agreed over the 'phone so I think the man will be coming on Friday week. Knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Thurs 17 February:

Did the house and washing and cleared out the part where I keep the vegetables. Wrote two postcards and went into town. The record of Pete Seeger's that I had ordered was in, so I collected it. After lunch and an hour to myself I did about 3 hours writing and started a children's book which I am tentatively calling "The cottage in the wood". I don't feel too sure about it, but maybe it will sort itself out in time. Did ironing in the evening followed by some knitting. Michael has been rather better since taking an anti-depressant from Monday but tonight he was terribly tired and unreasonable.

Fri 18 February:

This morning Michael suggested that I went to Fowey on my own in April and I was surprised and quite pleased. Maybe he and the boys would be alright. Of course I know they are capable, but I worry that Michael will hate my being away. Having done the house, tacked down a carpet in John's room, and tidied the linen cupboard I went shopping. Had the usual hour to myself and Paul joined me for lunch. Wrote in the afternoon. Read, washed my hair and knitted in the evening. Michael was very tired and had a headache this evening.

Sat 19 February:

Michael and I went down town. As Michael's Alfa and Voigtlander cameras have been sold, he took home an Exakta to try, but one film was ruined because it didn't wind on properly and the other was for some reason completely wrongly exposed. It was disappointing. We had coffee at the new Sally Lunn shop. After lunch I wrote a couple of letters and then had a rest all the afternoon. It was

very pleasant. We had a pot of tea bout 4.30 and later high tea. Did mending and knitting in evening – TV was pretty putrid.

Sun 20 February:

Went to Meeting and spoke to several Friends before and afterwards. They are so kind and I would love to have them here one evening, but it's not possible at the moment. After lunch and watching a programme on TV I took Anna for a walk up Entry Hill along Hawthorn Grove and down Foxhill and Perrymead. Granny and Thea joined us for tea, and we had supper later. TV and knitting in the evening. Michael not too good.

Mon 21 February:

A letter from my mother today said that she had sprained her ankle which is rather trying for her. Did the housework, washing and shopping. Writing in afternoon. Ironing in evening. Michael saw Dr Neubauer but felt very cross about the interview as there was also a lady doctor present, and his complaints were – as it were – tossed aside.

Tues 22 February:

Andrew had a streaming nose this morning but he went to school. I did the housework, made the bottom room ready for the student due to come on Friday and made a pillow case out of an old sheet. Then walked to Bear Flat and back with Anna. It was raining and she didn't like it! I rubbed her down and put on a fire to dry her while I had lunch etc. Writing in the afternoon – but Andrew was sent home from school and I found he had a temperature. I don't know what's the matter with him – it isn't like the usual flu. Knitting and TV in the evening. Paul has now finished his Mock A Levels.

Weds 23 February:

Andrew was better today, however, I rang the doctor's secretary and she confirmed that there was this kind of flu about. Did the house and went shopping, then wrote letters. Made Andrew's and my lunch, had usual time to myself (TTM for short) and finished letters, did some writing etc. TV and knitting in the evening. Bath and bed. Michael had the afternoon off to see Desmond Tripp and has bought an Exakta camera in place of the 2 he sold. I do hope he remains satisfied with it.

Thurs 24 February:

Andrew remained at home but he was much better today. Having done the house and washing I took Anna for a walk by going up to Combe Down to collect some

tablets for Michael. After lunch and TTM, did writing all the afternoon. Ironing knitting and TV in the evening, and Andrew came downstairs for an hour or so.

Fri 25 February:

Andrew got up today and I did the house, then had an hour's TTM before going shopping and going up to Rosemary Barr to lunch and to help her check a book she is typing. Caroline came home at 3 and made us some tea, then they took me home. Meanwhile Andrew had taken in our new student PG who had turned up during the day unexpectedly, and also taken several other messages. TV and knitting in the evening.

Sat 26 February:

Michael went shopping and on to lunch with his mother. I had a Mr O'Hara to coffee from 10-11.30 and he proved very interesting. Paul Andrew and I started a jigsaw and Andrew and Graham finished it in the afternoon. Paul had a cross-country event at Norwood. I took Anna and did some shopping in Widcombe. They have cleared Southcot Place of bushes and it looks much better. Wrote a puzzle, and later made tea and then baked some cakes, and knitted. TV was the usual aimless Saturday night drivvle [sic]

Sun 27 February:

A pleasant, mild day and I went to Meeting. After lunch, we watched TV and knitted. Michael took photos and the boys went out. David and Phillippa came to tea, so with John there were 7 of us. (Glyn was out) We chatted for a while, and Phillippa certainly didn't seem very fit. David, however, was his usual self. When they left at 6.45, we washed up, then Michael developed his film and I knitted. TV etc. I've had a headache all day.

Mon 28 February:

Glyn overslept and Paul had to waken him. Andrew went back to school and I did the housework, the washing and shopping. Lunch TTM and then three hours writing. After tea I went to Mrs Holbeche for Writer Circle. It was quite a good meeting. We brought the beginnings of a story, then finished someone else's. Rosemary kindly took me home.

Tues 1 March:

Did the house and cleared a shelf where I keep the cleaning things. Then spent an hour's TTM and wrote my mother. Walked Anna up to Granny Bridges for lunch. She (the dog) walked very badly in town and with an umbrella and a shopping bag, it was quite tiring! After lunch and a short chat, I walked home again, and wrote to sister Mary, sending her a cheque, as I've found I've

forgotten Kenneth's birthday and also, I'm fairly sure, Francis! Sent a card also to Robert, my handicapped boy. Went to post, then did some writing for a short while. Ironing in evening while Michael did enlarging.

Weds 2 March:

Did the housework and tidied a drawer in the kitchen, then went shopping. When I'd had lunch and TTM did writing all the afternoon, and knitting in the evening. Mr Frost, Michael's immediate boss, and a Mr Galbraith from the Tyndall's Park Rd office have had a car accident and are in hospital. No one is terribly sorry as they are not liked.

Thurs 3 March:

Did the house and washing and some ceiling dusting, then took Anna into town for a walk. She didn't like it, but I hope to get her used to traffic and people in time. Read, TTM and writing. Ironing in evening, and later we watched a documentary on TV about the casino. It is really alarming how many people gamble compulsively and MONEY is the god of all who work or visit it. Nothing else matters.

Fri 4 March:

Did the housework and cleaned the oven and wrote Mary John from whom I had a letter yesterday. Went shopping and on my return found a big basket of greens waiting for me from Miss Thompson. I went next door to thank her, then had lunch, TTM and did some writing. Made some cakes before tea. Washed my hair and knitted in the evening.

Sat 5 March:

Michael went to Ferndown near Bournemouth today with Thea and Granny Bridges to see Auntie May who is in a nursing home there and becoming rather weak now. Went down town and bought some gym shoes and jeans for Andrew and a snood for my hair – I have started parting it in the middle again. After lunch I had an hour's TTM and rest and then took the dog out and picked up some cleaning and laundry. Paul had chess match and won. Everyone was home for tea by 6 (except the two students) and in the evening we watched TV and I knitted. Austria won the European Song Contest.

Sun 6 March:

Went to Meeting as usual and stayed to most of Preparatory Meeting. After lunch I watched TV for half an hour then went to bed to read and rest. Tea, and knitting and TV in the evening. The film was "The hasty heart" which I may have seen before and was very good.

Mon 7 March:

During the morning midst housework and washing, I rang Newton Park to find out the dates of the students' holidays and as a result I planned a holiday in London with my mother from March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> and when Auntie Marnie and later my mother rang, I told them. Went shopping, lunch, TTM writing, then at teatime Glyn told me his holiday dates were 31<sup>st</sup> March to April 26<sup>th</sup>! And we discovered later – through an enquiry by Auntie Marnie – that I'd been told the 1967 dates! So now, if I go away with Mummy it will have to be Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> and Michael is not at all enthusiastic now. This week I have set myself a Spartan food regime – Bran cereal and milk for breakfast, dry bread with egg or cheese and an apple for lunch. Normal cooked meal for supper, followed by plain bread and butter. Only dry bread at other times, if hungry. Tea etc ad lib. I should save some money for Oxfam by doing this.

Tues 8 March:

Hurried to finish the housework as had to take Anna for a walk before Miss Thompson came for coffee. It was a nice spring day and I had a nice walk round old Widcombe. Miss Thompson and Miss Brodie came about 5 to 11 and we spent a pleasant hour chatting then when they had gone I dashed town to make a few calls – one of which was to the City Treasurer's as a cheque in payment for Glyn Marshall's board had been made out to a Mrs Leach. It was their mistake and they apologised profusely. After lunch and TTM I wrote my mother and posted the letter. After tea I knitted. The gas boiler's igniter is not behaving properly which is trying, and Michael also had to adjust a washer on one of the kitchen taps. Paul went to a debate and wasn't home until nearly 9.

Weds 9 March:

Another nice mild sunny day. Did the housework and worked for a while on the mahogany rail of the bannister. Went shopping in Widcombe, then walked to Bear Flat and as I was early for a coffee appointment, walked round Bloomfield Avenue. Eventually went to Grasmere, Hayesfield Pk to Mrs Horsefield's. Miss Stone, Miss Hemmings and Rosemary Barr were there too. It was very pleasant. Miss Stone dropped me in Lyncombe Hill, and I came home. Had lunch TTM listened to the wireless then wrote until teatime. Michael and I went to the City of Bath school to see Andrew's form and some subject masters as there was a 4<sup>th</sup> year evening. Andrew seems to be poor in Maths and Science, but good in classical subjects. This is a matter of day-dreaming in the weak subjects rather than a real inability to do them we suspect. Came home and after a short read, went to bed.

Thurs 10 March:

Having done the housework I made a pillow case out of part of an old sheet, and took Anna for a walk in town. Bought some material to make Mark a shirt. When I got home the window cleaners came and so I didn't have lunch until gone 1.

TTM, listened to my story repeated on the BBC and then more TTM. Writing. After tea, Michael and I went to the Technical School to see various masters. They all with one accord seemed very pleased with Paul. Home, read the paper and to bed about 10, Andrew having been to Scouts as usual.

Fri 11 March:

Did the housework and re-cleaned two windows the cleaners left smeary yesterday. Went shopping and had a pleasant browse in book shops, drapers and the library getting home about 12.45. After lunch, listened to my story on Listen with Mother then TTM and writing Mrs Horsefield was kind enough to telephone to say she liked the story. After tea, did the ironing etc. Miss Thompson brought us some greens. (Paul went on a six mile run during the evening).

Sat 12 March:

Michael left for town soon after breakfast and Andrew and I left soon afterwards, to buy some shoes for Andrew. How I hate the sickly, effusive apparent warmth at Pugsleys that covers up a horrible authoritarian attitude towards not only the staff but the customers as well! I joined Michael at Desmond Tripps at 10.30 after doing some other shopping, and we also went to an Exhibition at the Reference Library. Michael had lunch with his mother and I went home to get lunch for the students and boys. Read in the afternoon and washed hair in the evening etc. Andrew had Graham Hall up and Paul went swimming and did the same six mile run as yesterday tonight. He's a glutton for punishment!

Sun 13 March:

Andrew went to Wells for a hike today and it rained most of the time! I hear he managed to get a fire going in the end. Wrote a couple of letters before going to Meeting which was quite an 'active' one. After lunch watched TV, read, knitted etc – in the evening as well.

Mon 14 March:

Did the usual washing housework and shopping done on a Monday, then took Anna for a walk. Have set myself a fresh kind of 'discipline' for this week. Lunch and TTM, then wrote from 2-4.30. After supper went to Writer Circle with Olive

Hicks. It was held at Mrs Cooper's and was very enjoyable – an exercise evening. Mrs Horsefield drove 4 of us home.

Tues 15 March:

Our wedding anniversary and we've been married 19 years. Did the housework quickly then as it was fine and mild, worked in the garden for a good hour. Then went in for coffee with Miss Thompson at the Priory and met a Mrs Hole and Mors Goodenew(?) who live quite near. It was interesting as I learnt the names of several neighbours. Afterwards, I took Anna for a walk and had lunch and TTM – writing for 2½ hours, then in the evening – ironing. I find that a Margaret John of Cavendish Crescent had tried to murder her sister Gerda and realise that I was at the Technical College and quite friendly with them, some 25 years ago or more. From what I remember, it was Margaret who was the likeable of the two. Gerda was moody, or would have a battle of words which was both tiring and exasperating. Yet Gerda could be very interesting, and Margaret not so intelligent. I remember regarding Gerda as my friend, while at the same time thinking that Margaret was the “nicer” girl – more sensible and normal.

Weds 16 March:

A cold frosty morning that developed into a nice day. Did the house and went shopping. Came back and took Anna for a walk, then did an hour's gardening. After lunch and TTM I wrote my mother. Made some cookies and the evening meal followed by mending and sewing on cushion covers.

Thurs 17 March:

Having done the housework and washing, and taken Anna for a walk, I went to Olive Hicks' for a small coffee party. I met and talked to a Miss Wigley who lives in 'our' flat at Paradise House and who is a retired librarian. She was very interesting. Rosemary Barr was there too, but I had to ring her later as I had no chance to talk to her. Wrote a letter and other writing after lunch and TTM. Ironing in evening. One of two good science documentaries so didn't go to bed until well past 10.30.

Fri 18 March:

It was one of those morning when I just couldn't get on. The housework wasn't finished until 10 or so and then after TTM and starting to make a shirt for Mark and seeing to the man from the gas company who came because the boiler's ignition keeps failing, I took Anna for a walk. It was a lovely sunny day, though not warm. Went shopping and met Granny Bridges at the Gay Heart where she gave me lunch. It was very pleasant. Met Mrs Harker there. Did more shopping and home soon after two. Gardened until 3 then wrote until about 4.30,

but found it very difficult to work. Felt tired after tea – when we had the wine bought for our wedding anniversary, so after watching TV I had an early bath and went to bed about 8.30-9.

Sat 19 March:

Shopping as usual with Michael, and home to make lunch. The boys spent the day on Hampton rocks looking for fossils and playing. Andrew has bought some chipboard for his subuteo [sic] game and they played when they returned. Michael had an eye test at Tovey's then was on his own as I went with Dorothy Hemmings to see , first, some solo acting and then to hear about our literary entries in the Midsomerset. She had a 1<sup>st</sup> class certificate in her class, and I had an honours in the humorous verse class, and came second; and had a 1<sup>st</sup> class certificate for the story. Miss Stone and Miss Cass were there too. Made a cake for Mother's Day in the evening and washed my hair. Clocks go on tonight.

Sun 20 March:

Woke rather early considering the clocks had been put on. Meeting as usual and after lunch and watching "Let's face Facts" went with Michael and Anna in the park and took photos. A beautiful day. Granny Bridges came to tea as it was Mothering Sunday, but she had to leave soon afterwards as Thea was expected back. Knitted and watched TV in the evening. Andrew made a model aeroplane and Paul ran a 6½ mile run.

Mon 21 March:

There was a lot to do in the house – cleaning, changing bedlinen and washing to do before 10.30 when we set off for Auntie Billie's in Thea's car. We lost our way trying to find a new route but arrived in good time. Had a marvellous meal of salmon and chicken and trifle and pears and cream also sherry and white wine. And coffee! Met 'Wink' for the first time. Auntie Billie gave Michael the gift of a generous cheque which really was a little embarrassing as she gave us one last time and it makes it difficult for us to invite ourselves again! We left about 20 to 4 and were home by 5.20. Andrew had started cooking the soup as requested and all was well. Did ironing in the evening and watched TV.

Tues 22 March:

As soon as I'd done the housework, I went shopping and was back by 10. Michael then went out and I wrote my mother and Auntie Billie. After an earlyish lunch, I persuaded Michael to go photographing in the Botanical Gardens. He wasn't at all keen but at the same time said he was bored. When we got there, there were a lot of birds around and we tried to photograph them. We met a man who fed

the birds nearly every day and was followed by them. He was quite a help! Came home and I finished my film with a few snaps of Widcombe and Tiffin. Michael developed then in the evening. Did mending and watched TV in evening having cooked Auntie Billie's chicken for the evening meal.

Weds 23 March:

We decided at rather short notice to catch the 8.41 train to Bristol instead of the 9.28, and were glad we did as we were able to get some excellent photos while it was quite sunny and warm, About 11 it clouded over and became very cold so the Zoo was less photogenic. We had lunch at the Zoo but caught the 2.15 train home, did a little shopping then back to get the evening meal. John has been entering for the Mid-Somerset today. Had a bath and went to bed on the early side as we have a full day tomorrow.

Thurs 24 March:

Today was the day! We rushed through the beds and washing up, and went on the Pullman to London (8.41). There was a mess-up about our tickets but eventually we were given seats. We had well over 4 hours at the Exhibition (Ideal Homes) and had a lovely lunch. There was nothing very outstanding. The best thing was the Unistem[?] bungalow which was factory made and relatively cheap, yet roomy. We had tea back at Paddington and an evening meal on the train. Andrew had made the evening meal at home for us. We have now heard that Andrew's French exchange is off this year, but he can go on another, not run by the school. Andrew is rather keen, but I'd rather he waited a year.

Fri 25 March:

Spent until 10.30 cleaning the house and doing washing. It was cold and there were flurries of snow early this morning. Met Michael in town and we did shopping and returned for lunch. After a short rest, I took Anna for a walk and then read, made us a cup of tea and then made cakes and the evening meal. Did ironing in evening. Paul is still running 6-7 miles most evenings. Andrew played Subuteo and met the Scout leader for a chat about Senior Scouts. We are trying to persuade Andrew to choose to go to France next year instead of this.

Sat 26 March:

Michael and I went into town. There were only the four of us in for lunch and tea and I read most of the day, which was thoroughly enjoyable. Paul was on duty at school this evening for a school play.

Sun 27 March:

Went to Meeting as usual and after lunch and watching "Lets face facts" I had a nice read and rest again and then washed my hair in the evening. Paul had a

chess match, but didn't win his game. Andrew went up to Claverton Down for Scout work, but not being able to find the scouter, came home rather fed up. We are still wondering about Andrew's and our holiday in the summer.

Mon 28 March:

Andrew said that if Michael and I went to London for our holiday he would like to come with us, so I'm hoping Michael may like to do this, but he doesn't want to discuss the matter yet. Did the housework and washing and took Anna for a walk, making it a TTM. After lunch I wrote letters and did some writing. Michael was late for the evening meal as the chairman of the Hosp. Management Committee was retiring and there was a special meeting. Went to Writer Circle, at Miss Stone's and took Mrs Hall. There were quite a dozen of us and it was an excellent meeting. Reading of Midsomerset entries and a discussion in two groups. Mrs Horsefield kindly took me home.

Tues 29 March:

Having done the housework I went shopping and to the Library etc. Back, and took Anna for a walk. After lunch, I put some Contact on Andrew's card table, in the place of the old baize. Washed Anna, because Paul thinks he saw a flea on her recently, then did some writing. Glynn called and said he was going home today instead of tomorrow. Did ironing in the evening. Paul is very tired and end-of-termish. He needs a holiday.

Weds 30 March:

John went home today, so we are just family now, and much as I like our students I'm glad to be free of them for a bit. Wrote my mother then, after the man had been to service the Hoover and washing machine etc I took Anna down to Widcombe and came back via Rosemount. After lunch I wrote another letter and did some writing. Made tea and a cake, then tried to see Hr Hall in Widcombe Crescent about an appointment with Fran Longman and myself re the Burial Ground, but could get no reply and had to leave the letter. Went to bed on the early side, after a bath. Paul has a cold today and I wanted him to miss school, but he wouldn't. Andrew has joined the Table Soccer League.

Thurs 31 March:

Election day! I've voted Liberal much to the disgust of Michael and the boys who are Conservative. After doing the washing I went in town and came back and took Anna out. After lunch I was sleepy and had a short snooze then did the usual 2½ hours writing. Ironing in the evening and as we go to bed now, the first results are coming in. Labour is expected to win, with increased majority.

Fri 1 April:

Labour has got in with a better majority. I am glad the results are more decisive than last time. Having done the house and sewn a sheet etc in Andrew's sleeping bag ready for his weekend hike, I went shopping and spent quite a time at the Bank seeking help with a form Michael has to fill in for a grant application in connection with Paul's university course. Took Anna for a walk, then made lunch for Paul and I – Paul having broken up midday. Had a rest, then spent the afternoon working on Mark's shirt and watching TV for election results. Paul was obviously not too good at teatime and went to bed afterwards I went to an illustrated talk on Tasmania and Australia by Betty Plowright at the FMH, but left punctually so that I could oversee Andrew's packing for the hike. I'm not at all easy about it. Graham came at about 9.30 with a tent he asked us to check. It was mildewed, had a rent in it and no skewers! Also a broken guy. I lent some skewers and suppose they'll survive. Added to the troubles is the fact that Paul has a temperature of 101.8, and Michael is terribly tensed up. Still, most of these 'storms' blow over.

Sat 2 April:

Andrew went off early this morning for his weekend hike and we hear tonight that up north they have had an 'arctic blizzard'! Paul's temperature was still quite high so we sent for the doctor. He came at about 4 and pronounced it to be flu. I have progressed with Mark's shirt, done some knitting and reading, and it has been a pleasantly easy day.

Sun 3 April:

Had a thoroughly restful morning, reading until 11.30 in bed, then cooked a joint of beef etc for lunch. Took Anna for a walk in the afternoon. Knitted and watched TV etc. Poor Paul had earache, but his temperature was down, and Andrew Taylor called and spoke from the landing to him which cheered him up. Andrew returned at teatime looking surprisingly well and clean! The camp (at Nunney) was quite successful, although the tent didn't have enough skewers and he was too cold to sleep well. Telephoned Mummy in the evening to say that only Andrew can come on Tuesday.

Mon 4 April:

Paul had a bad night and was in pain with his ear. His temperature was over 102 so I sent for the doctor. He didn't come until gone 3pm but in the meanwhile I gave Paul some tea with nepeta in it and within an hour his ear started to bleed and the pain was more bearable. He had fruit and more nepeta tea and at teatime started on penicillin. I did the house washing and some ironing, went into town in the dinner hour, and again to get Paul's prescription. Met Fran and

Frank Frisby with Mr Hall at the Burial Ground to talk over its needs. Helped Andrew pack when I returned and did a little mending etc. Paul's temperature is a little down this evening (101).

Tues 5 April:

Paul was very much better today. His temperature was down to 99.5 or thereabouts, and he felt like talking, playing chess and eating more. In spite of this, he was kept on fruit and light food. Did some housework and then spent the rest of the morning with Paul and doing mending. Andrew went off early to Cornwall. After lunch I wrote some letters and went to post. Then sat with Paul until I made the evening meal did ironing and watched TV in the evening.

Weds 6 April:

Wrote my mother and Andrew and went shopping. Paul's temperature was practically normal but he stayed in bed. His ear is still tender. Packed up a few things for Easter for my mother and posted them off, then sat with Paul for about hour. He joined us for TV in the evening. Have found myself pondering about the Air Earth Water Fire theme today, but when ever I do this, Andrew's night trouble is worse, so in one way I wish I could stop thinking about it. In another way I want to continue to think about it though, as it is such a fascinating problem. Why should a harmless occupation like this affect Andrew adversely? Is it the tension brought about by any use of the imagination?

Thurs 7 April:

Had a couple of unpleasant dreams – one of seeing a horse die as a result of a fall in a race, and another of a power failure in the house. Did the washing and shopping then after lunch spent the afternoon having a short rest followed by mending and sewing. Paul was up today. Ironing etc in the evening.

Fri 8 April (Good Friday):

We rose quite late and took Anna for a walk. After lunch I had a read and slept all the afternoon. Watched TV and knitted in the evening. Was very thrilled to receive a cheque for £38.9.0 for the first 9 months' sale of Matilda from Oliver & Boyd.

Sat 9 April:

Michael and I went down town while Paul went to the doctor. He said Paul could go down to Cornwall, so after lunch Paul set off. He has a very low temperature and is certainly still below par. Rested again in the afternoon and watched TV knitted and wrote letters.

Sun 10 April (Easter Sunday):

Rose late and went to Meeting while Michael and Granny went to the Abbey and Thea made us an excellent lunch at Springfield Place. Afterwards we had a rest, a walk (from the car) near Midford, then they came to tea. TV knitting and a bath in the evening. I find I am going through what Elizabeth Fry called 'a valley' and am having to overcome feelings of fear and hopelessness – but I'm sure it is just the Fire or Air part of a cycle. It is a testing time.

Mon 11 April (Easter Monday):

We rose late again, then I sorted papers and magazines while Michael put new handles on Andrew's chest of drawers and I also mowed the lawn. After lunch I took Anna for quite a long walk and then had a rest. Michael did some other jobs. We watched TV in the evening and I knitted.

Tues 12 April:

Did the house and washing and then went shopping, meeting Granny Bridges for coffee. After lunch I took Anna for a walk, rested and read. Spent the evening ironing as I had washed three loose covers today.

Weds 13 April:

There was a horrid east wind today, and how I do dislike east winds! Wrote my mother and did some shopping. Had an early lunch and read for a short while then went to Dr Scholl's to have a corn removed. The chiropodist congratulated me on my feet. Perhaps it was just flattery but I suppose I am quite lucky with them. Went to the Library and home. Read for a short while then made a large fruit cake and the evening meal. Michael came with me when I visited Rosemary Barr in Weston Lodge. We didn't stay very long as she didn't feel too well. Home to watch TV. Knitting.

Thurs 14 April:

When we got up this morning we were surprised to find it snowing, and it continued until past 4, giving us over 6 inches to clear from the paths. The Mayo-Smiths were coming to tea, but I suggested they postpone it until the 26<sup>th</sup>, which they thought a good idea. Spent most of the day writing.

Fri 15 April:

Did some housework and then went shopping. When I came home I made another large cake. (They have been packed up to keep until I'm away next week.) Read in the afternoon and Bristol Wireless came to see the set as BBC2 reception has been difficult. Of course they blame Telefusion (and Telefusion will probably blame Bristol Wireless!) I was expecting the boys about 3.30, but didn't worry until Michael came home just before 6 (a little late) and they

weren't with him either. Eventually we heard by telephone from them that they had got on a Gloucester train by mistake! They finally got back about 6.45. Watched TV in evening. Felt pretty relaxed earlier in the week, but rather tense again now. Wish I could overcome it.

Sat 16 April:

Paul went to the doctor for a checkup. It seems as though he has had a perforated ear-drum, but that everything is practically back to normal now. Went down town and met Michael who had gone on down. Michael bought a contraption for distributing fertiliser and weed-killer on the lawn which I thought was extravagant. Read in afternoon and evening. TV and washed my hair.

Sun 17 April:

Rose at the usual late Sunday hour. Went to Meeting and after lunch did the washing and wrote Mary (Hare) who has invited Andrew to join them for a week of their summer holiday in N Wales. Watched TV and did the ironing in the evening. I am still trying to fathom out in my mind the jigsaw of the "four poles of life" and cycles.

Mon 18 April:

Rather a busy morning doing the housework and shopping and then getting lunch for Andrew and Mummy who arrived at 1.15. Sat and mended and talked in afternoon. More talking and TV in the evening. Packed, bath and bed. Paul went to Weston for the day with friends but it rained all day. Tomorrow I go to London for 4 days and shall not take this diary.

19-21 April – contained in next entry:

Fri 22 April:

On the first day, on arriving in London, we went shopping and to see "Sound of Music" (the film version) in the evening. The next day it was very wet so we went shopping again and to the Greek Drama Oedipus Rex in the evening. Yesterday was fine, and was the State opening of Parliament, so we went and saw Westminster Abbey and two exhibitions there, then we watched the Queen's coach etc (couldn't see much!) and walked to St James Park tube station to go 'home' as Westminster was closed. In the afternoon we did a little shopping then went to the Planetarium and walked along to Maples for tea. Visited the Friends Book Centre, then caught a bus to Putney and back by a different route. Watched TV the rest of the evening. Today it was raining again. We went to Heal's and while Mummy went to an exhibition in Gordon Square, I went to the Medical museum in the Wellcome building and also saw an exhibition of Chinese medicine there. Met Mummy again in a bookshop and we

walked back to the YW hostel for lunch. Mummy had a taxi to catch her train and I did some shopping and caught an earlier train than planned which was very full. Home about 6, or just after and a pleasant evening with the family. We have had a lovely holiday, Mummy and I, and the central YW hostel was warm, with willing service and reasonable – most satisfactory.

Sat 23 April:

Went down town, after doing some house-cleaning, and having done some shopping. Met Michael. We had coffee together at Fuller's. Home and when lunch was over, went to Quarterly Meeting to help with teas. Enjoyed this. Came home about 5.30 and made our tea. Cut out a frock on the evening.

Sun 24 April:

Went to Meeting and in the afternoon wrote a couple of letters, made up John's bed etc and did some turning out. Washed my hair after tea and read, watched TV etc. Michael seemed very much himself when I returned from my holiday, but today he has felt very angry, and has been difficult to pacify. I find it difficult to be loyal to the truth, as I see it, without making him feel worse.

Mon 25 April:

A very busy day as there was a lot of housecleaning to do, my having been away last week. And John returned last night. Did the washing also, and then went shopping. After lunch, and time of silence did some dressmaking until about 4.30. The Telefusion engineer came and admitted there was a fault in their cable, which will be rectified. Made some cakes and evening meal. Michael and I were going to the pictures but decided to go tomorrow instead. So did some ironing while Michael fitted out a new camera accessory case. Aase called about 8 and stayed about an hour for coffee. She and her boys can't come to tea tomorrow, as arranged. TV and bed.

Tues 26 April:

Did the house and turned out and mended some clothes for the WVS. Having ascertained that they were still at Pulteney St, I went there with the clothes (an awkward laborious journey!) and then went shopping. After lunch and TTM did some writing. Michael took me to see "The Greatest Story Ever Told" at the Forum in the evening. It was rather like other films of the sort, but had some very good intimate moments and the actor playing Jesus was excellent. I wish they didn't over-dramatise. I never really get into the story when they do.

Weds 27 April:

Did housework and wrote a letter then sorted out some of my clothes and took them to the WVS – retrieving the jumper Paul wanted back. After lunch and

TTM, made some preparations for the evening meal and then went to Rush Hill to join a Friends' working party for Oxfam. Left about 4.30. In the evening Michael and I visited Rosemary Barr in Weston Lodge. She was better. Home and knitted etc. Film about Irish priests on TV which was interesting. Religion is pretty well mediaeval there.

Thurs 28 April:

Did some cleaning and washing, then went shopping and did an hour's gardening. Had my lunch in the sun as it was so nice and stayed out for a while afterwards. Sewed together the squares for the Oxfam blanket and tacked the zip fastener in the dress I am making. After tea I did the ironing TV etc. Interesting documentary on Siberia.

Fri 29 April:

Did the house and a/c of my income for the bank (for income tax purposes). Went shopping and then had my lunch in the garden again and read for a while. Beautifully sunny. Spent about 1½ hrs gardening then came in to make scones, cookies and the evening meal. Did mending and knitting in the evening. Am rather concerned because my muscles all seem to be getting progressively weaker and liable to cramp, so have decided to go back on to Food Reform – but not be so diet conscious (i.e. in amount) as last summer.

Sat 30 April:

Michael and I went down town. I bought a dressmaker's 'dummy' which will be delivered next week – I am hoping it will be worth the £6 I paid for it. It seems a lot of money. Home and did some cooking and made lunch. It was a beautiful day so Michael Paul and I did gardening. Andrew played Subuteo with friends morning and afternoon. Granny Bridges came up to say goodbye before going to Sicily tomorrow. Did some correspondence, knitted etc after evening meal (the students were out).

Sun 1 May:

Another lovely warm sunny day. Went to Meeting and Preparative meeting, then after lunch Rosemary Barr came (Mrs Wooster having brought her) and we sat in the garden. Michael went to bed to rest, having washed his mack and done some photography in the morning. About 4 Caroline came and we all had tea. Rosemary was fetched about 5.20 but Caroline and the boys went up in the park and didn't come back till 6 or so, when Caroline went back to school. TV was quite good – a bit about George Fox and then a film about chimpanzees, in the wild. Paul went later to the Regency Ballroom with friends.

Mon 2 May:

The usual busy Monday with housework, shopping washing etc. It was warm and sunny again so I had lunch in the garden and read. After this I did some mending, pressing and writing, then did some extra cooking with the tea. Went to Writer's Circle in the evening at Miss Cass' house and it was well attended. Came home feeling stimulated as usual. Paul has heard he has failed his English Usage exam which is disappointing for him.

Tues 3 May:

Having done the house I wrote my mother. The Telefusion engineer called, but said there was merely a slight error on ITV which they would rectify. Went shopping, and after lunch and a rest, did the ironing and some cooking. I accompanied Michael up to Combe Down to see Dr Carr, as he wanted me to back him up about various complaints. Dr Carr reckoned the trouble was due to overweight and gave him some pills which the chemist said would have him dancing round like a ballet-dancer in no time! Home, knitting and TV. Had a bath.

Weds 4 May:

Did the house and then did a little shopping on my way to 45 Rivers St where I was to have a cervical smear test for cancer. I was a little apprehensive, but it was not bad at all – little discomfort and everyone very kind. Bought some more wool for my blanket then home, and prepared the evening meal as far as possible after an early lunch. Had a rest, then went to the Friends' working party at Rush Hill till 4.30. In the evening after our meal I went to see Rosemary Barr, and Michael kindly kept me company. Home to do mending. A documentary on the Peace Movements which was very good.

Thurs 5 May:

Did the housework and washing, and wrote a couple of letters, then made lunch. Miss Stone joined me at 12.30 and we had a pleasant two hours conversation. When she had gone I wrote another couple of letters and want to post (twice, because one was an after-thought). Made tea, but Michael who had spent the afternoon at a photography exhibition at the Octagon, didn't come home until between 7.30 and 8! He had forgotten the time. Did ironing and a little knitting, TV etc. Paul and Andrew watched a football match on TV.

Fri 6 May:

Did the housework and went shopping. Did a little writing when I returned then made lunch and Aase joined me at 12.30. We had a pleasant meal and conversation until 2pm when she left to catch her train. She was on her way back to Nigeria. When she had left and I'd washed up I spent the afternoon cooking. By 7, after washing up the evening meal, I was quite glad to sit down and read the paper. Washed my hair later and knitted. TV.

Sat 7 May:

Michael and I went down town. While Michael was at Desmond Tripps I went to the Reference Library and read the British Vegetarian. Met Miss John afterwards then went onto meet Michael at Bowes and Bowes and we had coffee. After lunch I gardened. Andrew went to watch a football match and then did a puppet show on Odd Down in the evening. I knitted, TV etc. We expected the people to collect some things for an Oxfam sale, but they didn't come.

Sun 8 May:

We woke rather early for a Sunday and read. Michael was eager to get up and had his bath about 8 o'clock. Went to Meeting and on return found Michael had cleaned the electric fan in the kitchen and put some sealing strip near the sink. After lunch he seemed rather quiet. I went to collect Rosemary from Weston Lodge by bus and Caroline came. We talked and watched TV then had an earlyish tea, and as Michael seemed tired I went back with Rosemary. Caroline went back to her boarding house. Watched TV and knitted on returning and Michael was so tired he went to bed early. I am afraid these pills he has for slimming are beginning to wear him out.

Mon 9 May:

Felt very spiritless and Monday-morning-ish and am a little concerned at my many symptoms of tension in spite of efforts to reduce it. After doing the housework shopping and washing, I had lunch and decided to spend time on definite relaxation. Spent the afternoon working on the Oxfam blanket with the machine and then had another 15 mins relaxation (interrupted by the man from Telefusion) and later a man came to collect the things for the Oxfam jumble sale. Did ironing in the evening. Michael is still tired.

Tues 10 May:

Did the housework and short period of relaxation, then had Olive Hicks and Mrs Horsefield to coffee. We had a most pleasant chat. After lunch and another period of relaxation, went shopping and on returning, did some writing – finishing an adult story. I'm not quite satisfied with its ending, but I've decided to send it out, as it's been hanging about so long. After tea, David looked in and told us about two jobs he has applied for. I hope he gets one of them as he deserves a better Head. He left at 8, and Michael wrote letters and I knitted. Watched TV etc.

Weds 11 May:

House, and letter-writing after short Rx (relaxation). Had lunch and prepared evening meal as far as possible, then Rx again and went up to Rush Hill for the

weekly working party for Oxfam. Home and after the evening meal, visited Rosemary Barr in Weston Lodge. She is going home tomorrow but isn't too sure that she feels fit and able. I hope she feels better when the time actually comes. Home and made the usual evening drinks, talked and read evening paper. Bed to read about 10.

Thurs 12 May:

After housework and washing, had a short rx then had lunch and went shopping. Home about 3.30. Another rx and read then, after the evening meal, did the ironing. Michael was rather late home, and, as always when tired, was rather prone to go witch-hunting. Better by bedtime. Rosemary telephoned to say she was home. Have sent away for some more herb plants today.

Fri 13 May:

A much nicer day today so after housework and shopping did some gardening, and some more in the afternoon. Fitted in three R periods. Mending and reading in the evening and also rang Rosemary who said that she has a part-time job at the RUH on Monday, which is good. Bath and bed. The relaxation (or restoration, recreator, or what ever, they are) are going to be helpful I think.

Sat 14 May:

Michael and I went down town. We bought some scales so that we could see when we manage to lose weight! While I made the lunch Michael and Andrew mowed the lawn. Paul went to Woolley for the day. Michael and I rested in the afternoon while Andrew watched the Cup Final on TV. Did some gardening after tea. The milk was delivered very late. Knitted and watched. TV.

Sun 15 May:

Spoke at Meeting. The number there was few. After lunch I took Anna for the 1¼ hrs walk up via Horseshoe Walk, and across the field to the path behind Bathwick Hill and back via the canal. It was sunny and warm and I felt very peaceful. Rested after putting my wild flowers I had picked in water. When high tea was over we were expecting Rosemary and her daughter up, but she telephoned to say that she was going back into Weston Lodge tomorrow and wouldn't be coming. Washed my hair and knitted. TV was good – Meeting Point on mystics, ITV on Dag Hammershold and BBC2 on work with chimpanzees in Tanzania, followed by Dr Findlay [sic].

Mon 16 May:

A simply beautiful day and it seemed a pity to be in doing housework, but there was quite a bit to do and the washing before going shopping. Put leaflets in Christian Aid envelopes, typed a MS for tonight's exchange of them and then I

had window cleaners and Telefusion men and took Anna out to post. Fitted in three periods of relaxation. Went to Writer Circle in the evening and Elizabeth Stockley (Mrs Northmore) spoke to us on writing. She was most entertaining. Home about 10. Michael is very tired these days.

Tues 17 May:

Did the house and wrote part of my mother's letter. The gas man came and eventually found the leak reported last night. It was at the main tap and I'm rather perturbed about it, lest it happen again during the night when Glyn is asleep. The went shopping and met Barbara Stone for coffee at the Gay Heart. She gave me the minute book. Back for lunch, and after a second relaxation, caught a bus to Noad's corner and delivered Christian Aid envelopes for about 2 hours – it was more adventurous than I could have imagined. Went to Fran Longman who kindly gave me some tea. Bused home and in the evening did the ironing and wrote Rosemary Barr as I shall not now be able to visit her tomorrow.

Weds 18 May:

Had a rush to get on with breakfasts and work before 10 past 8 when a taxi picked me up to take Anna to Wellsway for teeth extraction. Walked to Widcombe for shopping then came home to complete housework and write my mother, also a rough draft for an article on house-to-house collections. Fitted in a couple of relaxation before 2.30 when I went to the working party at Rush Hill. After tea I knitted and mended and was going to collect Anna at 8, but they telephoned to say she wouldn't be ready until later. In the end I had to have a taxi both ways at 9.45. Anna was so excited when I fetched her that she wouldn't sit still in the taxi at all.

Thurs 19 May:

Glynn went off to London this morning for a few days. I did the house and washing and Colmers sent two men to estimate for Venetian blinds in the lounge and bedroom. After lunch Green's came to put a twin socket in Paul's room to replace the broken one. Telefusion were due to come but didn't. I re-wrote the article on house-to-house collection and having typed it out, sent it to the Guardian. Ironing in the evening and had a bath. Am still persevering with two or three periods of relaxation and meditation daily, and have returned more strictly to vegetarian food during the last month.

Fri 20 May:

Did the housework as quickly as possible and went shopping. Home and had lunch, then read for a short while, did some mending and baking and in the evening made some phone calls and did some knitting.

Sat 21 May:

Michael and I went down town shopping and for coffee as usual. Gardened in the afternoon and planted some new herbs. Michael had a rest. After tea Jo telephoned which was very nice of her, as she was only in Bath for the day. Michael and I then went up to Granny and Thea for supper, and we had a very nice meal and were told all about their Sicilian holiday. Granny was well on holiday in spite of hills and steps, but she hasn't been so good since she has been home, apparently.

Sun 22 May:

Went to Meeting and in the afternoon read, rested and fitted the dressmaker's dummy to myself – but couldn't finish the job because it needed a second person to fit the shoulders. After tea, knitted and watched TV. Michael doesn't seem contented at all.

Mon 23 May:

Usual housework and washing. Went shopping then had lunch with Paul, who came home after the first of his Geology A Level exams. Did notices for the Writer Circle and posted them. A gas man came and found a few infinitesimal leaks in the downstairs room. And a SWEB<sup>5</sup> man came and said a new door-interior would be put in our frig ... under guarantee, to replace the one which has suddenly cracked. Ironing and knitting in the evening. Glynn is doing very little this term like all 3<sup>rd</sup> years apparently, and he plays golf and some times goes home (to Bristol). John, on the other hand, is kept quite busy.

Tues 24 May:

Took my juicer and my electric beater down to Jolly's to be put in the next sale. I feel relieved that at last I have done something to put these 'mistakes' right. Shopping, and later Rosemary Barr came to lunch. We chatted and she left about 3. Usual relaxation and then started writing my mother before cooking tea, and some scones and a cake. Knitting in the evening. Andrew had to sell some Festival programmes in Southcot Place and St Mark's Rd for a master at school who is in the Round Table. He sold precisely 4!

Weds 25 May:

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<sup>5</sup> South West Electricity Board

House, letter-writing and shopping then in the afternoon went to the Friends working party at Rush Hill. Fran sold me some nice fresh eggs. Made some cookies while getting the tea. Knitting in the evening. Paul quite liked his practical geology exam and I feel so pleased. Andrew had heard that another boy is to be on Top of the Form.

Thurs 26 May:

Gleyn went off some where for the day today. His 'year' are doing very little work or time in College this term, which seems an awful waste of time and money somewhere. Having done the washing, went shopping. Sewed some lace on an old frock and after lunch and a second relaxation period as usual, took Anna and went to see Mr Sayers. Poor soul he is very arthritic in the hp now, and is pretty well confined to this house. Came home on a 17 bus at a 20 to 4 and did a little more sewing before getting tea. Ironing and knitting. Billy Graham has come to London on an evangelistic campaign. I don't really like his methods but in the interview on TV I think he came off better than his two critics. Paul only has to go to school for the remaining exams and a couple of school functions now.

Fri 27 May:

Paul had an additional day off from school – additional holiday given them. The students went home, Some men from Satchwell's came to attend to a valve on the boiler and men came from Telefusion yet again. While Paul played golf and chess with a friend I gardened and later made tea. I was appalled to find in my grocery order that 3 rashers of gammon were 5/6 and 3 slices of cooked pork were 8/3! No wonder my housekeeping isn't going round these days! I've told the family it will be lentil rissoles next week. Knitting in the evening.

Sat 28 May:

Went down town with Michael and it was v nice to be just the family and not restricted as to times of meals. I felt very angry which was such a waste of time but all day I had to wrestle with the feeling. Had a short rest after lunch, then gardened. Knitted in evening and TV. Michael was v busy working the garden and on the boiler – aggressively. There is not much harmony in the house.

Sun 29 May – Whit Sunday:

Michael fitted my dressmaking dummy for me. I didn't go to Meeting today as Michael seemed to have so many jobs I felt I should work too. While he worked on the boiler I gardened. Paul helped Michael but they didn't stop until 2.30 or 3 and then dealt with some ivy growing over the wall. At 4 we had some tea –

Michael's first sustenance since his orange juice at Breakfast! Knitting and TV in evening.

[End of old - and start of new - thick 'duplicate Memorandum' book]

Mon 30 May:

Whit-Monday and I treated myself to breakfast in bed (having laid the others') read and got up about 11 to do the washing and make lunch. It was a wonderful day and it seemed dreadful to be in but some dressmaking had been put off for so long I decided to get down to it – so much so that we didn't have tea until 6! Ironing TV and knitting in the evening. Glyn has returned but has lost the front door key and we have had to give him another. Michael has worked hard on odd jobs but also done some photography. I have written away for some plants (18/6 worth of perennials).

Tues 31 May:

Did the housework then went shopping on the early side. Back about 11, so typed a long letter out for Michael, then did a little mending and sewing. After lunch I had a rest, then did about 2 hours gardening. TV and sewing etc in the evening, then bath and bed on the early side. The sash cord in Glyn's room has broken and Michael spent much of the evening working on the boiler again. How unsatisfactory it is to spend so much time on stupid little maintenance jobs. It would be different if it was a pleasing job like painting or papering. I hate this central heating – it's been nothing but a load of trouble and cost over £600. I like to be warm but I'd prefer something much simpler even if it cost more to run. If I had my way I'd have all the radiators and boiler out and cut the losses.

Weds 1 June:

Did the house and shopping and then a man came from Ideal and put the boiler right (so that there are no longer fumes). Telefusion brought a set for us to borrow until Monday and compare it with ours. Wrote my mother in the afternoon and Granny Bridges and Rosemary Barr called about 5 for a short while. Sewing in the evening.

Thurs 2 June:

Andrew's birthday. Another fairly sunny and dry day. David Easton came over for the day to be with Andrew. Paul did revision and odd things. I went shopping after doing the washing, I had iced Andrew's cake and then, when lunch was over, I had a short rest and men came about the TV and the gas. Boy! Am I fed up with 'men'! Did some sewing. In the evening ` I did ironing and we watched TV

but Michael was so tired that he was most niggly and it wasn't very birthdayish for Andrew.

Fri 3 June:

Beautifully hot. Did house and shopping. Andrew took sandwiches and went out for the day. Paul and I had lunch about 12.30 then I had a rest and did some dressmaking. Michael returned home about 4, as he rather sensibly told them at work he felt over-tired. Did some watering and more sewing in the evening and the Telefusion man called again.

Sat 4 June:

While reading in the Friend about the forthcoming National Health week I suddenly thought how good it would be if Weston Lodge had a 'Friends of WL' group! Having thought this, my mind immediately tried to dismiss it, as it does all ideas, as being for someone else to bring about, but then I thought I should be tough with myself. It was not a big thing to do. I must do what I could. During coffee in town with Michael, I broached the subject with him. He was in a co-operative mood but said he would write Dr Guirdham and I mustn't hurry and make a start this next week as I had hoped, as everything must be done properly. (I had thought of phoning the Matron, then writing a letter for the paper to appear in National Health week). Michael is still very tired and I didn't find him easy to discuss anything with today. Rested after lunch. Went into town to buy some lace and at last finished my frock I am making Washed my hair, knitted, TV etc in evening.

Sun 5 June:

Went to Meeting and stayed for preparative meeting. After lunch I wrote a couple of letters and then Michael and I read and rested. After tea I went up to Combe Down to the Bowman-Beers where Hilda talked on her recent attendance at a National ecumenical congress and Harold played some 'ecumenical' music. Barbara Stone talked to me on the phone. Poor Michael very boorish tonight.

Mon 6 June:

It was a rushed morning – housework and washing and some complaints to make on Michael's behalf. I found it difficult not to be aggressive as I am so tired of 'making complaints' and having 'men calling' for this and that. Still, Paul is a great companion and reconciler! Rested after lunch. Bristol Wireless came with a substitute TV but Telefusion and the Gas Board didn't come (although due). Went to Writer Circle at Mrs Hicks'. There were 16 of use and it was, as usual, most exhilarating.

Tues 7 June:

Didn't sleep at all well as had "itchy feet" probably as a result of the hot humidity yesterday, and being on my feet a lot. In the end I had to pinch and squeeze them until they hurt and this relieved the condition some what. Michael didn't sleep well either, and isn't at all well. Did the house and wrote my mother, then went shopping. After lunch and a rest I did some watering and 'light' gardening, then revised and re-typed an article. Paul revised. Did the ironing and some knitting in the evening. Telefusion collected their set after being reminded, and the Gas Board said they'd come tomorrow when phoned.

Weds 8 June:

Did the house and made a slight alteration to my new frock. Went shopping, then, after lunch with Paul and a read and a rest I did some watering and revised a story. Knitted etc in the evening.

Thurs 9 June:

Hurried through the work and washing as had a hair appointment. Came home for an early lunch with Paul, then he went off to school to take an A Level biology exam which he later said he didn't think was too bad. I had a rest and did dressmaking, then ironing and more sewing in the evening. A documentary on the atom bomb made you think It is thundering at present and the storm is quite welcome in the garden.

Fri 10 June:

House and shopping then did the finishing touches to my dress – it has certainly not gone easily. After lunch a read and a rest I planted some plants I had ordered and did some watering. Made two cakes some cookies, scones and a pudding for tomorrow before making the evening meal. The gas man came at last to grease the main tap, but he wouldn't look for the boiler leak as it wasn't his department! Mending and more watering then an early bath. Am fairly tired because last night Anna woke us up with violent scratching, the knocking of her paw on the box made us think someone was at our door. After this neither of us could get to sleep and Michael felt giddy and ill. We were awake over an hour.

Sat 11 June:

It is still very oppressive. After breakfast I prepared the family's cold lunch then after a short wait, met Granny Bridges at the station and we went up to London having sandwiches on the train. We took a bus to Victoria and met Thea, and later John and Mary, at Overton's. We went and looked at Westminster Cathedral to pass away a little time, then went to the flat in Ashley Gardens. It was a splendid afternoon, meeting the relatives and in particular Hugh & Jane\*

(\*Hamilton) and their three children. We left at 10 to 5 but were delayed as the taxi broke down. Fortunately they got another fairly quickly and John and Mary came with us to Paddington. We had splendid 1<sup>st</sup> class seats (designated 2<sup>nd</sup> class temporarily) back to Bath. Spent evening watching TV etc.

Sun 12 June:

Went to Meeting but it was quite wet. The storms have cleared the air. After lunch I typed a letter for Michael then we had a rest. Did mending knitting and watched TV in evening.

Mon 13 June:

Hurried to clean the house and do the washing then the Mayo-Smiths and Rosemary and her son, Richard, came so we had coffee. Paul stayed at home to get the evening meal and revise. I was sorry to leave him. The rest of us went by car to Bristol, over the suspension Bridge and on to Portishead where we had our picnic lunch. After this we came back to the new centre at Bristol for the three boys to go iceskating. Rosemary skated too. We left about 20 to 5 and came back to Rosemary's for a lovely tea with strawberries and cream, then we watched TV. Rosemary had to go to a coffee party, but she left early so that she could take me home and the Mayo-Smith boys back by 8.45 to Monkton Combe. Did a little knitting and watched TV. Panorama was about the war in Vietnam. It makes it even more imperative that we have a United Nations 'peace-keeping' force and an effective reconciliatory body to deal with problems between nations. Such bloodbaths of vehement hate as the Vietnam war are perfectly frightful, and it is difficult to see how two wrongs can make a right, or how such Satanic forces as the Americans are using can overcome the devilish devices of the Communists. Only something good can, in the long run, overcome evil, surely.

Tues 14 June:

A whole lot of complaints and commissions for Michael again – some necessary and I would willingly have done many more, but some so unnecessary. Constantly I turn unreasonable demands into what I consider to be reasonable ones, but I feel the strain of this continuous pressure. Did the house and shopping, then Paul and I had a pleasant lunch. He is such good company. Had a rest, then spent the afternoon working on my dress again as it still doesn't satisfy me. Michael came home very tired again as two of the staff were out and he had been very busy. We had the strawberries he had treated us to yesterday. Did the ironing and wrote a letter.

Weds 15 June:

Paul had 2 A Level exams this morning and so when everyone had left and I'd done the house, I wrote my mother and went shopping. Paul didn't get home until 20 to 2 so we had a late lunch, then I had a rest and started writing an article for Monday's Writer Circle. There were only the four of us for supper as John had an evening lecture and though I expected Glyn he didn't turn up. Read and watched TV in the evening but felt a little restless.

Thurs 16 June:

Did the house and washing, then went shopping. Paul had another A Level exam. We had lunch together then I had a rest and wrote during the afternoon. After tea, I did some watering and then the ironing. TV mending etc. Michael was slightly better tonight I thought.

Fri 17 June:

Paul had another exam this morning so I did the house and went shopping. We had lunch together and after a rest I did some typing – only to find that the story had been miscounted when I first wrote it in winter, so it was 300 words too short for Morning Story. I don't think I shall be able to find another market, so I don't know what I shall do. Colmers men came and fixed our Venetian blind in the lounge. After tea we watched TV and I did a little writing. Michael mended a sash cord in Glyn's room. We didn't get to bed until 11.30.

Sat 18 June:

John went off to London this morning until tomorrow evening and Glyn went away yesterday for the weekend. Andrew and I went down town to get him some trousers and a shirt, and we also had an ice and bought Michael a present for Father's Day tomorrow. Home to make some cakes and lunch, then after a very short rest went up to Franceys Longman's for the F.O.R. garden party. Returned in time to get tea by 6, then read and watched TV in evening, bath and read my book.

Sun 19 June:

Rose a little later than usual, having woken late, and went to Meeting where several Friends spoke. After lunch I did some gardening and then had a read and rest. After tea, Granny and Thea came, but the TV was interesting so we didn't talk and see their transparencies until about 6.45. They left a half an hour later and I knitted, with TV on as usual etc.

Mon 20 June:

Did the usual housework and washing and it was gone 11 by the time I went shopping. After lunch with Paul, I had a rest then worked on entries for Guide

Writer's badge and Paul helped. Had another brief 'relax' after tea while Michael went to the doctor, then met Olive Hicks to go to Writer Circle at Mrs Horsfield's. There were eleven of us – not so many as usual, but holidays and the Festival are upon us. We read articles connected with Bath (past or present).

Tues 21 June:

Having done the housework, I did the ironing, as I had to be out tonight as well as last night. Bristol Wireless came again to correct the TV set and the men were rather fed up and defensive. They have improved it, but BBC2 is still unstable. They recommend we have a new set (£15 + fresh contract of 10/- or so a week), but the set is only about 2½ years old. I wrote my mother, then Paul and I had lunch and I had a rest. In the afternoon the Ideal man came (though we hadn't heard he was coming and had been told we would) and now the boiler seems to be OK. Went into Widcombe shopping. After tea I went to Guide HQ to take Writer's badge and was home soon after 8. Watched 'Brief Encounter' on TV (and old film that was rather good). Knitting and bed.

Weds 22 June:

After I had done the housework I did a little clearing out of my MSS and went shopping. When I returned I went on with this as Paul had his Biology practical exam and didn't return until 1.15. We had lunch and I had my rest period, then went through some more old MSS. It will take me quite some time as there is a lot of old stuff to be destroyed or re-written. Made some cookies and the tea, then washed my hair in the evening and read and knitted. Michael has been noticeably better since Monday, when one of the new staff 'walked out'.

Although this caused extra work, Michael is pleased that the powers that be will realise conditions are bad for this is the second new person to do this. The doctor was also helpful on Monday, and his new pills at the moment make him feel energetic and talkative (they are stronger slimming pills).

Thurs 23 June:

Housework and washing then went shopping, and I saw the model of Bath at the Reference Library. My! how gushing was the lady in attendance there! I also saw Peter Coard's exhibition of drawing on "Vanishing Bath", which I thought very good. After lunch I had a longer rest than usual because Michael was awake much of last night, and I was kept awake too. Then he had to catch the 7.15 train so we had to get up a good half hour earlier than usual. Did a little writing, then Betty Plowright rang me up and offered me a temporary job at the Nursery. I feel pleased about it as 9.30 till 2.30 is a reasonable time for a

matter of weeks and Michael, although not overpleased is at present not saying 'no'. Did ironing in the evening, TV mending and knitting.

Fri 24 June:

Decided to try fitting in my housework and shopping around a 6 hour central 'break' (for writing etc) to see how I get on keeping what would be the nursery working hours (plus travelling time). Today I finished the housework by 9, and the shopping by 11, then apart from Paul's and my lunch, and a 30 mins rest, I wrote (revised old MSS) from 11 till 5. Knitting in evening and TV. Michael didn't go to sleep until after 12 last night (in spite of two sleeping pills) and was awake before 6. He talked about his work until 6.45 and during breakfast, but I am glad to find tonight he is a little less wound up. He was so energetic last night he cleaned a part of the oven for me. Tonight he studied photography.

Sat 25 June:

Michael woke up before 5 and was so restless I suggested making tea. At 7 he got up but I didn't rise until the usual Saturday time of 7.45. After breakfast Michael and I went down town and investigated the possibility of hiring a TV set elsewhere than Bristol Wireless. Eventually we called at the Bank and on getting a statement were horrified to find we were nearly £30 in the red. Apart from special times when we have asked for a temporary overdraft in certain circumstances, this has never happened before. And although it was a slight shock to Michael I felt it very deeply – especially as in April we had nearly £200 and I just couldn't think where it had gone. It seems it has gone in amounts both big and small to Desmond Tripp. I am glad that a salary cheque is due in a day or two. Michael is feeling tired tonight. He went to his mother for lunch to meet Sylvia and her husband and while I knitted and watched TV read etc he worked for the Board in the study, wrote letters etc. The boys had a short walk with Anna, but it was wet most of the afternoon. – Such a pity, as the students had their open day at College and there were other functions in town.

Sun 26 June:

Michael slept much better last night. We had tea about 7 and read. He was very open in speech – about P.O.W. life etc during breakfast. I went to Meeting and Betty Plowright seemed pleased that I could work temporarily at the Nursery. Glyn left this morning, Newton Park having finished (for 1yr and 3yr students). After lunch we put some selective weed-killer on the lawn and did some other gardening, then had a rest. Watched TV in the evening and knitted. By tuning BBC2 to another 'button' Michael has managed to make it stable (at present any way).

Mon 27 June:

John left this morning. Andrew was home because he had a Latin exam this afternoon. Having done the housework and washing I went into Widcombe to do some shopping. Did some telephoning and had a short rest, then made lunch. I heard that I was to start at the nursery tomorrow so had to go to the new Crown building about an Insurance card. Also went to Library, then on to Laura Place for a NCW Meeting to which Granny had asked me – to hear Dr Fairbirn, the local child psychiatrist, talk on The Autistic Child, and to show a film. I ricked my ankle slightly this morning, while walking down the hill, and this afternoon it became rather painful. I'm hoping it will be better by tomorrow. Did the ironing in the evening, knitting TV. Paul went off to Portishead today. Michael is very tired and rather disgruntled tonight.

Tues 28 June:

I was a bit nervous about starting work at the Nursery today, but I needn't have worried. I got the housework done in good time and left at 5 to 9. I found myself making breadcrumbs and custard, coating fish for frying, laying up trolleys making sandwiches, and hanging out washing, drying up tec. It was pleasantly unresponsibile and the staff sociable. I left at 2.30 and did some shopping, getting home at 3.30 when I wrote a letter and a postcard. Granny Bridges brought some strawberries (Andrew met her, to save walking the whole hill). Michael put some efficient side locks on the downstairs window in the evening while I knitted TV etc and bath.

Weds 29 June:

Hurried through the housework and prepared Andrew's lunch etc. He was home this morning as he had a Latin exam this afternoon. Wasn't so nervous about the work today and so took it a little easier, but at times the jobs have to be done in quite a rush. Went shopping when I left at 2.30 and on reaching home made a cake and some biscuits before getting tea for Michael Andrew and myself. TV mending and reading, but felt very sleepy.

Thurs 30 June:

I got a wriggle on' this morning and not only did the housework , but the washing and some shopping too before catching the bus at 9.5. I have seriously considered apply for a full-time job at the Day Nursery, which is being advertised, but when I heard the hours I decided it would interfere with our routine too much and make the others wait too long for the evening meal. I would like to have this, or another part-time one, though, instead of having students. A lovely sunny day and we had lunch in the garden. Met Olive Hicks on

the way home and we had a chat. Had a short rest and did the ironing. After tea we did some gardening, then watched TV knitted etc.

Fri 1 July:

Did quite a lot of housework and wrote a card to Paul who sent us a very nice letter (I've now forwarded to Mummy). Went to the nursery and it was, as usual a pretty busy morning. We finished the washing up late and had to polish the changing room in the dinner hour. Lovely sunny day. Walked into town and sent a present off to Auntie Iris for her birthday. Met Mollie Day. She is arranging for her mother to go into Bailbrook House for a short while to give her family a little relaxation. I'm sure she is doing right. Washed my hair, read, TV etc in the evening. I think I shall buy a book reviewed in tonight's paper on Non-violence, by a Father Regency or some such name. I think he sounds a John Woolwich among pacifists and some one with whom I would feel in tune.

Sat 2 July:

Michael and I went down town shopping (as usual on a Saturday). It was lovely to feel we didn't have to hurry back for a punctual lunch, we no longer having students. It was a hot, rather sultry day. The Friends had their garden party, but I had said I wouldn't be going as we were expecting friends of Michael's from Bristol. When they cancelled the visit I decided not to change my mind about the Garden party, as I have to be out next Saturday in any case. I therefore spent the afternoon writing, and in the evening played a game with Andrew, watched TV etc. Paul returned and he looked very well.

Sun 3 July:

Went to Meeting and stayed for Preparative Meeting. After lunch Bobby came. Michael was rather 'off' today, which was a pity with Bobby here, but we all chatted in the garden while Michael did some work indoors and after tea Granny and Thea came and we talked until about 7.15 when they left. I walked to the station with Bobby and took Anna. Later we had supper and watched TV. Did a little mending. I am seriously thinking of writing a kind of subjective autobiography in the present tense. When Mrs Boardman asked me to think about it I didn't think much of the idea, but my mother, too, is enthusiastic, so I am pondering over the idea. Shall I, I wonder, write it in the third person to avoid saying 'I'? But how, one wonders, would anyone else know every thought of the child? I think I shall have to write in the first person.

Mon 4 July:

Another busy day as there was housework and washing to do at home before going to the Nursery and I found the cleaner (Mrs Bolwell) was away with a

dermatitis of the hands, so we were especially busy. I left a little late, and went to the Library and did some shopping. (Paul looked after himself all day.) Home, and laid tea, then had a half an hour's quiet before finishing the tea. Rosemary came for a late tea and took us all up to the American Museum where the Circle had a private conducted tour. Afterwards we took our thermoses of coffee home as it was too chilly for a picnic and we should have been cramped in the car. It was another warm day, but at times overcast and humid.

Tues 5 July:

Wrote a couple of letters including one to Newton Park to say I wouldn't be able to have a student this September after all. I hope I won't regret this more, and that I shall be able to get a part-time job. A busy day at the Nursery again, and about lunch time a heavy storm broke the hot dry spell of weather. Did some shopping on the way home, then wrote my mother. We had tea then I did the ironing. My! I am still enjoying having the house to ourselves, and the novelty of going out to work. Bath and bed.

Weds 6 July:

Squeezed a finger in the Nursery gate this morning which was annoying. They told me they'd like me to carry on for a bit as they still had staff problems, and I'm rather pleased. I wish I found it as easy to converse as most of the others do – I must seem a bit unsociable yet I like them all. Did some shopping on the way home, and Paul and I chatted etc. Made tea then made an inventory of the silver for insurance purposes. Andrew returned from a day's outing with the school history society to Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight and HMS Victory. He seems to have had a good time. To bed on the early side.

Thurs 7 July:

Did the washing and housework, then to the Nursery where Matron was in London for the day. We had strawberries and cream for lunch. Was rather late leaving as no one came in from the nurseries to help with the washing up after lunch. On the way home I met the old lady who keeps an allotment on Beechen Cliff and she kept talking so that I couldn't get away from her for over half an hour. She is very wonderful for her age though. Had a rest, then made tea. Paul had had two friends to lunch and went to the school sports this afternoon. He came 5<sup>th</sup> in the mile race. The Liverpool London and Globe man came about the house insurance, but it seems we have to get a valuer in. Did the ironing, then wrote a letter, read and watched TV. Bed about 11.

Fri 8 July:

Learnt today at work that they want me to stay on until Sept (except for the two weeks at the end of August) and so I feel quite pleased. I was paid for my first four days work and received £4-8-2 (less 6d insurance). It was hot again today, though mostly overcast. Went to Bank and shops on the way home and after a rest, made some cakes and a cake for Monthly Meeting tomorrow. Washed my hair in the evening and Paul went golfing with Stephen Kurle.

Sat 9 July:

We got up on the late side, which was pleasant, then Michael and I went down town. After lunch I went to Monthly Meeting here in Bath. The catering committee were in a bit of a dilemma as the gas was turned off at the main and couldn't be obtained even by the Gas Board. They borrowed electric kettles and did their best, but the meeting didn't finish until 5.25 so I came straight home and I didn't stay for tea. Read, watched TV and did a little writing in the evening. Bed about 10.30 to read.

Sun 10 July:

A fine morning and Andrew went with Granny and Thea to visit Kenneth for the day. Went to Meeting, then back for lunch. Did a little writing then had a rest. After tea we watched TV and it was quite good. Michael and Paul took up the carpets in the basement room today and Michael was busy with many jobs, but he does it all from an inner restless compulsion and doesn't seem at all happy.

Mon 11 July:

Did a quantity of housework before going to work and found that the cook, Mrs Hunt, was back. Betty (Matron) was understandably strict with her as it is felt that she has been casual and neglectful about her sick leave. I rather doubt if she will stay now. But this won't affect the nursery adversely. It was a relatively easy day instead of the usual rush. Shopped on the way home, rested, read and made supper. Mended in evening, wrote etc. Paul had a school-leaver's service at the Abbey and went to school. Andrew heard he was top in the English exam and 4<sup>th</sup> in French. The final phase of the Soccer World Cup matches started in England today.

Tues 12 July:

Did the washing before going to work. Found that Mrs Hunt (the cook) had telephoned to say that she wasn't coming in and was going to see the MoH. I hope Matron won't get into any trouble as it has been very difficult for her. The result may be that Mrs Eaves will be cook and I can continue at the Nursery. Did a little shopping on the way home, then Paul and I visited Miss Wigley at Paradise House. It was interesting seeing her flat (which we had in the early

part of 1948) and the garden, which is a delightful one. She gave Paul some bark of the Judas tree she had been given. It is very old. We went home for tea, then I did the ironing and wrote my mother while Michael went on trying to find a solution to the damp wall in the lower room. He is making a hole for a ventilator.

Weds 13 July:

Prepared the top room for Michael Stagg's visit tomorrow, and did some polishing then went to work. It was a pretty hectic day. Mrs Eaves must get very tired at the end of the day as she has so much to do and think about at once. Did some shopping on the way home and wasn't back until after 4. Had a rest, then made some scones and cakes and the evening meal. Did various jobs and mending in the evening, bath and bed. Paul has answered an advertisement for help in a garden at Radstock for 3 weeks.

Thurs 14 July:

Did the washing and made the sandwiches for Paul and Michael Stagg's day out as well as Andrew's usual ones for school. The Nursery was still quite busy. Did a little shopping on the way home, had a rest, then finished typing an article. Made tea. Paul and Michael returned for their tea after we'd finished, having had a quite successful fossil hunt. I did the ironing and some mending. TV wasn't very good.

Fri 15 July:

Paul and Michael went off for their last (they hope!) day at school. Hurried from the Nursery just after 2.30 and managed to get to Lloyds and the TS Banks before 3. Did some shopping and home to make a cake and some scones. Had a rest and made tea. Paul, Michael (Stagg) and Stephen were unable to go for their picnic this afternoon as it was raining so they had tea with us then Michael caught a train to go home and Paul and Stephen saw him off. I read, washed my hair, did some writing and watched TV knitting etc. I have started to write about my childhood in the present tense. I don't know if it will come to anything.

Sat 16 July:

Michael and I did various shoppings in the town. I picked up the book I ordered a fortnight ago and paid the electricity bill out of the TSB a/c, but found our joint a/c was down to £11.10.0 to last until the end of the month, and we cannot pay Colmers' bill for the Venetian blinds. I could put matter right from my a/c, but it may be better for us to scape along. Wrote eight letters in the afternoon

and had a pleasant read and watched TV later in the evening. I feel ashamed of the weeds in the garden and must try and to something about them tomorrow.

Sun 17 July:

Made tea quite early this morning and read, then, just as Michael was getting up about 8, he started talking about problems, and feeling this was a good thing, and that I shouldn't cut him short, we conversed eventually until 11, and I didn't go to Meeting. After lunch I watched "Let's Face Facts" and then did some gardening until it rained and I came in to read. Watched TV knitted and sorted out some cards for the nursery in the evening. Paul went with Stephen to the Regency Ballroom. Michael felt very scratchy today and has the feeling that he dare not stop doing something. [sic -??]

Mon 18 July:

Had quite a lot of housework to do before going to work. I still feel very slow compared with most of the others, and cannot bring myself to hurry slowly, as it were. I get much too tense, and constantly have to remind myself to stop being anxious about my slowness. Walked back into town today, did shopping and was home about 20 to 4. Had a rest, then typed out some children's poems of mines as I thought I'd like to have them in a home-made book. Paul played golf with Stephen. They had tea out, then went back to Woolley. After tea we watched TV. I made the photograph album up to date. There was a TV programme on Airships and some of the disasters really made me feel sick. Why they affected me so much I don't know.

Tues 19 July:

It was much cooler today and rained much of the day. Walked back from the Nursery, shopping en route. And wrote a letter to my mother before getting tea. Did the ironing in the evening, having done the washing early this morning. Afterwards I read the paper and sorted out some photographs. Tired tonight, because Michael woke about 3.30 this morning and after this I was plagued with thoughts of the airship disasters and didn't sleep well.

Weds 20 July:

Another chilly rainy day. I feel sorry for the nurses at the Nursery as nearly every one either has a problem or is under par in health. One has a mother in hospital having had 4 heart attacks in a matter of weeks and a father in another hospital. Another is away with tonsillitis, another is recovering from a sore throat, another two feel sick and have monthly pains and another had to go home with a monthly pain. Today yet another was feeling very tired. Her ex-husband hadn't sent her her money. She looked in a daze. Yesterday, one, who is

getting married in September heard her 'new' house will have to be completely rewired before then. Sister doesn't look too well after a heavy cold, and Matron is so worn out she is thinking of having a day off on Monday. Since the cook (who has just left) had high blood pressure and the cleaner – exzema, I'm thinking that this isn't a very healthy place! Walked into town and did the usual shopping, had a rest, then made some scones, some cakes and the tea. Typed out some of my poems in the evening, TV etc. Andrew's first day of school holiday.

Thurs 21 July:

Washing, then to work at the Nursery. Try as I may I find it still difficult not to hurry faster than my 'machine' was meant to go, and consequently to become tense. It is rather fun trying. Walked home, and by the afternoon, it was beautifully fine. Had a rest and did some cooking, also a little typing. After tea, did the ironing and read the paper. There was an interesting programme on the fostering of Nigerian children. The measures Mr Wilson is taking to combat the economic situation are not, to my mind, sufficient! We are in a bad way, and we should realise it and make greater sacrifices to put matters right.

Fri 22 July:

'Big housework' day before work as usual. It was a beautiful sunny day and I walked back through Henrietta Park and ordered some coal for the winter and went to the Library. Paul had a bonfire and he is also busy cleaning some fossils. Andrew had made some Victorian Prussian soldiers by cutting off the heads of one set of soldiers (plastic) and sticking them on the bodies of others, then painting them. I had a rest, then made tea and some cakes. Washed my hair etc in the evening and made sandwiches for the boys to take to Weston tomorrow etc.

Sat 23 July:

The boys went off to Weston today to stay the night with Bobby. It was a lovely day so I expect they are having a good time. Michael and I went down town, and we met Rosemary Barr. Michael left us talking. He says his tummy isn't too good and it has not had a good effect on his temperament either! Did some gardening after lunch, but it was so hot I came in and rested and Michael did too. We had tea, watched TV had a light supper, then I typed out some work, while Michael wrote letters etc. Just before going to bed Michael really cracked and became violent. I must have been very provoking to him and I felt unforgiving and resentful, instead of fully understanding.

Sun 24 July:

Went to Meeting as usual, and Michael and I rested and read all the afternoon as it was wet. Granny and Thea called to see us about 5.15 and we had a cup of tea together. Watched TV and shortened a dress. The boys returned about 8 and I had a bath before getting the evening drinks. Michael is better for his rest but he needs much more. We have cancelled our hotel accommodation in London.

Mon 25 July:

The usual Monday morning hurry to get the house clean before going to work, and in spite of there being some children out, Mrs Eades and I worked non-stop, pausing only to eat our lunch, I am, however, just a little better at being a "quick tortoise" rather than a tortoise pretending to be a hare! (With resulting tension and hence inefficient performance!) Did some shopping on the way home and after a rest, made some cakes and scones and cooked the supper. We were expecting a man from Jolly's at 5.30 to do a valuation for insurance, but he didn't turn up. Paul had a dental appointment this morning but his teeth were sound. He, a friend and Andrew went up on Hampton Rocks for lunch and Andrew came back for tea, but Paul came back about 9.30, having found 10 or so golf balls, as well as some fossils. I did some typing out of verse, and to bed about 10.

Tues 26 July:

Did the washing and was very cross with Paul, who came down with some dirty things just as I was finishing, and the water was 'murky'. This is the second or third time he has forgotten. I can understand because I'm forgetful myself, but I just couldn't let the matter slip. It was an easy-going day at the nursery. We were never idle, but had enough time for every job. Walked into town, did the shopping and went home to write my mother. Had a very short rest, then made tea and did the ironing. There was most exciting World Cup semi-final on TV and England beat Portugal 2-1.

Weds 27 July:

Wrote a letter to Mary Hare and sent a birthday card to John, housework etc then to the nursery. Walked back to town in the afternoon, shopping, rest and cooked tea. Put the ironing away and did mending in evening. TV fair. Had a dream last night that I was guiding a small motor boat. I was guiding it at the front by the balance of my body. It was tricky but enjoyable. Then someone asked if they should take over, and I sat at the back of the boat. But the next thing I knew was that were going round the Circus and someone said "goodness! The police will fine us for being on a road in a boat. We must get back to the

water". I thought how smoothly we were travelling and wondered why it was wrong, but suddenly I realised that the sides of the boat were hot, and then I knew why boats couldn't go on roads. I called out "go slowly or the boat may catch on fire" but no one took any notice. I then saw that the driver was a very small child who was at the Nursery during the war. She was called Margaret and, like me, had very fair hair. Although still with the boat, I kept behind it as I was afraid of it getting overheated and still called out. But being only a child Margaret didn't understand. Then, fortunately, the boat reached the water safely. There was a dreadful sizzling or hissing sound, but no police saw, only some spectators. I think this dream denotes that I feel out of my element but the return must be slow.

Thurs 28 July:

When I boiled the first lot of washing this morning I foolishly included a black and white gingham apron which I thought had fast colours. It made everything blue, so I had to bleach them, and even now they are not very white. At the nursery we heard that Diane, who has worked in the kitchen before, will be working with us again in September in Mrs Bolwell's place. I am glad she won't be leaving (as she threatened to yesterday) for her children's sake. When I had done the shopping and come home, I had a rest, made scones and cakes and after tea, did the ironing and started making some little scrap books for the Nursery. The boys went to Granny Bridges and did some jobs, then she took them out to lunch which they much enjoyed.

Fri 29 July:

Heard this morning that Mary's family are going to stay with us next Wednesday and Thursday, so I started the preparations straight away. The boys later moved the spare bed in Paul's room to the top room, and they also mowed the lawn and moved a load of earth at the back onto the compost heap. When I left the Nursery I arranged with Powell & Powell to come and value our silver on Monday. I hope they will be more reliable than Jollys who have let us down three times without notification or apology. I bought Paul's train ticket and gave him some pants and a shirt, as he has a lot of clothes to buy just now and couldn't afford them. Washed my hair, read TV mending etc in the evening. Paul went with Stephen Kurle on a long run (about 9 miles).

Sat 30 July:

Michael and I went down town and ordered a few materials for dealing with the damp wall in the basement room. We did some other shopping then came home for lunch. Afterwards I had a chat with Paul, then gardened while the boys

watched the World Cup final which England won, and Michael rested. When it rained later, I also rested for an hour then we had tea at 5.45. After this I gardened again until it rained. Michael worked on the vent he is putting in the wall in the cellar. We watched a BBC2 documentary on spiritualism which was well done and was very interesting. I wrote my mother. Bed. Michael – tired and quick to feel, as it were, persecuted (about nothing).

Sun 31 July:

Went to Meeting as usual and rested in the afternoon. During the evening I watched Meeting Point – about a new report on divorce recommending that “breakdown of marriage” be the only grounds for divorce, because as the law stands now many “crimes” are committed just in order to produce evidence. I agree with this new report. Did the washing later, and cleaned the basement rooms, knitted, saw a documentary on HG Wells then bath and bed. This week, with visitors, a new temporary cook at the Nursery etc is going to be a rush, and will be quite a challenge to my attempt to follow my own natural rhythm regardless! I have made a little progress but still panic at times.

Mon 1 August:

I have had a most enjoyable birthday – many presents (mostly money) and having given the house a good clean, I went to the nursery while the boys were taken by Granny and Thea to Gloucester to see the Smarts. With Mrs Eades away, there was a temporary cook, Mrs Taylor at the Nursery. Apart from the fact that some of the apple Charlotte was burnt, we (or she) managed very well. Even this, I think, was due to the oven getting hotter than it should. Shopped on the way home then the man came to put a new door lining on the frig. The valuer came from Powell & Powell, I did the ironing and Michael came home early, so we all 4 had a cup of tea. When the men had left at 5.20 Michael and I went out to the Chinese restaurant for supper and on to the Odeon to see Jean Cousteau in his underwater work and also “Born Free” about Elsa the lioness. We have enjoyed the evening very much.

Tues 2 August:

Wrote four ‘thank you’ letters before going to work this morning, then, after leaving the nursery I did some shopping and having had a rest, made scones and two lots of cakes before preparing tea. Afterwards I made a stew etc for tomorrow, put away the silver after yesterday’s valuation, prepared Andrew’s room for a guest and made up his bed below. Put away the laundry, wrote another letter, did some mending and watched an interesting documentary on women on BBC2. I am wishing could start working for some exam or other in connection with my job, or nursery teaching or social work.

Weds 3 August:

Cleared the lounge and made last minute preparations for our visitors then went to the Nursery doing some shopping on the way. Broke a mug after lunch, but when I went to Colmer's to replace it they gave me one under guarantee which was fortunate. When I reached home, Jack Mary Geoffrey and Isabel<sup>6</sup> had arrived and we chatted, they garaged the car while I made tea, then in the evening Jack and Mary went for a walk and the children had a game. We got to bed about 11 and Michael is a little keyed up tonight.

Thurs 4 August:

Spent the first hour or two of the day seeing Paul off to Fowey, getting breakfast for our guests etc. After work I did some shopping, had a rest, then made tea. Jack and Mary came back some time after we had finished and had theirs on their own. We watched TV, and chatted. It was very pleasant and Mary looks better today.

Fri 5 August:

Jack, Mary and their children had to leave this morning, and planned to stay on Exmoor for the night before going on to Ilfracombe tomorrow. Andrew was on his own until I returned from work. After a rest, I made tea, then spent a very full evening washing and washing my hair, mending etc. I plan to take Andrew to Bristol to see "Sound of Music" tomorrow.

Sat 6 August:

It rained most of today. We all did some different shoppings in the town and had coffee, then Andrew and I went to Bristol. Having booked the seats for the film, we had lunch did some looking around the shops, then went to the Odeon at 2.30. I think Andrew quite enjoyed it and I was very happy to see it again. We came home about 7. Michael had had a cold lunch I had left for him as he hadn't wanted to come with us, and he began to re-cement and plaster places in the back porch and bottom room where he and Paul have been renovating. We had supper then I did some ironing. I do feel tired tonight.

Sun 7 August:

We didn't wake very early which is unusual for me and we didn't get up until 9.15. Went to Meeting. After lunch I gardened until 3.30 when I had a short rest, then Granny Bridges came to tea. Michael was very busy all day doing some cementing and we didn't have tea until 5.20. We watched an interesting Meeting Point on psychiatry and later, when I had done some ironing, there another good programme on the "internal clock" of humans and animals. The book I am just

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<sup>6</sup> I've no idea who these were, and have no memory of this visit.

finishing by Father Regamey on non-violence has been just what I needed to show me how to 'apply love'. Every difficult incident I now try to take as a bit of training and it's rather fun. Being out at work has made me feel much better than I did – I think I'm less nervous and my nails are beginning to grow.

Mon 8 August:

Did the housework and washing and went to work to find that Mrs Bolwell, the elderly cleaner was back at the Nursery and the work went very easily. Shopping and home to have a rest, start a letter, make tea etc. Spent most of the evening writing my mother and Paul (from whom we had letters this morning). Bath and bed.

Tues 9 August:

Michael had to catch the 7.15 train this morning as he was going to Dawlish for a meeting. I felt very tired when I arrived at work and continued to feel as if I hadn't slept last night – though of course I had. Mary Holroyd kindly sent Andrew £1 today, so we both wrote her. When I left the Nursery I went to both Libraries and did some shopping, then to the dentist where I found I had to have a tooth stopped. Home, and Andrew's friend, David Easton who had come for the day, left. Michael was a little late back and had to write up the Minutes. He is still doing them now at 11.30pm. I did the ironing and watched TV. I'm rather keen to do some study this autumn such as a correspondence course, but I suppose it would be silly in the circumstances. Granny telephoned to say that Diana and Douglas would like to have Paul to help them, so we telephoned Paul and he plans to go there on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Weds 10 August:

A relatively easy day at the Nursery, then shopping and home to bake some cakes and get tea. A man came to service the washing machine and put a new pulsator in. Helped Andrew pack in the evening, did odd jobs and wrote a letter. Bed about 10.

Thurs 11 August:

Andrew went off to Wales this morning. It was a horrid wet day and not at all holidayish. After had gone I found he'd forgotten his sandals so I posted them before going in to the nursery. Mrs Taylor, the temporary cook had a bad cold. Went to some shops on the way home and bought a lovely red cardigan I saw in a window (out of some birthday money). I had stripped some wallpaper from the wall in the basement room this morning and continued this evening. The SWEB<sup>7</sup> man came at 4 to adjust the cooker, but Michael reckons it is now worse!

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<sup>7</sup> South West Electricity Board

Andrew telephoned to say he had arrived at Sarn. Michael and I worked all the evening and am now sleepy.

Fri 12 August:

It was Mrs Taylor's last day of her temporary time at the Nursery. During the dinner hour I went with Betty to visit Stanley and Anne Salter. Hurried from the Nursery at 2.30 to get to two Banks etc etc before going home and doing the washing. After supper I wrote a letter and watched TV.

Sat 13 August:

When the post came we learnt that Paul had passed his A Levels (B and 2 Cs) so we telephoned to tell him. He was a little disappointed in the grades. Later Michael went into town and I did some errands in Widcombe then Thea took us to Swainswick where we left Tiffin and Anna with a Miss Bladwell for the week. The queue of cars was stationary on the Gloucester Rd so we went up a little way and back through Woolley and Charlcombe. Stephen Kurle telephoned to know Paul's address. He said he had only passed his Maths A Level and I felt so sorry I could have cried. He is such a dear, I hate to think of him being so disappointed. He is a brilliant boy too. We rested in the afternoon but Michael also did a lot of work on carpets and a floor in the basement. I did a couple of letters for him, and read, watched TV and also telephoned Whitehouse again. Michael Stagg has 2 As and a B so Mummy said Paul was even more gloomy about his results, but now when he hears of Stephen he will feel fortunate.

Sun 14 August:

Had breakfast about 10 and went to Meeting. Afterwards I met Michael and we went up to Springfield Place for lunch and tea as it was Thea's birthday. We rested in the afternoon but later Thea drove us over Lansdown and back along the lane through Upton Cheyney and home. Did the ironing in the evening and watched TV etc.

Mon 15 August:

We had a splendid coach trip today to Windsor via Andover and after lunch at the William IVth hotel we saw an Exhibition and also the St George's chapel. After an early tea we went to Maidenhead where we had a river trip to Marlow then back home via Marlborough.

Tues 16 August:

It was not exactly a satisfactory day, as Michael and I couldn't really agree. Last night we had had a long discussion re going to Swansea for a couple of days and eventually turned it down, so what were we to do instead? I wrote my mother and Andrew and then Michael and I went into town we had lunch at the

Indian restaurant at the top of Broad St then went home. Michael read indoors but it was so lovely I lay on the lawn. In the evening we worked a little on the downstairs wall, and I made some gingerbread and wholemeal rolls. Knitted. Bed. Tomorrow Michael wants to work on the wall, but as it is forecast fine, I want to go out somewhere. Am I being sensible or just obstinate?

Weds 17 August:

Another lovely sunny day, so as Michael wanted to do some cementing etc at home I did a little shopping and went to the Library, then caught a bus to Combe Down and wandered down Shaft Rd, along to Midford and nearly as far as Combe Hay, taking photos, looking for fossils etc. Found a place on the old railway to sit and read for a while. Then walked on up to Odd Down. I had taken my lunch with me but I was now very thirsty, so was obliged to get some tea in the Transport Café in upper Wellsway. On the way along Greenway Lane I saw Mr Ford cleaning Mr Lee's car and we chatted and he took me into see Mr Lee, who isn't too well these days. On my return I made some tea, and later some curry for supper (a Vesta meal). TV, wrote a letter, knitted.

Thurs 18 August:

After a latish breakfast and cleaning up the house somewhat, Michael and I went into town. We had elevenses at Fuller's then he went home to do more work, while I went to Victoria Park. It was beautifully sunny. I read, took photographs etc and having bought various food items, came home about 4. The window cleaners were here so I made us all some tea. Andrew returned just before 6, we had supper about 7.45 and Paul returned later. We all chatted, I telephoned Mary Hare in Wales\*(\*with whom Andrew had had the holiday), and we also watched TV etc.

Fri 19 August:

Another lovely day. We all went down town and we tried to find a suit for Paul. Eventually we ordered one at Alexandre for 18gns. When we went to the Bank to get the housekeeping we found the current a/c is now nil so by the end of the month we shall again be in the red and we still haven't paid the £26 odd for the valuation. I hate this sort of thing, and wonder if I should pay out of my TSB a/c – yet I want Michael to be realistic himself. If only he would plan with money more. After lunch I went up into Alexandra Park from about 2.30-5.30 and read a magazine. Andrew went to see a friend and Paul and Michael wrote letters and rested. After tea we watched TV. I knitted and washed my hair, bath etc. Have eaten mostly fruit today, as am slowly putting on weight and it's easier to go without starches in the hot weather.

Sat 20 August:

A lovely fine day again but very close. Went shopping and when I returned Thea and Aunt Ursula were here and had collected Anna and Tiffin for us. They were delighted to be back but looked very well cared for. We had a slightly special lunch and tea today in celebration of Paul's birthday (on Tuesday). I wrote some letters then had a rest. In the evening while Paul played golf with Stephen, I did the washing made sandwiches for Andrew's journey tomorrow etc.

Sunday 21 August:

Andrew went to Watchet for the day today to play Subuteo in the SW League. I went to Meeting while Michael and Paul spent the morning and part of the afternoon levelling a part of the back courtyard. I made a cake and later some Scotch pancakes, had a rest and did a little gardening. Then Granny, Thea and Aunt Ursula came to tea. When they had gone, Paul went to the Regency, while I did the ironing and some knitting. We expected Andrew back at 8, and when he wasn't here by 10.15 we decided to telephone. There was no reply and so we tried to make enquiries, but to no avail. Fortunately Andrew then arrived. He had been taken to Taunton by car to catch a later train and was then greatly delayed at Bristol.

Monday 22 August:

Granny Thea and Aunt Ursula took Paul up to Diana and Douglas today, where he is to stay for a fortnight helping there. Andrew went to Graham Hall for the day and Michael had an appointment at the Employment Exchange which proved fruitless. Meanwhile I bought two books Paul had asked me to get, and also bought a nice coat as planned, but at half the price expected, so also bought an alarm clock for Paul, and later in Bath, a new shopping bag. Michael and I had coffee, and later, lunch at John Lewis, then we came back and after a cup of tea, Michael went to see Dr Neubauer, as arranged. I went home and wrote Paul, then wrote my mother. Andrew is doing most of the housekeeping this week so I helped him with the tea. We saw his Subuteo contest on TV but unfortunately he wasn't in evidence. Did mending etc in the evening.

Tues 23 August:

It was fine all day and we had a splendid coach trip to Abingdon, by steamer to Oxford, lunch, then went to Blenheim Palace for the afternoon and later to Bladon. Stopped at Cirencester on the way home. Bought and wrote some postcards at Blenheim and also purchased a Capsicum plant with orange fruit. Home soon after 9 where Tiffin and Anna were very pleased to see us.

Weds 24 August:

We had breakfast about 9 and Andrew and I went shopping for food while Michael went shopping on his own. I bumped into Michael later when Andrew had

gone to see Graham Hall and we had a drink in Pam's bar before going home to a meal cooked by Andrew. Rested and read in the afternoon and Andrew successfully cooked a joint and roast potatoes and peas for supper (he made me a tomato and nut rissole). I made some plum and apple jam (fruit given me by Granny Bridges), then knitted. Later we looked at some new transparencies of Andrew's and Michael's. Went to bed just before midnight.

Thurs 25 August:

I was planning to go out with Rosemary today, but when it was discussed at breakfast time, Michael became very angry. We went into the study and I pleaded with him to see sense and not feel neglected every time I left him for a few hours, but he said I was patronising and stubborn which was true. Later he seemed quite himself again, but at supper-time utterly unrealistic once more. I learned that he has borrowed some money from Thea to help us out of our joint a/c difficulty, but nevertheless he bought a gadget for aerating the lawn, which surely couldn't have been necessary when there are two bills outstanding. Did some gardening after shopping in the morning, more gardening after lunch and a rest. Knitting in the evening. Andrew out with Graham.

Fri 26 August:

Andrew heard this morning that he had passed his Latin O Level. He only got a 6 which I think disappointed him, but still. We all went shopping and had coffee at the new café in Argyle St, Il Gondoliere. After lunch I did some gardening and had a rest and read. Andrew and I made cakes before the evening meal, then I typed accounts of dreams etc I have had as had a strong inclination to record them. Andrew also did some writing – he is trying to write a serial. Michael did some film-developing etc. We have heard that Ian has passed his 3 A Levels which is a relief. Francis has unfortunately got to take his Maths again but did very well in Physics and wasn't going to University this year in any case, being too young.

Sat 27 August:

We had breakfast about 9.15 then I did a big wash before going down town. The weather continues to be good, but it is cooler than last week. Did quite a bit of gardening after lunch then read and rested. In the evening did the ironing and some knitting. Andrew made the meals for us (with perhaps a little help from me) and did them very well. Michael printed some photos but he isn't easy company to be with at present, presumably because he doesn't like himself much, and is quite frankly worn out.

Sun 28 August:

We didn't get up until late – even for a Sunday, but I went to Meeting. Andrew gave us vegetables in a cheese sauce. After lunch I did some gardening until 3.30 then had a read and rest. We had an early tea as Granny and Thea collected us for a drive to a place near Wellow where we went for a walk and picked flowers and found one or two stones which may interest Paul. When we returned I wrote Paul, did some knitting and stayed up late watching TV as wanted to see the repeat of Meeting Point on Man's responsibility towards animals.

Mon 29 August (Bank Holiday):

The last day of our holiday and August Bank holiday too but it was pouring with rain so we had a late breakfast, then I did some 'research' work on herbs for my books, Andrew went to see a friend and Michael wrote letters etc. We read and rested in the afternoon, then, after tea, I did some gardening – moving most of my herbs into the back courtyard. Washed my hair, then watched TV and knitted.

Tues 30 August:

Did the housework and went back to the Day Nursery. Michael also started work again. I really quite enjoyed being back at work and as the kitchen was fully staffed we were not under any pressure. Did shopping on the way home then rested and did some typing. Knitted and watched TV in the evening. Was in touch with Rosemary but she didn't sound too good I thought. Michael seems unhappy and needing my constant attention.

Weds 31 August:

Wrote a letter to my mother before going to work and on my return did some shopping. Rested, then cleaned some trousers of Michael's (or tried to) and made a cake before getting tea. Did about 1½ hrs gardening in the evening as I wanted to put some netting round the herb garden, and put some compost out etc. The ground was pleasantly workable. Knitted and watched TV.

Thurs 1 September:

Particulars came of the LSJ courses on writing, and rightly or wrongly I think I have decided to take one on writing for children, in the hope of learning about writing for the over 7 rather than under 7 as the market will be less limited. The new probationers started at the Nursery today, one of whom is Beryl's daughter. They look nice girls. Hurried home as Rosemary was coming to tea at 3.30, and we had a pleasant chat. Andrew went to Granny's for lunch, but he joined us for tea. Rosemary left about 5.20 and I made high tea, then knitted etc in the evening.

Fri 2 September:

It wasn't a good day today really! I had to sieve the custard because it went into tiny little lumps, I used up all the grated carrot on the children and didn't leave any for the staff. Mrs Eades let the beetroot boil dry, and I left some plates off one of the trolleys. The cleaner had a "go slow" mood on which put me all behind and then, last but not least, Matron told they had made a mistake over my pay scale, and in future I would receive 10/- less a week! I hurried to the Banks when I left, did some shopping and then home to have a rest, do the washing and make tea. Read and watched TV. Andrew went to David Easton's for the day and didn't get back until about 9.

Sat 3 September:

Michael had a poor night and confessed this morning that things really couldn't go on any longer at work as they are, as he really felt too keyed up. The trouble was to think of anything we can do and I am more of the opinion that we should try to develop a sort of trust in Life, more faith, when things might sort themselves out. We probably have our priorities wrong. We went our separate ways shopping today and I returned to make some cakes and get lunch. Wrote in the afternoon until about 10 to 5 when I had a rest, then made tea. Andrew went to a match and mowed the lawn. Michael rested all the afternoon and did odd jobs in evening, TV etc. He is very quick to be vindictive – often without reason. It is rather worrying.

Sun 4 September:

Michael felt very depressed and worried this morning. I think he is showing great courage in making himself carry on when he obviously is under a great strain and not too well. I suggested we both relaxed after tea each day, not only to rest but to develop a kind of receptive spirit. I wonder how long it will last! Went to Prep meeting then after lunch did some jobs in the garden with Michael – a happy afternoon. Washed my hair in the evening, knitted, TV etc. I also wrote to a Mrs Yonde who is starting a nursery in case I could help her.

Mon 5 September:

A busy day at work in spite of there being three of us (full staff) on the domestic side. Did some shopping then Granny, Thea and Elsie Edwards came to tea at 4 o'clock. We had supper a little late, then I did the washing and watering, had a short rest, then watched TV and knitted.

Tues 6 September:

Wrote my mother and did the housework, then went to work while Andrew went to school. Collected some photographs, cleaning and shoes (repaired) on the way

home. Andrew's photos from transparencies are very disappointing. Finished my mother's letter, then made tea, did the ironing, had a short rest then started my first lesson of the children's writing course which came today. Watched TV until quite late as there was a good programme about strange musical instruments on.

Weds 7 September:

Did the housework and a little of my correspondence course. To work, but felt rather tired and heavy after last night's late night. It seemed as though all they required was quickness and that was the one thing I haven't got! Still .... I feel the right thing will turn up for me eventually. Met Olive Hicks on the way home. Came in and had a rest, then did a very little writing before getting tea. Found there was an advertisement for a nursery assistant at Penn Hill school in this evening's paper, so wrote a letter to apply for it, which I will post, if Matron is not too upset by the idea.

Thurs 8 September:

Did the housework and a little writing. Missed my usual bus to work but the next one got me there on time. Another quite hectic morning. Did some shopping as usual on the way home, had a rest, did a little writing again, made some cakes, and a bacon egg and tomato flan for tea. Watched TV and read in the evening.

Fri 9 September:

Caught the bus before the right one this morning – But I did some shopping before work. Another busy day. Left punctually at 2.30 and went to the Bank and did some shopping etc before going home. Paul arrived back from Diana's about 4.30 and we chatted and exchanged news while I did the washing and made tea. Afterwards we talked again, read, and I later finished my first lesson of my writing course.

Sat 10 September:

Michael had to attend a day's course of lectures in Bristol today so Paul Andrew and I did some odd jobs for him and I also did some shopping. Andrew visited a friend. We had lunch at 1, then put some flea-destroying powder on the dog. Had a rest and did some gardening while Paul mowed the lawn. Tea at 5, then Michael came home. He is feeling pretty awful these days which makes him super efficient and 'the heavy father'. It is such a shame as the boys would welcome his companionship. Did the ironing and some mending and bathed Anna in the evening. I have also bought some drops and put them in Tiffin's tickly ears.

Sun 11 September:

Went to Meeting as usual. After lunch watched an interesting film on TV about Robert Giddings, a local handicapped teacher. Had a rest and read, and after tea watched the religious programmes. Washed my hair and did the washing. Watched mended and knitted. Andrew visited Graham this morning, and Paul went with Stephen to the Regency this evening. Michael still over-anxious and meticulous.

Mon 12 September:

Back to work (having done the house) and it was not a very good day for Mrs Eades – she had a few minor accidents. We had no cleaner so had to enlist help from the nursing staff at times. Did some shopping on the way home, had a rest did some ironing and made the tea. Went to Writer's Circle in the evening with Olive Hicks, at Miss Stone's. It was a well-attended meeting and we read MSS. Miss Orfen gave us a lift back into town.

Tues 13 September:

Did the house, and started a letter to my mother before going to work. Paul received a whole lot of 'gen' from Swansea. Did some shopping on the way home, had a rest and cleaned the oven. Before getting tea, made some cakes, scones and biscuits. Had an easy evening reading, TV etc Bath. Had a reply from Mrs Youde today to say she doesn't want help at present.

Weds 14 September:

Finished the letter to my mother before going to work. Had to get a prescription made up in the afternoon, so while I was waiting for it I looked around for a frock (to wear at the cocktail function in October) – not with any success. When I called at the cleaners for the trousers Michael was having taken in, I found they had let them out. Woe is me! Never mind. Paul went to play golf with Stephen Kurle on the approach course, so had his meal late. I knitted, watched TV etc. It's getting little colder and more autumnal.

Thurs 15 September:

Did the housework and went to the Nursery. Another busy day there, shopping on the way home, a rest, washing, made tea. Paul has heard that he hasn't a place in a hall of residence so has to get lodgings. This was the cause of much discussion as also was the matter of his grant, as we can't decide how well off he will be. Poor Paul, he will be glad when he is off, and not being badgered by us!

Fri 16 September:

Michael wanted Paul to telephone both Swansea University and Bath Education office today but Paul felt it was unnecessary and since he had found certain of the information required and could ascertain the rest later, I agreed. Michael was very angry tonight and felt that he had been disobeyed. Finding that I was paid the new 'ten shillings per week less' this week I went to the Health Office to make enquiries as to my scale of pay, but no one in authority was available. Shopping and home. Did a little gardening and made tea. Ironing in the evening, read and watched TV. Michael has been waiting ages for news of re-organisation and promotion due to be discussed at a meeting today, but it wasn't brought up. He feels very depressed about it.

Sat 17 September:

Mr Glissom came to make some minor adjustment to the central heating. We all went our separate ways but I met Michael for coffee. The boys went to Granny's for lunch and met David's family. Michael and I had lunch at home, then I spent the afternoon putting pitch paper on the downstairs room wall that we have treated. It wasn't a satisfying task, as the rough wall and thick paper made a bad job of it. Did some writing in the evening and wrote two letters.

Sun 18 September:

Michael awoke at about 4.30 and began working out finances with regards to Paul. I made some tea, but he went on trying to clarify the situation and I tried to help for a very long time. I didn't go to Meeting as Michael felt so disgruntled, but papered the wall I had pitch-papered yesterday. We had lunch, then I finished the job, and Michael and I put the room back as it was, and cleaned it. Andrew went to Graham's for the afternoon. Paul went with three others by car to Weymouth. Watched TV in the evening, washed my hair.

Mon 19 September:

It was a desperately hectic morning! Preparations housework and shopping to do before going to work, then found that the new cleaner was ill and hadn't come. Matron had to take the 5 first years to Bristol, and it is most difficult now as they are to be at College 4 days every fortnight. We had no help with washing up, so it was one long rush – which isn't 'me' at all. Met Mummy at 10 to 3. Paul had been to lunch with her at Aunties Marnie's, but he left us and went home. We went into the Parade Gardens and sat in the sun until 5.15 when I left her to meet Michael at the station (having had an ice, and later 2 cups of tea). Did the washing in the evening and marked some clothes of Paul's. Rosemary Barr is ill and Olive Hicks is taking Richard to his new school tomorrow. We are wondering about the students she is due to get on Saturday.

Tues 20 September:

We decided that we would have to have students again, so I rang Granny to tell her we could have Rosemary's two men. In the evening, however, we heard that although Mrs Field (the accommodation officer) had fixed lodgings for these students, she was interested in our offer. At work we learned that one of the new nursery nurses (only here 3 weeks, and single) was expecting a baby. Two other nurses are pregnant, so that means that three will be leaving soon. The new cleaner hasn't turned up yet either. Shopped on the way home, had a rest, did the ironing. Read and knitted etc in the evening. Andrew went to the dentist and Michael to see Dr Neubauer. He says it is the last time he sees him as he considers him of no use.

Weds 21 September:

Andrew was upset as Michael was a bit abrupt about his proposed model trains, however I tried to make some helpful suggestions and at the moment the track is going to be based in Paul's room (with his permission) and can be dismantled if necessary. Andrew is now much brighter, but I fear that O Level study is going to suffer in the cause of trains! Paul set off soon after 6.30am for Swansea and has found lodgings with a Mrs Jones, a mile from the University, sharing with a boy from Plymouth. I hope he turns out to be nice. Met Mummy after work and again we sat in the Parade Gardens in the sun until nearly 5, when we went home by taxi and she stayed until 9. On going to bed Michael became suddenly annoyed and throwing a pill bottle, neatly smashed the mild bottle on the morning tray to smithereens. It was annoying at the time as the wallpaper and books were splashed and there were pieces of glass everywhere, but it was also laughable in its accuracy!

Thurs 22 September:

Did the washing before going to work. The new help who had promised to come today, didn't turn up, but an applicant for a nursery assistant post, is now to be cleaner, and starts tomorrow. I broke the news to Matron that I wanted to leave to take students again, but would go at her convenience. She was very understanding. I hope we have an easier day tomorrow, as this speed speed speed makes me tense, and hence liverish. Met Mummy and we went round shops and had tea. I met Michael and we had a drink, then joined Gran at the Grosvenor Steak bar for a splendid meal. Paul and Andrew made their own meal.

Fri 23 September:

We were all very relieved to have the new cleaner. She and Mrs Eades (to whom she is related distantly) get on very well. Matron asked me if I would think of being secretary of the Friends of Mendip Hospital. I said I'd think it over. Met

Mummy after going to the Bank, and after shopping and having a cup of tea, we went up to Auntie Marnie's and had a taxi home with a trunk Auntie Marnie has given Paul. Mummy went on to Miss Russ while I hurried to get tea as Michael had a taxi at 6.5 to take him to the doctor. Dr Carr was quite helpful. I cooked a joint for tomorrow then went to Miss Cass for a Writer Circle committee meeting. We are now to hire a room at the YMCA for 10/- per night.

Sat 24 September:

We didn't get up until about 8.30. Did some shopping and met Mummy at 11.30. Later we all three came home in a taxi and we had lunch. I lit the coal fire for the first time of the autumn as it seemed very chilly. Mummy seemed very loathe to go at about 3.50. She would have liked me to go into town with her or meet her tomorrow morning but I felt I should do the ironing, and not miss Meeting tomorrow as I had told Betty I'd see her there. It is obvious she is worried, but there seems to be little I can do to ease her anxiety. After tea, ironing, super and some mending. I had an early bath and a read.

Sun 25 September:

We woke quite late, and rose about 9.15. Went to Meeting although Michael would have preferred me to stay at home. Spoke to Hilda Bowman-Ber and afterwards to Franceys Longman. Home to get lunch, then knitted and watched TV, did the second lesson of my writing course. After tea we watched Meeting Point and then a little later my mother telephoned to say she had tried to see me both before and after Meeting but had missed me, and would Paul see her off tomorrow? Afterwards I felt unexplainably depressed. I still had the impression that my mother was very very anxious about something. We watched TV. I washed my hair. Paul went to the Regency. Andrew is still thinking about trains but unable to have the kind of circuit he would like. He says his work is suffering because he can't help thinking about them.

Mon 26 September:

Did the washing and quite a lot of housework before hurrying off to work. Did some shopping on the way home and slightly wrenched my ankle, which left it weak. Had a rest, then rang Auntie Marnie. She agreed with me about my mother's 'fixation' with me – possibly caused by anxiety. Apparently several people have noticed it these last two years. It is rather distressing, but since I can think of nothing I can do about it except to take a detached view and a trusting one, I can take no action. Did the ironing and also rang Mrs Field of Bath University to say I could take some students if she had any. Went to Write Circle in the evening. Olive Hicks was going to meet me but didn't turn up. When I got home I found Michael was with Granny Bridges because we had

heard that Thea had had a head injury in a car accident, and was in hospital. Fortunately someone was staying with Granny so Michael returned about 10.30.

Tuesday 27 September:

Wrote my mother before going to work. I have suggested that she consider moving up to Weston where there might be more scope for her motherly instinct! It was a very hectic morning at work. Matron suggested that I put in a three week's notice this Friday (or a replacement might never be found). Did some shopping the way home, then Paul and I did some furniture moving to make the bottom room a double room and the top one a single one (with an extra bed in it, in which Paul sleeps (though still keeping his room for other purposes). Went to the Tech with Olive Hicks in the evening but we found that the lecturers wouldn't agree to lecture for the fee offered so the class was not operating. It was thought it might be restarted in mid-October.. It was disappointing but Olive, Mrs Horsefield and another girl, Mrs Willoughby went to the Little Kitchen for coffee and chatted till 9!!! Home by car. Heard that Thea is getting better.

Weds 28 September:

After an average day at work I went home, doing shopping on the way, then after a rest, Paul and I moved a bit more furniture before tea. Did mending in the evening and watched TV. Thea continues to progress slowly.

Thurs 29 September:

Did the washing and went to work. Carol seemed upset and it turned out that Matron had been cross with her. When hard pressed Matron seems to find some little molehill she can make a mountain out of with someone! The trouble is that although with Matron the matter is quickly over, with the others it is a very painful occurrence. Walked home along by the river. The weather still remains sunny. It has really been a good summer. Had a rest, cleaned Paul's room and made tea. Ironing. Paul went out for the day with Stephen, and Andrew is now doing Greek instead of rugby. The teapoy and my old bike has gone to Powell & Powell to be sold.

Fri 30 September:

Cleaned some mirrors and pictures besides normal housework before going to work. Paul went to Bristol and had lunch with Michael. He also went to Granny Bridges to do some work. Did shopping on way home from Nursery, had a rest. Made two cakes and the tea. At 6.30 Michael came with me and we went to visit Rosemary Barr at Weston Lodge. She wasn't too well and had refused shock treatment. I hope she will be better soon. Home to watch TV and bed.

Sat 1 October:

Michael and I went down town separately but met just before 11 for coffee. We returned (in heavy rain) to get lunch. Olive Hicks telephoned to say her husband was being posted to Aden for a year and she will miss him dreadfully. After lunch I took Anna out for a walk with the idea of picking some elderberries, but I had left it rather late and only found a few. On returning, I made about 5lbs of elderberry and apple jam (Mrs Eades having given me some apples) and then some scones with the baked dish for tea. Paul did some shopping, and Andrew started making a model rail-bus with an engine in it. Did some mending in the evening but went to bed early to read. Michael has changed one of his lenses for a Zeiss 2¼sq camera which is some twenty years old. He feels it will be very useful.

Sun 2 October:

We let the meat, vegs and rice pudding do slowly from 10.40 onwards in the oven and I only had the cabbage and baked apples to do on return. It worked so well. I think I shall often do it. After lunch I did a little writing, then Michael and I went along the canal taking photographs. On our return Granny Bridges and Barbara Brice called and had tea. We had high tea when they left and a little later Mrs Mould called. It would seem as if she may have some students for us next week. TV mending knitting etc. It was Paul's last day before going to Swansea.

Mon 3 October:

Did the housework and washing and said goodbye to Paul who was off to Swansea today. I didn't feel as unhappy as I used to do when they went off to boarding school for I felt that Paul was just longing to go. It was a relatively easy day at work but nevertheless I was rather glad to sit down at lunch time which was unusual for me. We had very heavy rain about then. It cleared up in the afternoon when I did a few jobs in town and went home for rest and little housework and writing before tea. Ironing in evening. Mending and a bath.

Tues 4 October:

Started a letter to my mother this morning before going to work, and on my way I saw four black cross-Siamese kittens in the pet shop window. They were so lovely I don't know how I didn't get one! Took my time coming home and bought a bracelet and a necklace – both cheap, for possible use on Friday. Had a short and made tea, then finished my mother's letter and also wrote Joan Fall to thank Julian for a letter he sent Michael. We are distressed to hear he has had a 'coronary' in the spring. Andrew, I am glad to hear, is thinking of giving up his plan to have trains, and now intends working, and collecting stamps. I daren't hope it will last.

Weds 5 October:

Did quite a lot of paint cleaning etc before going to work. Hurriedly did the shopping and came home, when two students and the University accommodation officer, Mrs Field, came to see the rooms. One of the students, a girl, wants the bottom room and wants a friend to join her, I rather wonder if she will get as far as coming as she seems a little indecisive. She is very homesick. Did some mending and washed my hair.

Thurs 6 October:

Michael woke in the night and we were obliged to eat some biscuits and read for a while. Consequently I felt like death warmed up all the morning. Rushed through the washing and quite a few jobs before work. There were many applicants for my post and eventually a very nice looking person was chosen. Did some shopping on the way home. Mr Aldridge came to see to the boiler. We are all furious about its failure. He can do nothing until Ideal send a new governor. Hilary Lewis telephoned to say she'd like to come into the downstairs room next Saturday, but it seems as though she will be the only one at present. I don't feel entirely happy about it. Did the ironing, prepared for the weekend etc. Michael has cancelled his dinner engagement after the cocktail party tomorrow and so we shall all go on to Radlett together.

Fri 7 October:

I was also annoyed yesterday to have my Roly Poly Stories returned from Warnes[?] after 4 months with only a rejection slip. I do think they should have written a short letter. What with these petty annoyances and feeling tired, I think my supper remained undigested and I didn't feel too good again today, when I had to be at work by 8.30 so that I could leave at 1.30 (having changed into my best frock) and meet Michael and Granny at the station. We had a very cold reception at the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly (probably as we were much too early for the cocktail party and women aren't allowed there) so we waited round at "No 42". The party was enjoyed by Michael and all went well, when we went on to Radlett.

Sat 8 October:

We rose late for breakfast and went into the garden in the morning photographing etc. We did some gardening in the afternoon and wrote a letter and talked in the lounge in the evening. Francis went to Watford for the afternoon.

Sun 9 October:

Mary Paddy and Granny went to church at 9 while Michael and I had breakfast. We went for a walk, which was pleasant except for the fog. Left after lunch and

returned home. Thea had already left, having kept Andrew company while we were away. Andrew had tea waiting for us and boiled some eggs. He was so thoughtful, but Michael turned irritable which made me very cross. Later I did some of my next lesson for the writing course while the others watched TV. My inside feels 'gentle'.

Mon 10 October:

Did the washing etc and went to work. Still didn't feel 100% fit, but the work went quite well, and did some shopping before returning to plant some things Mary had given me and have a rest. Made tea and then met Olive Hicks and went to Writer Circle in our new room at the YMCA. It was a well attended meeting but I didn't think the quality of the MSS was as good as sometimes. Mrs Horsefield took several of us home, which was very kind.

Tues 11 October:

Did the house and wrote Rosemary Barr and started a letter to my mother. Was glad to find that I felt quite OK again today. After work did the shopping and went home to finish my mother's letter, have a rest and get tea. Did the ironing and some mending in the evening. Bath and bed. Michael seems particularly contrary tonight so must be very tired. I asked if he couldn't take tomorrow off but he says he can't. I want to clear up and decorate the bottom lavatory but he is very annoyed about it and doesn't trust me. Tom Stone sold me some Snowcem. They said I could put it over emulsion paint but now we find the instructions say I can't!

Weds 12 October:

Did the house and wrote a few notes in preparation for Sunday's study group. Did shopping after work and then a rest, followed by over an hour's gardening. A man was supposed to be coming from Ideal's but he didn't come. After tea I painted the downstairs lav. with emulsion paint, and also read watched TV and wrote a letter.

Thurs 13 October:

Did the house and washing and wrote a letter. After work went shopping. Home for a rest and ironing. Also made a cake. The Ideal man came at last and has altered the boiler to gas ignition. I didn't take a very good view of him as he was virtually sitting on our balustrade when I opened the door to him and took a very off-hand attitude. After tea I re-painted parts of the downstairs lav. then did mending and watched TV etc.

Fri 14 October:

Made the new students' room ready and washed and brushed up the lower floor in general. Went to work (my last official day at the Nursery) and on leaving went shopping etc. Had a rest and made some cookies before tea. Afterwards Michael came with me to see Rosemary at Weston Lodge. She still didn't seem too good, but we asked her for a weekend and she appeared to be pleased with the idea. On our return Granny Bridges telephoned and we learned that Lily Cawood was in hospital, having had to have a heart operation for a clot, and was seriously ill. It is very sudden.

Sat 15 October:

Breakfast about 8.45 and then Michael and Andrew went into town and I did over two hours gardening. Hilary Lewis arrived and when lunch was over Andrew went to see Weymouth v Bath City football at Twerton. Michael developed a film and I did some shopping and more gardening. After high tea, Hilary went to the pictures, I did some writing and the others watched TV. Bath and bed.

Sun 16 October:

Michael woke in the night, and as I woke too, I couldn't sleep much afterwards for thinking about our financial problems! Hilary went to Taunton for the day. I went to Meeting. Before lunch Michael was very angry and eventually broke down. I feel so sorry. He is so very tired and under a strain. In the afternoon he did some printing while I did two hours gardening. There is a lot more to do. In the evening there was a study Circle at the FMH and Stanley Latter spoke on the "Nature of a Friends' Meeting" after which I had to speak to three of the questions put in the book "No time but this present" for discussion, and Raymond Batten spoke to the remaining three. I didn't feel I fulfilled my task in the way in which they required as I spoke rather objectively thinking I was, as it were, chairman to a discussion, but actually I found I should have given my own views and that practically no time was to be spent on discussion. This, I felt, was a pity.

Mon 17 October:

Made myself a full programme and nothing happened to stop me carrying it out. Did housework, washing, and shopping. Had lunch and a rest, then did two hours gardening and a little writing. After tea I did the ironing and some knitting. Andrew is working quite well but I feel he is 'out of touch' and a bit lonely. Wish I could do or talk about things with him more. Michael not quite so strung up as usual.

Tues 18 October:

Did the housework, then, as I had the idea for a MS for tomorrow evening's meeting at Saltford, and was terribly keen to write it, I put it down on paper. Went shopping soon after 11, but cut out some the things I intended to do so that I could 'catch up' with the rough schedule I had set myself. Had lunch, a rest and then wrote my mother. Went out with Anna and while getting tea, also did some polishing in the kitchen. Mending, knitting and hair-washing in the evening.

Weds 19 October:

Did housework and shopping then, after lunch and a rest I revised yesterday's story, and when I had also written a couple of letters, I typed it out. Anne Horsfield picked up Miss Cass and I after tea, and together with Mrs Willoughby, we went to Saltford for a meeting with Keynsham and Bristol Circles. It was very enjoyable,. A few of us read MSS, then we had refreshments and talked. I met a Mrs Bendle and also a Mrs Wallis who is editor of a publisher of guide books, called Constable in Bristol. Home just before 11.

Thurs 20 October:

Was evidently over-stimulated by the pleasant evening last night and therefore had none too good a night! Did housework and washing and sorted out plans for the weekend on the phone. Shopping, lunch and a rest, then made up a bed for Mary John, who comes tomorrow, prepared a badge test for a Guide this evening (who didn't turn up) and sent off a couple of MSS and did about a ½ an hour's gardening. Soon after 3 I did some cooking - a chicken for Sunday, some stew, a flan, custard, cakes and cookies etc also high tea, with extra potatoes. After tea I did the ironing, but felt very sleepy so went to bed soon after 9.30.

Fri 21 October:

Did the house and wrote two postcards, did a little shopping in Widcombe and then Mary John arrived and we chatted and had lunch. Later we went shopping. We had tea in Colmers then home for high tea. John joined us in the evening and he and Michael moved a bed up from the basement to Paul's room ready for Rosemary. John left about 10.45 (and took Ricky, as Anna is on heat and Ricky was very restless.) Mary stayed on with us.

Sat 22 October:

We had breakfast about 8.30 and all went our various ways shopping. Michael and I made my TSB a/c a joint one. We met Mary, John Thea Phillipa and the children for coffee then went home to get lunch for David and his family (Hilary was out for the day, and John and Mary went to Granny.) Rosemary arrived soon

after 2 and later she and I took the children for a walk – but it rained so we weren't out long. We had tea (John and Mary having come) then about 6.30 David's family left. We watched TV, had supper and coffee, Rosemary had a bath and went on to bed, then John began to wonder what could be done about the car with no parking light. We thought of many possibilities and I even, reluctantly, rang the Thompsons next door but they didn't reply. Eventually he went back to Granny's for the night. Michael photographed Thea this afternoon and developed films tonight. Andrew was most helpful. Clocks go back.

Sun 23 October:

We woke too early of course, because of the extra hour. Got up just before 9 and we had breakfast and did a little towards lunch, then Michael, Mary Rosemary and I went for about an hour's walk. It was sunny and pleasant. By the time we returned, John had arrived from Springfield Place, and after a pleasant hour's conversation, we all, including Hilary, had lunch soon afterwards. John and Mary left, and the rest of us had a snooze, except Andrew who went to Hall's and Hilary, who was working. After tea Rosemary went back to the nursing home, and I wrote a letter etc. At supper, Hilary's boy friend, Richard, joined us. Afterwards we watched "The Lost Peace" which is a good TV series and I also wrote an exercise for the Circle tomorrow. Bed before 10.

Mon 24 October:

In spite of taking a sleeping pill I woke more than once in the night. Dashed off to the Nursery well before 8.30 and Mrs Cary, Mrs Watts and I did the cooking etc. It was stew and rice pudding, so not too difficult. Caught a bus back to the station at 1, and after a little shopping I came home for lunch, washing and a rest. Started a letter to my mother, but Michael suddenly appeared at 3.30, saying he had felt too tired to go on. After tea I met Olive Hicks and we went to Writer Circle. There were only 11 of us, but it was very pleasant. Michael did photography and Andrew came back from Bristol, having been to Severn Bridge with the Eastons and Bennetts.

Tues 25 October:

Went off to the Nursery at 8.20 and fortunately we managed the lunches again without mishap. Went to the Library and did some shopping so didn't have lunch until about 2. A rest, then finished my mother's letter. Andrew had an eye test then had lunch with Michael in Bristol, which was nice. After tea I did the ironing and a Guide came to take her Writer's badge. Bed about 10.

Weds 26 October:

Hilary went home today until Sunday. I went again to the Nursery from 8.45 until 1, then did some shopping and home about 2 for lunch. Wrote a letter, had a rest and did some of my correspondence lesson. Andrew did some jobs for us and wrote two letters, then went to a football match this evening. Had a pleasantly easy evening doing a little mending and watching TV.

Thurs 27 October:

Had a nice letter from Paul this morning, so answered it this afternoon. Went to the Nursery, and today's lunch was macaroni cheese with bubble and squeak (as they had left so much vegetable yesterday) plus carrots for the staff, and banana and blancmange. I was glad to go home as I had rather a tummy ache – which, however, went after lunch. Had a rest and wrote afterwards. Did some washing in the evening and then took it fairly easy.

Fri 28 October:

When I arrived at work I learnt that I should have cooked potatoes with the macaroni cheese yesterday. At first I was dismayed to think the staff had gone hungry – until I found they had left half the carrots I had cooked for them! Anyhow today they had pork applesauce, gravey, roast and boiled potatoes, cauliflower runner beans and roast parsnips. Also stewed apple shortbread and custard! And there were about 50 children and 16 staff (with two having fish instead of pork). It was quite a tall order, but again Mrs Cary did quite a lot, and Mrs Watts washed up and washed up and washed up! Had my hair trimmed and did some shopping. Lunch about 2.15. Auntie Marnie called and brought me some bulbs, then I had a rest, followed by some writing, while Andrew made a cake. Mending, ironing hair-washing and writing in the evening.

Sat 29 October:

We both did shopping etc and I met Michael at Dr Scholl's where he had a corn removed. We went and had a coffee and continued shopping together. After lunch Rosemary arrived and we just talked etc by the fire and watched TV. An 'easy' day. Andrew sent off for some second hand model railway gear.

Sun 30 October:

Michael didn't sleep too well so rose early for a Sunday. I went to Meeting leaving Rosemary to have a quiet read and a walk. After lunch we all had a read and doze. Hilary, due back at 1.30, arrived nearer 3.30 due to a train detour. When I made us a cup of tea about 4.30 Rosemary was rather upset, and loath to go back to Weston Lodge. We talked things over as well as we could and she eventually went off in a fairly happy frame of mind. We had high tea then watched TV etc mending, reading.

Mon 31 October:

Did the house and washing, a little writing, then shopping. Cleaned the oven and had lunch, then a rest and more writing all the afternoon. The gas man due at 3.30 didn't come until 5, and he has to return tomorrow to replace the clock Michael broke by mistake on Saturday (by plugging it into the pump clock socket, which has a different voltage) did the ironing in the evening. Michael slept badly last night and his tummy is upset. He had no cooked meal at tea tonight, but some beef soup later.

Tues 1 November:

Didn't sleep too well and had several nightmares – of a plane on fire and crashing etc. Decided to force myself to relax, work slowly and not rush or crowd too many things into the day. Did quite a lot of housework then started writing my mother and went shopping. After lunch and a rest I finished the letter and did some writing but it was very cold today and I couldn't think very well. Greens were supposed to be coming to put a switch on the top landing, but they didn't come. The Gas Board were supposed to be mending the clock, but they came and went without doing anything. In the evening I went to the first of six lectures on writing. We were quite a mixture and rather orthodox, so found the modern poetry read to us, not terribly tasteful – however, it got us thinking in a modern style free of rhyme and rhythm. We tried our hand at writing some poetry before leaving. Afterwards Anne Horsfield, Olive and I all talked in Anne's car, and tried to help Olive who has rather a lot of problems. Home about 10 past 10.

Weds 2 November:

Hurried to do a few things before going off to the Nursery – and dropped a line to Paul, as he wrote to say he'd be coming home this w/e. At the Nursery I helped in the kitchen, took a group of 2-3 yr olds for "stories" and helped in the top room. It was quite enjoyable. When I'd done a little shopping, come home and had lunch and a rest I decided that I had better take myself in hand a bit as had signs of what used to be called acidosis. Greens sent to put an extra switch on the top landing, and the Gas Board collected the boiler clock for repair and lent us another. Did some writing, but reading the evening and took it easy. Bath and bed.

Thurs 3 November:

Did the housework and washing in an 'easy' manner, preparing the rooms for the w/e for Rosemary, Caroline and Paul. Went shopping and bought some Brewer's

yeast plus iron tablets which I think will rectify the signs of acidity I have. Lunch and a rest, and then did the Circle accounts and some writing. After tea did the ironing and watched TV knitting and mending.

Fri 4 November:

Hilary has had a swollen gland in her neck the last day or so and decided to go the doctor this morning. Andrew had a cold and went off to work [?? sic Michael/work or Andrew/school??] without any breakfast. Having done housework, I went shopping and met Barbara Stone for coffee. We went to see Mrs Stansbury about the Circle meeting the Tech College. It seems as though it will be alright. Went home for lunch, a rest, and then an afternoon's cooking. Caroline arrived about 5.30 and after tea, she went up to her home, and I went to an F.O.R. meeting on Ralph Bell's non-violence plan for Rhodesia. Evelyn Jones brought myself and two others home in the car. It was pelting with rain. Caroline returned about 9.30 and we had drinks etc. Bed.

Sat 5 November:

The river was high today and it continued to rain. Tonight Frome has had flooding and in Italy they are having the worst floods for 1000 years. Caroline met her mother at 10am and Michael and I went shopping. Directly after lunch, just as Michael and Andrew were preapring to meet Paul, he arrived. He and I had a pleasant chat and I did his washing, while Michael and Andrew went down town to look at controllers (for a model railway). At 5.45 Rosemary joined us and we all had a steak and kidney pudding high tea. TV knitting and ironing in the evening and Caroline, who had been out with a friend, returned. Coffee and bed.

Sun 6 November:

We got up about the usual time for a Sunday. It was much warmer and damp and nasty out. Caroline went to Thomas a Becket church and I went to Meeting. There were 7 of us for lunch. Afterwards, just as I was finishing the washing up I suddenly felt faint and left the kitchen. Paul fetched a chair and I sat outside the front door, but couldn't recover. I went to the bathroom, sat for moment on the edge of the bath and fell in! My neck came up against the cold bath, and this revived me considerably. I later lay on the bed for a while and was soon OK. Fortunately our guests didn't know about it, and there was no recurrence, but Michael was anxious about me. It is probably only anaemia and I have bought those Brewer's yeast and iron pills which should help. Michael himself has had a certain amount of backache the last few days. Paul went off on the 4.50 train back to Swansea. Tea at 5.45 for the rest of us, then TV and I washed my hair.

Mon 7 November:

Andrew stayed at home today. His cold made him asthmatic and feel bad, but he was really relatively well. Rosemary and Caroline went up to their house for the day, returning about 4.30. I did the house, washing and shopping, and after lunch and a rest, did the Circle Treasurer's report and wrote my mother. After tea I went to Writer's Circle AGM, going there, and coming home with Olive Hicks, also meeting Anne Horsefield and others. When I reached home, Caroline, who had gone out with a young bank clerk, hadn't returned. At 11 we decided to go to bed and leave her to come in on her own (as she had a key).

Tues 8 November:

Rosemary went back to the nursing home this morning for treatment – but she didn't want to. I left Caroline to make her own lunch while I went to a Writer's class. I went to the Youth Club instead of the Youth Centre so by the time I'd made enquiries at 5 Hot Bath St, I was some ten minutes late. It was very enjoyable. Mrs Northmore is so inspiring - yet also down to earth. Shopped and went home for lunch. A rest, then did the ironing working on a story (our homework) in my mind, for telling next week. After tea I went to the evening Writing class – on poetry. Mr Crainy's own poetry was very good, and he told us how he set about writing it. I read the poem I wrote on Sunday and others read too. Mine didn't get across well, but I think I shall continue to work on it. Anne took Olive and I home and we chatted a lot.

Weds 9 November:

To the Nursery, as usual on a Wednesday morning, and I took two groups for stories before helping with meals etc. Home, lunch and a rest, then wrote three people, and prepared notes for Sunday's discussion lead. Made the evening meal and some cookies, then watched TV knitted etc and had a bath and to bed early. The University was officially inaugurated today.

Thurs 10 November:

Gave the house a good clean, and did the washing, then went shopping. Lunch about 12.30, rest, then did some writing (Lesson 5 of my correspondence course). After tea we watched TV and I did the ironing, then did a little more writing and some reading.

Fri 11 November:

Soon after breakfast I found the telephone wasn't working. So, as I had promised to get in touch with Granny Bridges, I quickly did the house and went down to the kiosk to phone her and to report the fault. When I had done the shopping, the telephone man came – and found the 'party line' had left the

receiver off! Had lunch and a rest. Hilary, who had been in until now, went off to Portishead, and then I did some writing Andrew went to the pictures with a friend after school (calling in for his tea). Michael and I had tea on our own and I also did some weekend cooking. In the evening Michael fixed a shelf over the radiator in the hall, and I read. Bed about 10.

Sat 12 November:

Went shopping and met Michael at 10.30, also Granny and Thea for a few minutes. Home about 12.20 to get lunch, and afterwards planted a few bulbs etc had a rest then made some scones and cookies for high tea – when Rosemary joined us. TV and knitting in the evening. Michael wasn't too good today and I'm hoping it will not upset Rosemary. He is also putting his head the sand re money. We watched the Remembrance ceremony at the Albert Hall on TV - I dislike intensely what precedes the service. All that recruiting campaign, and glorification of the services. Do the people in the services want to feel their fighting is a good thing. I would have thought they would have felt it distasteful, if (they think) necessary. And what is gym to do with remembering the fallen?

Sun 13 November:

Rosemary and I took Anna for a walk and we went to the park and sat there for a while on a seat. It was relatively warm and moist. Not a nice day. Home for lunch, then we all had a rest. We had a cup of tea about 4 and high tea at 5.30, then I went to Friends' study group where I had to open the discussion by speaking for about 20-25 minutes. I was dreading it, but I feel they must have been helping me in spirit, as it were, for I was surprised to find how little I felt nervous, and even if what I said was of little help or misguided, at least my mind didn't become blank. Mary Davison and Franceys Longman answered questions at the end of the chapter we were discussing. There were 25 of us there. Home and after snacks we all went to bed early.

Mon 14 November:

Hilary's glands were bad again so she went to the doctor. She was slightly better tonight but Andrew came back from school with a temperature and went to bed. I suppose it's 'flu'. I did the house and washing, shopping and had lunch. Rest, then wrote my mother, and went to the Burial Ground and did half an hour's gardening. Granny Bridges telephoned and told me Lilian Cawood had died, which is rather tragic – just as she was getting better. I also heard that Mrs Potter was going to ask Rosemary to her house for the weekend next week.

Mended a pair of trousers after tea then went to Miss Cass for a Writer's Circle committee meeting.

Tues 15 November:

Andrew was pretty well alright again this morning but I kept him home on a predominantly fruit diet. Telephoned Granny Bridges and suggested she didn't come as arranged because of the possible infection in the house. Also rang the Nursery and said I wouldn't come tomorrow. Went to the morning writing class but Mrs Northmore was ill and there was no class. Mrs Price, Miss Cass, Olive and I had coffee at the Sally Lunn café and then went home having chatted for some two hours! I was glad I had done the shopping beforehand. After lunch and a rest I did the ironing and listened to the wireless. Spent a little time with Andrew, then made tea went to the evening writing class. The lecturer seemed rather tired, and perhaps bored and I didn't 'go along' with him very well. To bed about 10. Have felt as though I am holding an infection at bay by the skin of my teeth and hope it passes.

Weds 16 November:

Michael's birthday. Andrew stayed at home today, but he got up, and was quite fit. I spent a little while working out our finances after I had done the housework, and was quite annoyed at the result. When we were at Combe Down and wages were only 6 or 7 pounds a week, perhaps 8, it was only natural that we had to have a P.G. But now that Michael gets three times as much we have to have two, and I have an income from writing too now! It's plain stupid! The more we have, the more we spend, and I see no end to it. My first reaction is to want to move to somewhere smaller, but it's no good. Some outlet for the money saved would crop up. Went shopping, lunch, rest and did some letters and writing. Washed hair in the evening. Good play on TV.

Thurs 17 November:

This morning Michael was quite critical about my handling of the student situation and this annoyed me intensely. Later I came to have a less emotional view of it all, but I failed to see what more I could have done to obtain a 2<sup>nd</sup>/or 3<sup>rd</sup> student. I telephoned Mrs Field about it but there is only a slight hope of another girl before next autumn. Did the house and washing and then some writing. Had lunch and a rest, then walked up to Granny Bridges to demonstrate the liquidiser-grinder which she seemed to like. The Rev and Mrs Gee called. I hadn't met them before. I walked back home shopping on the way, and in the evening went up to the Bowman-Beers for coffee. Mary Home came also and it was pleasant – but not frightfully interesting conversation.

Fri 18 November:

Did the housework etc. then shopping and library. Home to have an early lunch and do the ironing. Rest. Writing in the afternoon, and as there was a cold wind today I found I needed a fire. Just read in the evening. Andrew stayed late at school to get his puppet stage ready. Michael mounted some transparencies and a photograph.

Sat 19 November:

Hilary went to Exeter for the day today. I met Michael in town after shopping, but as he had finished his shopping we came home, Read and lit fire, then made lunch for Michael and I, Andrew having stayed at school preparing his puppet show. At 2.15 I went up to the school (Michael had a rest) and saw Andrew's show, which was well produced, then looked at the other various displays etc. Bought a cake, a pot and a plant. Came home about 4.15 and Michael and I had tea, then I prepared the supper. Granny and Thea came to supper and about 9, Nigel, who was staying with Aunt Edie (now 90) came to fetch them and stayed for a brief while to have a chat. Bath and bed.

Sun 20 November:

Went to Meeting and then we had lunch a little early as Hilary was catching a train to Bristol. Wrote a letter to Paul then read and rested. After tea we watched TV mended and knitted. Andrew is still continuing with his diet! Michael is eating too much – and he keeps having a stabbing pain under his shoulder blade which is very trying.

Mon 21 November:

Did the housework, washing and shopping, had lunch and rest, then wrote my mother, did a very little gardening (but it was very cold), then made the evening meal. Read the paper, then went to Writer Circle where Mrs Roberts talked on short story writing. She was very nice and quite helpful, but any market information was about 20 years old, so had to be taken with a pinch of salt. Rosemary came, although she had thought she couldn't come, and I'd given her apology. We had a good meeting. (Missed Olive, who was away as her husband was home.)

Tues 22 November:

A dreadful day, diet-wise. Perhaps because it was cold I was madly hungry and rather gave way to it in the afternoon. Mrs Northmore's morning writing lecture was as vivacious as ever, and having done the ironing in the afternoon, I wrote the ballad she asked us to do for homework. At the evening writing lecture Mr Ingram was much better than last week – more practical. On the way home Olive and I chatted with a Mrs Jarrett.

Weds 23 November:

Funny, but I didn't want to go to the Nursery this morning, however, on the bus I met Sister who told me that Matron was still away, Mrs Eades had flu and Mrs Watts – tonsillitis, so I went into the kitchen. Mrs Eades was back today, but wasn't very fit, so was glad of help. I enjoyed it very much. Why, I wondered, when I like the work with the children best, did I feel so relieved and pleased to be in the kitchen? I don't know the answer. After lunch at home and the usual rest I started a story for my correspondence lesson, then made a sausage and onion pie and some chocolate cookies and jam tarts. It wasn't a very pleasant evening – mending, TV knitting etc. We saw a film called "The Queen's men" on the Guards. I must say I find all their drill etc ludicrous. It inflates the men's egos, and give them too great a feeling of self-importance, which in later life will be a severe handicap. We bear a terrible responsibility in allowing such training, but I wonder what an ordinary person can do about it. I do think that men need to be trained to do policing duties, such as these men.

Thurs 24 November:

It was nice to hear from Paul this morning. Only 3 weeks until he comes home! When I had done the necessary in the house, I worked on the story for the next lesson in my correspondence course, going out at 11.45 and meeting Rosemary for lunch at 12. 30. We did some Christmas shopping and one or two other things. She isn't going to hurry to get a job, she says, but hopes to get along without one, provided she doesn't use her car. I'm not too happy about this, as I feel her existence may be without purpose or shape, but we shall have to see what she decides eventually. - She may well change her mind. Washed my hair, had a bath etc in the evening. To bed fairly early.

Fri 25 November:

Felt in rather a restless mood, anxious to make some change to improve our financial situation, however I tried to get on with the housework ironing and shopping. Hilary went home for the weekend. In the afternoon I sorted out a few things to make for the Friends' sale (some time!) and did some writing. Did very little in the evening. My mind seemed set on working out different ways of dividing up the house into bed-sitters etc. I wish I could stop thinking about it because Michael won't hear of any such scheme.

Sat 26 November:

Michael thought it was hot today, but I felt it was horribly damp – cold, We went shopping in the morning and as Michael bought some frames and we picked

up the large photograph I had framed for this birthday, we had a taxi home. Andrew went to see a football match in the afternoon, and I had a rest and did some writing. Also made an apron for the Friends' sale today. Michael put up his photographs in the lounge. Still find it frightfully difficult to stop thinking our finances, and possible solutions. There is still no sign of a PG other than Hilary, and Michael goes on spending as if we're royalty.

Sun 27 November:

We had plenty of time to get up this morning, Hilary being home in Birmingham, and so we had a leisurely breakfast. Meeting was well attended, and after lunch I finished the apron I had started and looked at TV then did some writing revision. After tea I went again to the FMH to hear Annette Tolson talking about a conference she went on about prisons, and the work being done in Bath. Afterwards there was discussion, coffee etc and Harold and Hilda Bowman-Bear kindly brought me home. As a result of different things that were said I was suddenly very depressed and felt the talk I gave recently was not like. Logically I know this is stupid and have no grounds to think this, and in any case if I was not so centred in the ego, I shouldn't care what they thought, provided I had done as I felt I should. Now I know why I dislike certain responsibilities. I am afraid of being hurt. I am resolved to be hurt if necessary, knowing that healing is at hand and there is nothing really to fear. I am also resolved to do some "jogging on the spot" to keep my liver more fit - an idea that came to me today, which I am sure is a good one, even if it sounds funny.

Mon 28 November:

It was the usual Monday housework, washing shopping etc and after lunch Michael came home for some as he had been to the dentist and unexpectedly decided to lunch here before going back to work. Michael's grading should have come up at committee again today. But they just calmly post-poned the matter until January. They are really creating a war of nerves as this up-grading was deemed necessary some 2-3 years ago in Mr Horwill's time, yet it is continually postponed for a month or two! It is difficult not to be bitter. It seems just as though those highly paid powers-that-be don't care a fig. It would be different if they called Michael up and explained the reason for it, but they don't. Wrote my mother and did some writing in the afternoon. Ironing, TV etc in the evening.

Tues 29 November:

At the morning writing class we read the ballads we had to write, and were told about 'drama'. When I left I walked up to Rosemary's house in Richmond place - it takes 25mins from the centre of town. She gave me a very nice lunch and

afterwards we worked out her budget. It is pretty obvious she will have get a job to make ends meet. We had a cup of tea at 3.30, then I caught a bus at St Stephen's and went home. Michael went to the doctor directly after supper and I went to the evening writing class which was by Mr Giddings on script writing. It was very good. Afterwards Anne took Olive and I home and we talked outside Olive's for quite a while.

Weds 30 November:

Just as I was going off to the Nursery this morning I thought it would be a good idea to take the where withal to make some small books. Edwina seemed happy to allow me to do this and so the children and I made three, nearly 4. I also "told stories" to some two year olds. Edwina drove me into town at lunch time and, having done some shopping I went home for lunch and rest. Finished my writing correspondence lesson, then made some cookies for the Friends' sale and the evening meal. Knitted in the evening.

Thurs 1 December:

Michael was rather narked this morning and at lunch time came home and went to bed with a migraine. After a rest with hot bottles, tea and two Panets[?] he felt better, but in the evening was rather worse again. I did the washing and shopping. It was so wet and gusty that my umbrella turned inside out twice! In the afternoon I put some plants in polythene bags, also cookies ready for the sale, and made 10lbs apricot jam (5 for the sale). Did the ironing in the evening and made some oven gloves for the sale. Also worked out a 1/- a day menu for a week – quite difficult! (They had talked of it on "Tomorrow's World" last night.)

Fri 2 December:

Having done some housework etc I went shopping but I felt depressed and ill disposed to do anything. I looked for some new pillows for Andrew, but the cheapest that were suitable for him were 39/6. I went up to Evans & Owen, but still could find nothing cheaper, then somehow the 'cloud' that lay on me lifted, and I felt happier. I thought of using some thin foam sheeting to make a cover for the pillows and bought some in Woolworths. I was also able to buy some plastic sticky tape to mend his wire mats (bed alarm). Spent the afternoon carrying this out and the evening at Mary Davidson's at a Friends' Nominations committee meeting. Heard that Pamela Eames has not been able to train for librarianship after all her 3 years part-time study for it. I feel quite distressed to hear this. Phoned Rosemary today. Far from the figures I worked out for her on Tuesday depressing her, she seems to be disregarding them, and speaks of putting her car into use.

Sat 3 December:

Michael and I agreed to go our separate ways this morning, but, funnily enough just as we had both finished our various jobs, we met, and so instead of having coffee we went to the Pet Shop to see the gerbils. We were very disappointed. They looked like a cross between a squirrel and a rat to me. They had some Siamese kittens, but I said our next animal must be a 'mongrel' – no more pedigree ones for me! We had lunch at 12.30 – and, oh I forgot to say that Michael has ordered himself a fur hat! I think he looks quite peculiar, but of course comfort comes first. Andrew went oof to a puppet show at Fosseway, and Hilary caught a train to Bristol. I wrote the beginning of a play for the morning writing class homework, then went to the Friends' sale. In the end I helped Raymond Batten on the Produce stall, as his helper wasn't able to come. There were not quite as many people as usual, but they raised a fair amount of money. The children did a little play. On the way home I was again luckily enough to meet Michael coming back from visiting Granny. We had tea (about 6) – although I'd had one at the sale – and watched TV. Bath etc.

Sun 4 December:

Meeting and Preparative meeting passed uneventfully and after lunch Michael and I took Anna for a walk up round the top and Michael took one or two photos. When Granny and Thea came for a cup of tea, we asked them (as we had discussed the matter) whether it might be a possibility for us to find a house where Granny could be in one flat and we in a maisonette – to the convenience of Granny and to the financial advantage of ourselves. It was difficult, however to think of anywhere where such a house, convenient to us both could be found, and neither of us felt sure we should move at the moment. From our point of view, however, a solution to our financial situation will have to be round. Later, Andrew and I watched an old film "Carve her name with pride" after the religious programmes and it was quite good. Michael went on to bed early.

Mon 5 December:

From today we have given up having the Guardian as it was often left unread. We have also given up the evening paper as we have accepted an offer of 3 months of the weekly paper for the price of 2 months. I think I shall miss the evening paper very much. Did the house, washing and shopping, then had lunch, a rest and wrote my mother. Did some other writing too. Went to the Writer's Circle where we wrote a Christmas carol. There were only about 9 of us tonight, but it was a much better meeting than I had expected.

Tues 6 December:

As I write, Michael is battling with his new exercising contraption. I find it funny to think what we middle-aged creatures have to do to keep fit! I am still persevering with running and jumping on the spot each day, and seem to do a few more every time. It was quite a rush getting the house and shopping done before the morning class. It was on characterisation, and we read our play beginnings. I had thought that dialogue was one thing I could write and not bothered over-much, but my work was pulled to shreds! She was so right, I then realised too! After lunch, rest, etc, I did the ironing, listening to the wireless, then did some writing, but it was a bad day – laboriously wrote two pages, and there seemed little life in what I wrote. After tea, went to the evening writing lecture. It was the last of these, and again by Mr Giddings on script writing. Two of the people there seem interested in the Writer's Circle, and it is so thrilling to talk to others interested in the art. Olive has asked me to 'take her under my wing' and help her to write. She has a definite gift, so I intend to help her if I can. All she really needs to do is to sit down and write ..... and write.

Weds 7 December:

At the Nursery this morning I merely helped in the top room until 10 or so, then took ten children to the staff room for a story with some puppets they have. It wasn't quite as difficult as I had expected, although making up stories on the spur of the moment isn't easy. I took a group for lunch, helped in the kitchen for five minutes, then went home for lunch and rest. Went down into Widcombe, and did some writing in the afternoon, while in the evening went with others to a party at Mrs Northmore's at Bathampton. She owns a big house but lives in the basement flat which had much character and was full of ventilators. I noticed it needed a lot of heating appliances. We all brought some food and we had exciting things like soup topped with cheese, masaka[sic], sausage rolls, raspberry mousse, etc etc and finished up with coffee and figs. We talked a lot and had a literacy quiz. I am frightful at literature, and although most questions sounded very familiar, I only had 26 out of 53 marks. This, however, made me tie third, so I didn't feel quite so bad then! Home a little after 10.30.

Thurs 8 December:

It was a nasty wet day to be going to Bristol . My umbrella blew inside out again in College Green, but I enjoyed shopping – both in Park St and Broadmead, and met Michael for lunch at the Bacchus bar near St Nicholas church. Bought a few Christmas presents but wasn't wildly successful. Home about 4.45 and mended (dutifully) on the evening. Bath and bed on the early side, TV being awful.

Fri 9 December:

It's queer how every Friday I feel depressed in a strange sort of way, and disinclined to work. However, the house washing and shopping had to be done, and I thought of a few things I'd like to do to some of our rooms, when we can afford it, and the day-dreaming made the chores pass happily. After lunch and rest, I went to see Olive Hicks as we had arranged, to help her do some homework set by Mrs Northmore. Her husband had come home, but they insisted that I stay, and Peter went to another room do to some work. Olive showed me their house. Peter has done so much to improve it, they really shouldn't leave but I realise the kitchen is very small. Personally I would make the dining room into a kitchen-diningroom, but I don't think they would consider such a big expense when they have already done so much. I left about 3.45. Ironing in evening and also read some poetry. It was light, yet thoughtful poetry. I feel in much better mood than this morning. Andrew returned from his day's history trip to London. He seems to have enjoyed it – going to Madame Tussaud's again and also the Imperial War Museum.

Sat 10 December:

Started writing a poem in bed this morning which annoyed Michael intensely. In fact he said he felt tired and was very niggly all day. I met him in town for coffee and we bought some additional requisites for the Christmas cake (which seemed extravagant) then before lunch Andrew and I made it and put it in the oven. Andrew went to a football match in the afternoon while Michael and I rested. We took it fairly easy in the evening too. Michael has put up some more of his photographs on the walls. The Christmas cake turned out alright I think.

Sun 11 December:

Several spoke in Meeting. Michael left the table at pudding time during lunch and later found he wasn't well and felt giddy, so he rested all the afternoon and I did mending, watched TV and worked on my poem for the Midsomerset. Washed my hair in the evening and did further mending. Michael is like a fuse wire. The slightest thing makes him blow.

Mon 12 December:

Michael is definitely under par – thinks he is in for a cold etc but went to work. I took longer than usual over the house and washing. Also had quite a chat with Miss West on the phone, when I tried to ring Auntie Marnie. Nice letters from Mary Barker and Paul too. Managed to get quite a few Christmas presents. Home a little later for lunch and rest, then wrote in the afternoon. (I like this daily programme. It seems to work quite well, even though I might write better in the mornings.) Did ironing in the evening and we went to bed very early, soon after 9.

Tues 13 December:

Both Michael and I felt rather under the weather this morning and tonight a cold I've been trying to stay on top of for two or three days has come out. Having done the housework I telephoned Rosemary, and found, to my joy that she was relatively enthusiastic. She went up to London for a day trip last Friday and met someone who must have bucked her up. She seems quite full of plans. Went to the Writing class, but had an annoying cough in the rather stuffy room, It was a nuisance as we were having several readings. Met Mummy afterwards and we went shopping and had lunch at the Oliver. I was infuriated[sic] to find that when at last I was given the photographic annual ordered at Searight's, it wasn't the right one. We went to three other shops in what we thought would be a futile search but found the right one at Cyril Howe. We had a cup of tea at Colmers and I went home about 5. Packed parcels in the evening.

Weds 14 December:

Both Michael and I were full of cold today! When we went downstairs we found that Hilary hadn't come home and I was a little worried (Michael didn't know). Fortunately she returned at 8am for breakfast having slept at Teresa's (a friend). Their end of term celebrations had gone on until 3.30am and she had been afraid of waking us. I chatted with her for quite a time, then went shopping, posting some parcels, and meeting Mummy. Had coffee with Auntie Marnie Miss West and Mummy. More shopping with Mummy but my cold made me cough and we decided to buy some food and go home for lunch. We sat and talked in the afternoon, and after a cup of tea, Mummy left. Michael and I watched TV in the evening and went to bed early.

Thurs 15 December:

My cold was so profuse that I decided to stay in today and telephoned my mother to tell her. Did the washing and then, although I had intended writing letters etc, I spent the whole day – what Michael calls – nesting. The result is quite good, I think as I now have the majority of our books well housed, and my writing things are also in better order and near where I work. The seating in the lounge is also better. Andrew came back for lunch, which was nice. Then he had the Abbey carol service at which he was helping to take the collection. I was sorry not to be able to go, or see Mummy, who took Andrew out to tea. Did the ironing on the evening and watched TV etc. We were not expecting Paul until 11.30, and he rang up at 10.30 to say this was when he expected to be back. Actually it was at least 11.45 when he came in. Anna was so excited. Michael had gone to bed and was snoring so loudly I had a job to settle Anna for the night in her upstairs box.

Fri 16 December:

We were getting up leisurely just after 8, when we suddenly remembered that Andrew had to go to school and we had a minor panic for a few minutes – still, he left home on time. Michael Paul and I all went into town separately Paul met Gran for coffee. I expect I could have done so, but I had said I wouldn't because of my cold. It was very much better today, though. In the afternoon I made some orange shortbread for us and as a present, and also a big fruit cake. The shortbread was too short, and some of it broke rather badly. In the evening I did mending, packed parcels etc.

Sat 17 December:

We got up about 8.15 – a little late for a Saturday, and after breakfast, Michael and I went shopping together. We eventually ordered a new shade for the standard lamp, so that I could use it again when I'm sewing in the lounge. I ordered a book called "Living Prayer" for myself, by the Archbishop Anthony Bloom, and the SPCK – always hoping I get some money or a token for Christmas! While there I saw "Clinical Theology" which I had first seen at Harold Bowman-Bear's. It looked very interesting but it was £8 and out of the question, so I got a copy of "New Christian", a fortnightly I haven't seen before. I found it very good, when I read it this evening and in it was a review of "Clinical Theology" which says that although it is a tremendous work, it is dogmatic, morbid, fundamentalist etc and so not so desirable as I at first thought. Spent the afternoon doing the Christmas cards.

Sun 18 December:

Meeting was almost entirely composed of contributions being made to Charles Marsh who died on Wednesday, then we had a short carol service with the children. Afterwards I talked with Phyl Batten and others. After lunch we watched TV and I wrote a long Christmas letter to Rita. Did some sorting of MSS and some knitting, also TV in the evening. Mummy telephoned, and it was nice to hear her.

Mon 19 December:

Andrew was still at school so although Michael had the day off we had to get up fairly early. Having done the house, washing and shopping I washed my hair and made lunch. We are trying to eat on a shoestring this week so that can afford a good joint for Christmas day. After a rest, Michael and I went into town again and having done some shopping we had tea at the Canary café, which was rather a nice change. Did ironing in the evening. And Paul, who had arranged to run with

two friends, had to go on his own in the end, which was lonely after dark – not to mention a little dangerous in roads without footpaths. Was glad when he came back.

Tues 20 December:

Michael went back to work today and I had a sudden urge to get on and re-paper the downstairs wall, and have the task behind me. In stripping off the pitch paper, my fingers became thoroughly tarry. There was no oil of eucalyptus to remove it, so I tried some camphorated oil, and found it just as excellent! Paul burned the tarry paper in the dustbin, and I spent the whole morning papering. I didn't feel in a patient mood, or have my heart in the job, as I shan't be at all surprised if even the ordinary paper doesn't in time come away from this 'tarry' wall. Paul helped me a little and we eventually sat down for lunch about 1.30. Had a rest, packed some presents and did a very little writing. Paul did a run. He did about 12 miles last night and 11 (though more hilly) today. I hope he doesn't overdo it. Andrew broke up today. He had a very good and fair report. The criticism is that he should try to present his work better, but he had pretty good marks, except for science. Knitting mending TV in the evening.

Weds 21 December:

Andrew went up to Fosseway School today to give some puppet shows, and he was given a school lunch there before returning soon after 4.30. I wrote my mother and went shopping. Had a rest after lunch, then Paul and I tried to devise a game for our 'evening' on Friday. Paul went to a dance in the evening and I watched TV, knitted etc. Michael very tired.

Thurs 22 December:

Paul wasn't back from his dance until after 3am, but Michael got him up for breakfast before 7.30. Having done the washing and some housework I went with Andrew shopping and bought some beef for Christmas day etc. Paul looked very tired when we returned and I wondered if he was ill, but later decided he was just (very naturally) tired. Andrew and I went to Lyncombe Vale and we picked all sorts of greenery and dried weeds etc for painting, and this we did after lunch. Paul took our presents to Granny, Aunt Edie and Auntie Marnie. Made some mince pie and a trifle for tomorrow evening and we had the evening meal at the usual time. Michael incredibly tired again and went to bed before 9. I did the ironing, and to bed soon after.

Fri 23 December:

Michael caught the early train to work this morning. Soon after breakfast Caroline telephoned to say that her mother had a kind of gastric flu and

wouldn't be able to come this evening. Richard, too, was none too well. It was little disappointing all round, so I asked Caroline to invite a friend to accompany her, and when Michael came home early about 4.30 I asked him if we should invite his mother and Thea. In the end – all these came, and Auntie Kitty as well, so we were 9. Paul had made a chocolate log cake, and we had mince pie, trifle etc etc and coffee. We had crackers with indoor fireworks (which Anna didn't like, but which intrigued Tiffin), then a couple of games requiring no thought. Everyone had left by 10, so it wasn't a late affair.

Sat 24 December:

Awakened by the sound of four pattering feet in the bedroom, I was loathe to put the light on and see the time in case it was only 4am and Anna decided it was 7 and refused to go back in her box. Michael, however, was soon awake and found, from his luminous watch that it was nearly 7, so we made tea and Anna had been right about being time to stir after all! Michael and I went into town, and in the afternoon I went down again. Washed my hair and composed some nonsense to put in the boys' cards. It was an incredibly lazy day for a Christmas Eve, and I wonder what I shall find tomorrow I should have done!

Sun 25 December:

A quiet but quite pleasant Christmas day. We rose about 9 and after a light breakfast, opened our present and had the TV on. Holland Park school put on an excellent modern children's opera called "Mak the sheep-stealer". There was nothing smug about it, and it was simply and most beautifully portrayed. Was also humorous. When Mummy telephoned me last night she asked me to phone Bobby at Pat's which I did, and it was nice to learn that they were all well. Lunch (beef, Christmas pudding etc) went well and we read and slept in the afternoon. TV and read in the evening. The Christmas cake was nice and was moist, but very crumbly. I have just finished reading a book about a prisoner who tamed birds. I have never cried over a book before, but I did over this.

Mon 26 December:

Again we didn't hurry to get up. I read and also tidied one of my drawers which badly needed sorting out. We met Granny and Thea at the Fernley for lunch, and it was very pleasant. Poor Auntie Kitty had a cold and was unable to be with us. In the afternoon the others watched TV but I rested and read and joined them in the evening. It was a thoroughly easy day.

Tues 27 December:

After a late breakfast, I did the washing and went down town. I thought several shops would be open but there were only one or two. On return, I wrote a couple

of thank you letters and prepared lunch. Wrote more letters in the afternoon, then, in the evening we went to the Mayo-Smiths for coffee. Michael didn't intend coming with us at first as he didn't feel well, but in the end he said he'd come if we had a taxi home. He wanted me to book it for 9, but I insisted that 9.30 was the earliest we could leave. Actually, it still seemed rather impolitely early. It was a short but quite interesting evening.

Weds 28 December:

Michael went back to work this morning. He felt so tired, he had no breakfast. Having given the stairs a good clean, and written 1 or 2 letters, I went shopping. We had lunch about the usual time. I rested, read and the boys wrote letters until Andrew Taylor called for a while. Andrew (our Andrew) bought more stuff for his model railway lay-out, but it is a big problem to know where he is to put it! The board is 8x4ft, which is unwieldy to say the least. Did the ironing in the evening. We are relieved to hear from the man who should have sent the turn-table that it is on its way.

Thurs 29 December:

Made quick progress this morning with washing etc and then wrote the last thank you letter and phoned Rosemary to know how she was. I was relieved to hear she was better but had just cut her finger badly. I went shopping. When I told Michael I intended paying the monthly cheque on Lloyds to the TSB he doubted if there was enough in the account. As I had £10 in gifts to pay in to Lloyds, I just wrote the cheque and hoped for the best. How could Michael have spent getting on for 40 odd pounds in one week – assuming that the a/c was down to nil? Really our financial position is ridiculous! Lit the fire and made tea after lunch, then read until Buff Diana and her four boys came. They stayed until Michael came home, then left. They're interesting boys – all different from the other. TV ironing etc in the evening, and Paul went on a run – about 12 miles. Michael very annoyed as Andrew had borrowed some pliers of his. His tool cupboard is locked and mustn't be used.

Fri 30 December:

Went shopping and after lunch and a rest, I took Anna up to the doctor's surgery to collect a prescription for Michael. Anna didn't like the Ralph Allen Drive traffic and soon wanted to stop for 'certain purposes'. I drew her to the grass verge, but she immediately became inhibited. We proceeded in stop-go fashion all the way up the hill until near the top I felt obliged to let her perform on the inside of the path. Immediately a car drew up beside me and I thought "Oh dear – now I'm going to be fined" but fortunately it was only

someone inquiring the way and not a policeman! Did mending etc in the evening. The boys had friends during the day and Paul went out with two in the evening.

Sat 31 December:

Michael very depressed today and unable to concentrate on a book. We went down town and had coffee together but he is worried about money and threatens to sell much of his photographic equipment, which I think is a pity even though photography is an expensive hobby. After lunch Andrew went to see a football match and I went with the Battens to see to a certain matter at the Burial Ground for about a quarter of an hour. Read most of the afternoon and evening while Michael and Paul watched TV, Paul having also done some revision. Andrew went to St Andrew's church hall to give a puppet show in the evening. I washed my hair. We didn't stay up to see the New Year in but went to bed about 10.15. I am going to go on a diet for a while: fruit juice and wheatgerm and milk for breakfast protein and salad followed by fruit and evap milk for lunch, cooked meal and en crisp etc for tea. Fruit and en crisp<sup>8</sup> for supper.

Sun 1 January 1967:

During the night I awoke twice with the noise of people or cars in the road. Once I heard a high-powered sports car come up and turn round, then go away at speed. Suddenly there was a screech of brakes and I thought 'I hope that wasn't a cat'. When I went to Meeting I found that there was a dead black cat outside number 69. After lunch we watched TV and read and I did some knitting in the evening. I kept to the new diet and feel full of resolve. Let's hope it doesn't fade too soon! Michael is most unhappy poor dear. He said, dejectedly, that as he supposed he'd be in his present job ad infinitum and would never have much more money, he might as well sell most of his photographic gear, and he would take lunch instead of going to the restaurant which would save him money. Hilary came back this evening.

Mon 2 January:

Michael was still depressed but I am not as worried about it as I might be, as I feel he has reason to be as regards our finances, so the trouble is not what one might call pathological. The bank sent a statement of December figures today, and we find after all that the a/c will be badly in the red when my cheque to the TSB has gone through. To meet this, I found this evening that Michael intends selling all his camera equipment. I begged him to reconsider this decision as he

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<sup>8</sup> Evap milk was evaporated milk, which came in a can, eg 'Ideal Milk', which we used a lot, basically as a substitute for cream. En crisp is 'Energen crispbread', a supposedly starch-reduced crispbread; Energen made various starch-reduced products for the diet market in the 1960s, often replacing starch with cellulose.

will have no hobby, but he is quite adamant, and sure that photography is the cause of his over-spending. This true of course, but it seems a bit too drastic. There was a lot of housework to do today, and washing and shopping, and I also worked on lesson 7 of my correspondence writing course. Ironing in evening. To bed early.

Tues 3 January:

As soon as I'd finished the housework, I completed my correspondence lesson, then went shopping. We had an early lunch, then, after a rest and some writing I went at 3pm to the Burial Ground for the interment of Charles Marsh's ashes. There were about 15 or more of us there and it was a simple affair in cold but sunny weather. Andrew worked on his railway, and Paul studied and went on about a 12 mile run in the evening (Phew!). I read, mended and had a bath. TV was uninteresting.

Weds 4 January:

A cold day. Wrote my mother as soon as I'd finished the housework, then shopping etc. Paul went up to Granny to do some jobs for her, and Andrew went to friends. We worked in our separate ways in the afternoon, then, I spent most of the evening working out a menu from now until Monday, only spending just over £1. It had to be very carefully done, and I expect in the end we shall need some extra or other and I shall have to dip into next week's housekeeping. Actually it's a wonder we've managed, as we've been 5 instead of 4 this week, and Paul and Michael have had lunches as well as Andrew and I (and Hilary, on Weds). TV was interesting in parts.

Thurs 5 January:

I ate too much starch today – probably because it was so cold! Perhaps I can return to my strict diet again tomorrow. Michael went to Plymouth today, and it seems funny that he isn't here tonight. Mummy wrote to say that Auntie Laura was in St Martin's with a broken leg, so I walked up and visited her this afternoon. For someone in these circumstances who is virtually 97 I thought she was marvellous, but she was a little blank or confused at times. There was washing and shopping in the morning, and ironing after an early evening meal. TV was interesting in the late evening. The boys' company was pleasant.

Fri 6 January:

Worked on the programme for the meeting on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> of the Writer's Circle, and got up rather later – soon after 7. Paul went up to Granny Bridges to do some jobs for her. I went shopping. At the TSB the clerk made me sign a small

“change of signature” form, as he reckoned it had altered. In spite of Writer’s cramp, I reckoned that today’s was little different from the original, but, having warned him that it might be different again even by next week, I signed the little form! Spent the afternoon finishing the Circle exercise evening (after the usual short rest) and washed my hair and did mending in the evening. Michael returned from Plymouth, which was just as well, as they went by car and it would seem that the snow season is starting. We had a storm today – but it has melted.

Sat 7 January:

Michael and I went down town. Michael still intends selling all his photographic things and feels very low. After lunch, the boys went to a big football match at Twerton, and Michael and I read and snoozed by the fire. In the evening we went to Olive and Peter Hicks for a wine and cheese party before Peter’s transfer to Aden for year. There were a nice lot of people there, and elderberry, elderflower and apple wines which I enjoyed. Michael and I left about 10.20. I was concerned about Olive who has to see a gynaecologist on Tuesday, and also a little concerned about Rosemary as she seems almost over-full of ideas now – even planning to go to Canada for a holiday.

Sun 8 January:

Michael was feeling very low today. The only highlight for him was a Marx brothers film on TV in the afternoon. At Meeting Harold Bowman-Bear spoke, and then almost “in opposition”, William Light. A way of reconciling the two ministries occurred to me, but another Friend spoke, and then another. There was little time left, but I thought perhaps I should speak, so I did so, but found it difficult to put thoughts into words and sat down feeling I had failed in my task. Fortunately no less than three Friends afterwards expressed gratitude for the words, so I was cheered. It is foolish really to care what they thought, for I merely responded in the best way I could, and ‘results’ shouldn’t bother me. Knitting mending and TV the rest of the day. Very restful, but I didn’t feel entirely so. I don’t know why, but I feel dissatisfied with myself, as though I should be doing something I’m not. I can’t think what it is.

Mon 9 January:

Paul went back to Swansea today and I felt mildly sad. Only mildly, of course, as he seems pretty happy. After I’d done the house and washing, we had some elevenses together, then I left to go shopping, and he left a little later. I did some writing in the afternoon when I’d had a short rest, then did ironing etc in evening. Michael went to the doctor as he felt so depressed, and the doctor

prescribed some drinamyl tablets. I hope they help. Andrew started school again.

Tues 10 January:

After doing the house I did some writing, and before I knew it, it was gone 11 and I had to hurry out to do the shopping. After lunch and a rest, I did about an hour's more writing then walked up to see Auntie Laura in St Martin's. She said three times how pleased she was that I'd come, although I'm not too sure she knew who I was. I gave her some tea and three grapes, and from being very comatose, she seemed to perk up. It sees she broke her leg, by trying to walk out of Wells to go to Winford hospital and 'get her leg right!' After tea, I did some mending etc and watched an interesting programme on TV about gorillas. Michael seems helped by taking drinamyl in the morning.

Weds 11 January:

Wrote my mother before going shopping, then after lunch and rest, did some writing. Cooked a boiling fowl for supper, but even after 25 mins pressure cooking and an hour in a moderate oven, it was still tough, and I had to cut into small pieces and simmer in stock and thicken. Michael was later home as there had been a railway accident outside St Anne's station and the track was blocked necessitating a bus shuttle service. Watched TV and worked out weekend meals in the evening. I find by careful planning much money can be saved.

Thurs 12 January:

Having done washing etc and shopping, had lunch and a rest, then made some puzzles, and after ironing in the evening, continued with them. They are things I can write when the TV is on, I find, and also I am not irritable if interrupted. It is extremely difficult to write a poem (I don't mean just verse) with the TV on, and I am very cross at times, if I am interrupted at a difficult moment. It is also next to impossible to write stories in these conditions, so it seems a good idea to invent puzzles.

Fri 13 January:

Friday the thirteenth – which many people find or think is unlucky, but I had a very pleasant day. Did the house and shopping, then as it was a really quite nice I pruned the pear tree and a few roses, and planted out our little Christmas tree we bought this year. Lunch and a rest, then went on with puzzles started yesterday. Washed my hair and wrote more puzzles in the evening.

Sat 14 January:

Michael and I went down town together. Michael looked in at Desmond Tripp's shop as he was still waiting to hear what they could offer for his photographic

equipment, but they said a letter was coming and would say no more. We think they are probably not willing to offer cash – and we need it! Michael went up to Granny and Thea's for lunch and Thea had a cup of tea here and we chatted and Michael put a plug on something of Granny's in the afternoon. Read and made some puzzles in the evening. It is amazing how well TV (of a light nature) and puzzle-making can easily be combined! Hilary home here all day.

Sun 15 January:

We didn't wake until 8.15, which was later than usual for us. Went to Meeting and watched TV etc in the afternoon until 4pm when Granny and Thea came for a cup of tea. Michael had invited them, as he wanted to put his financial position before them – not in order to have help in the form of a loan, but in order to have advice if they had any. Actually they in fact had none, but insisted on giving us some money so that we can afford to get to a sunny place for a holiday. We both feel dreadful about it, but think perhaps we can't do other than accept. More TV and made a puzzle in the evening.

Mon 16 January:

Did the house and washing and went shopping, then had lunch and rest, and revised my plans for tonight's meeting of the Circle. Typed out puzzles etc. The Circle meeting based on an article exercise went off quite well, although there were several absentees. When I reached home Michael was talking about holidays. I MUST arrange something tomorrow, but he couldn't quite decide which place was best.

Tues 17 January:

Wrote Paul before going out, then went to the Post Office and to Desmond Tripp's for Michael before going on to the first of the new term's writing classes by Mrs Northmore. There were only 6 of us at the class, but Mrs Northmore was very good. Afterwards I met Granny Bridges who took me out to lunch at Evans'. Then we went to Parks' Travel Agency to try and fix the holiday. It was left that they would ring and ask Michael about the only accommodation available in Alassio, where we hope to go by Sky Tours. Did some shopping and went home, then walked up to St Martin's to see Auntie Laura. Did the ironing in the evening and mended a trouser pocket and started making a puzzle. Michael has decided to take the Alassio booking.

Weds 18 January:

After the housework, I wrote my mother, then went shopping and received the cheque from Granny for the holiday which I paid into the Post Office, then

partly withdrew to pay the deposit on our holiday booking. Home for lunch and rest, then did the eighth lesson of my writing correspondence course and typed out some puzzles. When Michael had finished supper, he seemed quite steamed up about the holiday, grumbling and accusing the travel agent of deceiving him et etc and generally being pretty boorish. He must have been over-tired for about 9.30 he seemed a bit better. There was a bit of a scare during the evening and we found the Thompsons' chimney was on fire. I telephoned to ask if we could do anything but she said there was no mess as yet and the firemen were coming. All seemed alright a little later.

Thurs 19 January:

Did the house and washing. Granny, Thea and Frieda went down to Auntie May's cremation today. Fortunately it was mild and fine for their journey. Miss Thompson telephoned to say there wasn't much mess after her chimney fire. Apparently she had a stove put in some five or six years ago, uses it every day and as far as I can gather has never had the chimney swept. Went into town then returned to do an hour's work in the garden. Had lunch and rest, and wrote in the afternoon. Ironing and more writing in the evening. I am still working on puzzles. Hilary came up to see part of a programme. I had a bath and bed. Michael had a tummy upset this morning at work because (he thinks) he had some white wine and too much food last night when he was overtired. He seems much better and more affable tonight.

Fri 20 January:

I have had no reply to a letter sent to Golden Pleasure Books (with stamped addressed envelope) asking if my Roly Poly stories reached them in October. The letter was sent about a fortnight ago and it is so depressing to think the 12 MSS are probably lost. Having done the house, and re-arranged Paul's room so that Andrew can have his model railway in there temporarily, I went and worked in the Burial ground for two hours. It was mild and very pleasant there, but Anna couldn't get comfortable and let out occasional whimpers. After lunch and rest, I wrote in the afternoon, still continuing with my collection of puzzles for young juniors. Michael had the afternoon off to see Desmond Tripp. He has offered us £220 for the camera equipment, but Michael is wondering if he should get a second hand Rolleiflex and attachments, he is being offered (plus £120) instead. I am in favour of this, but as he was only intending to spend about £50 on a camera he can't decide. Washed my hair and worked on puzzles in the evening.

Sat 21 January:

Michael decided to get the Rolleiflex, and we went down town to do several jobs and to arrange this. In the afternoon we rested and Michael slept while I made some puzzles and continued with them in the evening. Andrew was out with friends much of the day. The gas boiler is giving trouble again, but Michael hopes he has managed to overcome the difficulty.

Sun 22 January:

We rose the usual time for a Sunday, and I went to Meeting. Michael wasn't as good as he has been most of the week, which was disappointing, but after a restful afternoon, with the TV writing etc, Granny, Thea and Rosemary came up and we looked at some of their and our slides. Andrew had revision for more Mock O Levels tomorrow. To bed early.

Mon 23 January:

The usual housework and washing, followed by shopping, and I had my hair trimmed. Last January's perm has now just about grown out, so my hair is straight, but, I think, in better condition. Having had lunch and a rest I typed and wrote puzzles. I wonder very much if I am wasting my time doing them, but on the other hand they would be fun and educational for the children and I very much enjoy creating them. Ironing and more puzzles in the evening. The good effect of Michael's pills is wearing off as I think they have over-tired him in the end.

Tues 24 January:

Having done the housework, I wrote Paul, then thought I would telephone the SW Gas Board before going out to the Writing class. Having at last, after several attempts, managed to get them unengaged, I waited 15 minutes, but as it was now 10 to 10, I had to ring off and finally contacted them at 2.30, and the boiler was repaired about 4.30. At the class we learnt about poetry, and after elevenses, we each had to tell a story – Not my cup of tea! After a chat with Anne, Olive and Rosemary, I did some shopping, then home for lunch and a read. Then walked up to St Martin's to see Auntie Laura, whose brain seemed remarkably clear, but who physically is, I think, rather weaker. Back about 4.10 and mending in the evening, TV etc.

Weds 25 January:

Did the house and wrote my mother, then went shopping. After lunch and a rest, I did the ninth lesson of my correspondence course, and then some more writing. Mending in the evening and writing. TV was quite good on BBC2.

Thurs 26 January:

Did some paint cleaning and washing, then went shopping. After lunch and a rest, I did some writing. I am still working on puzzles. When tea was over I did a little ironing and mending writing etc and watched TV which was not very interesting. Andrew's exams are now over, which is a relief to him. He has come third in Maths, which is good for a weak subject. He hasn't any other results as yet.

Fri 27 January:

Did quite a lot of cleaning in the kitchen. This was forced on me, as Tiffin had the 'trots' in the night and I had a horrible job clearing up. Olive and Rosemary came to coffee and lunch, but instead of discussing the article we were meant to be doing for Tuesday's class, we just talked. When they left about 2.30, I walked up to St Martin's with a few flowers and two bananas for Auntie Laura, as it was her birthday. Fortunately Miss Davis from Bitton was there visiting, so I was able to leave straight away again as I had planned, without difficulty. After tea, I read, washed my hair, worked on puzzles etc. Michael is slipping back into a rather unreasonable phase again.

Sat 28 January:

Michael was able to pay in to the Bank a cheque this morning which was from Desmond Tripp for photographic gear, and it puts us straight financially. After lunch I had a splendidly restful afternoon reading and resting, and watched TV etc in the evening. Andrew was out with different friends all day. Michael is communicative but restless and dissatisfied.

Sun 29 January:

Went to Meeting pondering on the mysteries – the symbolism of the sun and moon and planets of which had been reading in a book of astrology, and as so often happens a Friend (Harold Bowman-Ber) spoke on this very subject. Had a rest in the afternoon, and after an early tea, I went to Evening Meeting where Hilda Bowman-Ber spoke on Counselling and there followed a discussion. When I came home about 8.20 I found Michael had gone to bed, so Andrew and I chatted until about a quarter to 10.

Mon 30 January:

Did the washing and housework and had one or two telephone conversations. The man came to mend the boiler again (although told to come in the afternoon) and at last, well after 10.30, I set off to go shopping. Went up to a Mr Deane who keeps a herbal shop in Brock St and he prescribed some pills for my brittle hair. His wife tried to sell me everything in the shop, but I managed to resist most of the things! After lunch, a read and a rest, I typed out some more puzzles I have

written. I'm now on the 4<sup>th</sup> part of the book. After tea I went to Writer's Circle and over twenty of us listened to Eileen Moloney talk about her job as a TV producer. From a writing point of view perhaps it wasn't greatly useful, but it was very interesting.

Tues 31 January:

I was quite encouraged this morning to get a criticism of my puzzle book I am making, from my London School of Journalism tutor. He said he'd never had such a good idea from any student but may be it is just 'policy' to give some praise towards the end of the course. I wrote a sonnet and then a letter to Paul, after tidying the house, then went to the writing class. Mrs Northmore read a very good radio play she had written, and I do hope she gets it accepted. We also discussed an article written by Lord Eccles. We didn't think it was as good as she did, and we all wanted to talk at once! After shopping, lunch and rest, I walked up to St Martin's to see Auntie Laura. Her mind was less clear, and conversation wasn't too easy. In the evening I did ironing and read etc but my mind refused to work re puzzles. (I had done a few after my rest this afternoon, though.)

Weds 1 February:

After the housework I wrote a letter for Michael and another to my mother. Went out about 11 and did quite a lot of shopping. After lunch and rest, I spent the afternoon and some of the evening on puzzles. The dog has had an abscess on her paw for a day and we've had to dress it.

Thurs 2 February:

Did the house and washing then a letter etc. At about 12.10 Anne picked me up and we met Olive and Rosemary at Mrs Northmore's house at Bathampton, then drove out to Conkwell. After looking round there, we went on a little way and had our lunch. Olive brought some wine for us and it was rather strong and dry. I became almost hysterically giggly and two of the others were laughing a lot too. We then went for a walk and at one point Anne and Mrs M went back for the car while Olive Rosemary and I walked on to Warleigh and were picked up there. We then went to call on Olive's friend, Florence who was keeping a friend of her's company in a house at Bathford next to the vicarage. We were all invited in as the owner was in hospital and it was a revelation – very neglected house full of antiques etc. We all came home then, and Anne came up for a cup of tea before meeting her youngest daughter out of school. Did a few puzzles and ironing, and washed my hair in the evening.

Friday 3 February:

Went out shopping quite early this morning, after doing the house, and was back by 10.45, so typed some samples of puzzles to send a synopsis of the proposed book to Oliver & Boyd. Lunch and slightly longer rest than usual in an attempt to follow relaxation idea put forth in a new small book I have. (It was twice interrupted by the telephone.) Spent the afternoon doing the last lesson of my correspondence class. Hilar has gone home for the weekend, so we were alone for supper. Went to Annual Preparative Meeting which lasted from 6.30 until gone 9. Michael and Andrew kindly washed up for me.

Saturday 4 February:

Michael and I did several jobs in town. After lunch I read a magazine which dealt with astrology and palmistry. Quite honestly I felt ashamed of buying it as such things are usually sought after by people wanting to know their future. I was interested from a 'cycle' point of view, and am now becoming clearer. Fire is the beginning – but there is little wrong with the rest of the previous ideas, I feel. Read and rested in the afternoon, which was most luxurious, then after tea, Michael and I went up to Rosemary's for supper. She gave us a lovely meal and it was all pleasant. Olive was there too, having boarded her daughters with friends, and left her students to fend for themselves. We left about 8.30 and having just missed a bus, walked home! Andrew had none too interesting a day, poor boy. He found that the man who was possibly going to take him from Bristol to a Subuteo meeting at Watchet tomorrow, couldn't make it, and as he is saving up for a trip to Wolverhampton on the 18<sup>th</sup> he didn't go to the local football match as usual.

Sun 5 February:

We woke on the late side and read, not getting up until past nine, as Hilary wasn't here. In the end, I didn't go to Meeting as Michael wanted me to go for a walk with him and take photos. It was fairly sunny and we took several photos down by the canal. After lunch I watched TV and did mending etc. while Michael developed his film, then we both read and rested. Granny and Thea called to see us, but we didn't know, as Andrew welcomed them. We heard their car, but only as they left. In the evening we watched TV and had baths in relays. More mending and knitting.

Mon 6 February:

It was nice to hear from Paul this morning that his leg is on the mend and he has passed his exams. My mother's letter was cheery too. Having done the house and washing I went shopping, then had lunch as usual, a read and rest. Spent the

afternoon on writing activities, finishing on the early side so, that I could bake a lemon curd tart for tea, a flan for tomorrow lunches and a chocolate cake besides the evening meal. Michael is still having vegetarian meals with me (or rather non-meat, as we do have a little fish) and seems to accept it all without complaint. I feel very happy to be able to plan his diet to some extent as I would like, even if it is difficult to find enough variety for his liking. Ironing etc in evening. Rosemary now has a PG – a boy at the Tech for a few weeks' course in plumbing.

Tues 7 February:

Mrs Northmore analysed a story of Katherine Mansfield called "The Garden Party" and it was instructive, at the writing class. Went shopping afterwards then home for lunch, rest and the writing of two letters. The Ideal boiler man came and put a new solenoid valve in the boiler. We had a light high tea followed by pancakes as it was Shrove Tuesday. Watched TV and mending in the evening. Didn't feel too energetic. Michael packed up his camera as he has been offered £30 profit on it by a firm in another part of England. When he first thought of doing this I was most unsure that it was good idea. Now I think he might as well, and get another second hand camera – but now Michael has serious second thoughts! He is very tired, which doesn't help, and when he asked Mr Frost the result of last Friday's meeting re his up-grading, he said a meeting with Mr White regarding Michael's future was arranged for Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – so yet another wait!

Weds 8 February:

After doing the house and making a couple of telephone calls I went shopping – posting off Michael's camera. I felt that he shouldn't part with it this morning but Michael, having slept on the matter, had come to the opposite conclusion! It's funny how both our views became changed during the night. Read and rested after lunch, then walked up to the hospital to see Auntie Laura. Stayed about 50 mins then home to get tea. Watched TV and knitted in the evening and to bed about 11 as the programmes were quite interesting.

Thurs 9 February:

Did the washing and some writing, then went shopping. The afternoon was spent on more writing and in the evening Anne called for me and we went up to a Mrs ? Hart-Veyney where Betty Northmore arranged a playreading of "Playboy of the Western World". It was difficult, but interesting meeting different people

including two of Andrew's masters. We had wine and other refreshments, and I didn't get home until 11.45.

Fri 10 February:

Did the house and a little typing, then went shopping and met Granny for coffee. After lunch and usual rest, went to the Burial Ground with a few plants, and soon Franceys Longman came and we discussed the matter of moving the stones. It's going to be a mammoth task. I stayed to do a little gardening after she had left, then after tea, did the ironing and washed my hair, read etc.

Sat 11 February:

Went shopping, and bought Andrew a new windcheater and trousers before meeting Michael. As he had said "don't be late" I was 10 minutes early – but he was 20 minutes late so I was a bit impatient! After coffee and a little more shopping we went home for lunch. (Hilary is in London this weekend.) Had a very pleasant afternoon resting and reading, then shortened the sleeves of Andrew's windcheater and watched TV. Andrew went to a football match in the afternoon. Michael was most unreasonable and cross in the evening – I felt sorry for Andrew who got the brunt of it and defended him – but this only makes Michael more annoyed.

Sun 12 February:

Went to Meeting then home (Betty Plowright gave me a lift) for an early lunch. Michael was restless and rather disgruntled. I don't think this simpler camera he has now is going to satisfy him. Watched TV knitted, had a rest and read. At 6.20 Michael went to bed as he felt so tired, so Andrew and I watched TV – the religious programmes, and a Russian film on BBC2.

Mon 13 February:

Particulars of some courses in natural therapy arrived this morning and I was very interested in them as they seemed to 'fill the bill' more satisfactorily than the other two 'schools' I had received brochures from. Did the house and washing, then went shopping. Andrew's half term, so he went to friends and was very chuffed as he had received his tickets for the Wolverhampton football match on Saturday. Had lunch and a rest, then decided to fill in the enrolment form for a short inexpensive course on radiesthesia with this correspondence school. By the time I've finished that I feel I shall know whether it is a good place with which to study further. Did my 'homework' for tomorrow's writing class, then after tea went to Writer's Circle for MS reading. I didn't take a MS

– which was just as well, as there was only time for the others and it was then 9pm. Rosemary wasn't there as she had a chill. I have written today to a girl, recommended by Rosemary, who wants accommodation from Mon-Fri only.

Tues 14 February:

Michael sent me a Valentine and I quite forgot it was Valentine's Day. I was very touched. Having done the housework and written to Paul, I went to the morning writing class. A story called the "Basement Room" by Graham Greene was analysed, and it was truly helpful. After this we read our own half-stories. None of them was very brilliant and Betty Northmore didn't think much of mine. I'm afraid. It was all great fun, though, and we had a good laugh – this, in spite of a horribly cold room for it has turned bitterly cold with a north wind, and we had snow for a short while at tea time. Having shopped, had lunch, rested and dressed the dog's paw, I walked up to St Martin's to see Auntie Laura. Poor soul, her breathing was very rattly, she didn't know me, and only kept calling out about the cruel treatment and calling me a cruel wretch. I kept reassuring her that they were really trying to care for her and make her better, and in the end I suggested she went to sleep again, and that it was 'alright now' – and I left. On reaching home I started to write an article before getting tea. Afterwards there was ironing, but I went up and had a bath before 9 and to bed early, Michael too.

Weds 15 February:

The radiesthesia course came today. It is very interesting and good, but as no homework is involved I don't consider it very value. The magazines are interesting, but I am beginning to have much the same reservations about the set-up as I have formed about scientology. It's a little more humble than scientology, but has the same 'American' flavour. Friends would, I think, call it full of 'notions'. – But the subjects are all fascinating to me and I'd like to get hold of some books. I've ordered one on colour healing that is recommended (with a book token). Having written Mummy, I went shopping, then had lunch and a rest and read. A Miss Organ called and is going to board from Mon-Fri. Made some cookies and a cake and two flans – one for tea which we had early as Michael and I had to go up to City of Bath School to see masters about Andrew's progress and choice of A Level subjects. Bed about 9.45.

Thurs 16 February:

When the family had left, I did the house and washing, then shopping. Rested and read after lunch, did some ironing, but in general had a very easy afternoon

as for some reason felt rather unsettled. Mending in the evening watched TV and washed my hair.

Fri 17 February:

Felt a bit unwork-ish and off-colour (probably due to the fruit and veg diet I've put myself on for a few days.) Anyhow there was plenty to be done as there was the house and I made two cakes and some cookies, a baked custard flan and a pie for lunch. David Phillipa Mark and Sophie came to lunch and stayed for a cup of tea. Phillipa had a cold but the others were flourishing. I liked seeing them again and took photos of the children, but Sophie is so much like quick silver, it was difficult to get her. When they had gone, I made the evening meal, and planned to meet Paul at 8, but he arrived about 7.30. We talked a lot. Bed about 10.30.

Sat 18 February:

Andrew set off quite early for his journey to Wolverhampton to watch their match against Everton. There was a 53000 crowd and quite an experience for him. We were very relieved when he returned happily about 10 past 10 this evening (just in time to see part of the match again on television.) I didn't meet Michael in town after shopping this morning abut came home to cook lunch. Michael was very restless about his camera situation and finally asked the north country man (Mr Hindley) to return his Rolleiflex (as fortunately it had not been sold). After this, although he was upset with himself for having made a mistake, he felt relieved. After lunch Paul Michael and I walked to t a quarry on Hampton Rocks where we left Paul looking for fossils. Soon there was a very cold storm and wind, and the walk home via North Road (a very muddy lane) Bathwick Hill etc was not too pleasant. Paul returned only ½ hr after us and we had tea (with Hilary of course) then watched TV mending reading etc. I heard today that Auntie Laura died on Thursday.

Sun 19 February:

At Meeting there was a dear little boy of 17 months who was so lively and friendly but who, because there was no children's Meeting this Sunday, had to come into Meeting. He was completely silent (though not asleep) from start to finish! After lunch, TV a short snooze etc Granny and Thea came to an early tea to see Paul and to take him to the station at a quarter to 5. Knitted and watched TV then we had supper about 7.45 and I had a bath etc about 9, while the others watched a war film.

Mon 20 February:

I was wondering how I would possibly get through all the things I needed to do this morning, but for some reason everything went 'like a bomb' and I did the

house, including getting Sarah Organ's room ready, the washing and the shopping (when I sent off the new EIFTA stamps to Paul) and even had time for a rest before lunch. Then, soon after 1, I caught a bus to Keynsham for Auntie Laura's funeral. I had hoped to talk to one or other of the relatives, but there was no chance. By 3 I was back again, so I wrote Betty Wills etc then made tea, and Sarah Organ came. Did ironing in the evening, TV read paper etc. Bed soon after 9.30. Have instituted a new diet for myself – low starch and dairy produce, +++veg & fruit, also fish. It's rather fun doing new things.

Tues 21 February:

Had a little shopping to do and a parcel of washing to post off to Paul before going to the morning writing class. None of us was in a writing mood but we had to write a short play! We made poor efforts and Betty Northmore said we'd better go and have a cup of tea. Afterwards the class developed into a discussion as to whether it would be possible for us to stay in her north Devon cottage for a few days in early April. She told us we hadn't trained our husbands at all well when Anne and I said it would be difficult. After lunch and a rest I decided that although she had been right that we (or at least I) were 'stick in the mud' and needed to break out and do more exciting things, I didn't feel I needed the stay on Exmoor so much that it warranted upsetting Michael now, when he is under strain from frustrations at work. Wrote my mother and read, knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Weds 22 February:

Did the house and shopping then wrote two letters before lunch. Had a slightly longer rest than usual, then read in the afternoon, as I had obtained a book on a book token. I felt rather as if I was squandering my time – yet it was difficult to decide what it would be better to do, since I decided to give writing a rest for a little while. Made some cakes, cookies, tarts etc with the evening meal. Reading knitting and TV in the evening. Michael was a bit teased [sic] out.

Thurs 23 February:

As it was Sarah's half-term she left us today – until Monday evening. I did the house and washing, then the shopping. Wrote a letter of so and then had lunch and a rest. Writing in the afternoon. Ironing and more writing in the evening. TV. Andrew is planning to go to Stamford Bridge on March 11<sup>th</sup> to see another Cup match. Michael is very cross about it and says he can't go to any more after this. Although I don't like it, I feel that Andrew should be free, at 15, to spend his pocket and git money entirely as he pleases, provided he keeps himself in the

small clothing items for which he is responsible. I have therefore had to tell Michael that I disagreed with him.

Fri 24 February:

Did the house and shopping and posted off some MSS – I've decided to spend several off quickly – before any come back and make me despondent again! Went to the Reference Library to read some magazines for while (for markets) then home for lunch and rest. Writing in the afternoon and read TV and more writing in the evening. Michael was pretty fractious at supper time, as over-tired, but seems better now.

Sat 25 February:

Had the first rejection back this morning – of the MSS I am now sending out. Fortunately the 'pill' was sugar-coated, for it consisted of a letter suggesting two publishers that might take it. Met Michael in town after shopping, and eventually we were so 'awkwardly' laden that we took a taxi back. After lunch I typed out an article (begun before) and then rested and read. Washed hair, read etc etc in the evening. Olive rang to say she had been called into hospital on Monday.

Sun 26 February:

Read a fair amount before getting up. A full Meeting, but practically no Ministry. Spent the afternoon and evening in knitting, TV reading resting etc. Very pleasant. Michael did some photography this morning but was tired the rest of the day.

Mon 27 February:

House, washing and shopping and somehow, I seem to have overspent, for it will be difficult to make ends meet this week! After lunch and a rest, and a very little writing, I set off in pouring rain to collect a prescription on Combe Down for Michael. I went by bus, but had to wait so long for it and for the prescription to be made up, it was a rather tiresome afternoon. Had a few telephone conversations with different people, then, after tea went to Writer's Circle when Mrs Tooms of Keynsham Circle came and told us about her Woman's column she writes under the name of Diana Inglis. It was an interesting talk. Anne drove Dorothy Hemmings, Mrs Doleman and myself home, but we had to get a postman to start the car by hand, as water had got into the engine! Michael is very tired and grumpy.

Tues 28 February:

The last day of February! I'm always glad when it's March as it seems as though spring is nearly here – not that this winter has been cold. It has been remarkably mild and the crocuses have been out a week or two already. Having prepared the lunch early, I thoroughly aired the house and lit a fire. Did some cleaning etc. Anne and Rosemary came for coffee and lunch and we talked quite hard. When they had gone I washed up and had a rest, then started a letter to my mother. Ironing, mending and TV in the evening. Michael a little better this evening.

Weds 1 March:

Housework, finished my mother's letter, then did some shopping, and met Mary Hare for coffee. She seemed quite well, and we had a pleasant chat. Did more shopping afterwards and home for lunch and rest. I suddenly remembered in the morning that I had forgotten to give Hilary any fruit for breakfast and so took it down to her (as she is home all day on Wednesdays). Wrote in the afternoon. Knitted and TV in the evening. Very good play on mental illness called "In two minds".

Thurs 2 March:

Hilary's birthday. I did the house and washing and prepared next week's menus. I have had to draw extra housekeeping this week, and for no reason at all – except bad management. Went to the Crown building to lodge Paul's and my insurance cards, but it is a frightful place. – It was about 15 mins waiting to make an enquiry in the first place, then wrong directions, and finally another wait in another toom. (I'll post them next time.) Had my hair trimmed, so not back until about 1. After lunch and a rest, did writing. Had frightful indigestion after supper which is most unusual for me, – except that we did have cooked cheese and perhaps there was not enough starch with it. Ironing, knitting, bath and bed.

Fri 3 March:

Hilary went home for the weekend today, and as Sarah goes home every weekend, we are on our own. Mr Hanham came to see to the six leaks in the roof we have, and to inspect the downstairs wall we want dealt with. He plans to batten it and apply boarding, rather than plaster it, as he doesn't think the plaster would key to the 'pitch'! Went shopping, then home for lunch and rest. Spent most of the afternoon working out a plan whereby Michael and I could have the bottom room as a bedroom and be quite separate from the students, and they could eat in the study. Did a little writing, then supper, and Michael went to the doctor. I was going to visit Olive Hicks, but I telephoned to see if

anyone else was going, and found her students were. Heard later that she is going to Claverton hospital for convalescence tomorrow. Michael was so appalled with my idea re students and etc planned in the afternoon, that he became quite violent. Oh well .... what's in is best out. I was sorry, though, that the effort had an unhelpful rather than a helpful result.

Sat 4 March:

We didn't hurry to get up, but were up shopping by about 9.15. Andrew came with us and we did quite a few calls, and had coffee at Jolly's. After lunch I rested and read until about 3.15, then Andrew went off to Yeovil to play Subbuteo (which he won) and Michael and I went up to Frieda's for tea. She had some things of Auntie May's there, and we were given several things including two blankets, a cardigan, a very nice piece of soapstone etc. We went on to see Granny and Thea, and Thea drove us home. Michael and I had supper and Andrew returned about 10. Thea's landlady has had to go in to Bailbrook, and her dog to a kennel.

Sun 5 March:

Woke up with the sudden intense feeling that I must write to the evening paper to back Roma Vince, who wrote about the blessing of nuclear submarines, of which she disapproved, last week. Eventually, by teatime, I had a draft that even Michael upheld for the most part, but in case of any embarrassment to him or his family I sent under my initial only. Went to Meeting in the morning and a study circle introduced by Frank Frisby in the evening. Knitted, TV etc.

Mon 6 March:

Usual housework, washing and shopping, then had lunch and about an hour's rest today as I had slept little after 2am this morning when Michael had got up to go to the bathroom. After this, I did writing all the afternoon, and ironing and knitting in the evening. Michael came home very tired.

Tues 7 March:

Did the housework, finished a MS for submission, started a letter to Mummy and then Anne gave me a lift and we went to the writing class. There were only three of us. Shopping lunch and rest, then finished my mother's letter and did some writing. TV and knitting in the evening.

Weds 8 March:

I now have quite eight or more MSSs out. One was rejected today, so I sent it out again (Never say die). Wrote a letter and went shopping, had some corns removed at Dr Scholl's foot centre, went to the Ref Library to read magazines

until 11.15 when I went to meet Franceys Longman to find out about a chemical for the Burial Ground grass. Home for lunch and rest. Writing in the afternoon (between a few phone calls). Made a couple of flans and a fish pie for supper. Mending etc in the evening.

Thurs 9 March:

An acceptance! Only 30/- for an article, but the first since last summer – largely because I've been doing homework for classes, but not entirely so. Did the housework and washing and started the essay for class homework. Anne called for me and we went to her mother's cottage. Mrs Craigie-Hartwell was a perfect dear and most welcoming. I loved her cottage in the grounds of Meridan, Weston Rd and she has a huge garden, predominantly orchard. We went on to Rosemary's for a coffee party in aid of the Madame Curie Foundation where I met Miss John and went afterwards to her cottage for a little while. At 12.30 I returned to Rosemary who took me home and we had a snack lunch, then she went shopping and I caught a bus up to Claverton Down to see Olive. Olive seemed fairly well, and will be home on Monday. Came home and finished my essay, then made tea and afterwards did the ironing washing my hair etc. The letter I wrote to the Chronicle was published tonight, but cut slightly.

Fri 10 March:

Having done the usual necessities in the house, went shopping etc and after lunch and a rest did a very full three and a half hours writing. Knitting in the evening and Andrew went to a young Friends' meeting, to see if he would like it. Michael is very disgusted to learn that I shall be out two Saturday afternoons following.

Sat 11 March:

A busy morning, as did some meal preparation, then went with a Mr and Mrs Weakley up to the Burial Ground to inspect it regarding the grazing of ponies on it. They seemed quite keen, but we should have to 'fence' off the border etc. We are undecided whether to stop young Friends cutting the grass next Saturday as some think that ponies may damage the stones and wear out the grass in places, so may not be advisable. Some want us to use a chemical grass inhibitor. The caretaker suggests us having two sheep. Anyway, after shopping, I went home to do some cooking and after lunch, dashed off to meet Dorothy Hemmings at the Pump Room. We went to a sight-reading class for children, and then on to our literary classes. We none of us came first though I was fortunate to come second in one class. Mrs Boardman's poem was described as brilliant but unfortunately it was disqualified as she had inadvertently entered a class for under-17s. Poor Dorothy, Rosemary, Olive and Miriam had no

certificates, nor Mrs Holbeche, and Miss Stone and Miss Cass had second class ones. Mrs Taylor of Keynsham was second in the humorous poem class, getting an Honours, like me, I had a second class one for the sonnet. Home and after tea did some phoning, knitting etc but to bed early as had a slight headache.

Sun 12 March:

A pleasant easy day, although Michael was feeling there was a lot he had to do and Andrew wondered if it would be better if I stayed home and didn't go to Meeting. I did consider the matter as I should never like to be inflexible, but as Michael was mowing the lawn and writing letters I could see no chance of being any help to him – besides, I had said I would collect a pair of shears from a Friend at Meeting. There was a good attendance of children in Meeting today. TV and knitting, reading etc the rest of the day, and finished the small blanket I've been knitting for 'Help the Aged' n memory of Annie.

Mon 13 March:

It was quite a hectic rush today to get the housework done and washing before doing a little shopping and meeting Mummy off the train at 10.30. To make matters worse, I found, when Andrew and Hilary were having breakfast that Kimmy was at the bottom of her cage (as she often is) but didn't respond as she usually does. Feeling sure her life was slipping away, I moved her cage gently to the study, and told no-one. A little later she was still breathing, but when I had nearly finished the washing I found she was dead. Much as I wanted to postpone burying her, I decided to do so and put the cage out for the dustmen, so I wrapped her in paper and buried her under a hyssop bush in my herb border. It was all rather sad – but I now feel free to have a kitten. Miss West brought her car to the station and we all went back to Auntie Marnie's for coffee and lunch. Mummy and I had a brief walk before lunch, and another about 3.30 (and tea) before going home. Writer's Circle in the evening when the Midsomerset entries were read and I met Mrs Snelling and had coffee with her, before going home.

Tues 14 March:

Did the house and some shopping then went to the last of Mrs Northmore's writing classes. There were only three of us because Anne had telephoned to say she had been ill most of the night – probably with one of these gastric viruses, and Olive was still in Claverton Hosp. Met Mummy at 10 past 2 and about 12.30 we went to Evans' fish restaurant and had lunch. Sat in the Abbey Churchyard in the afternoon as it was nice and sunny. Later had a cup of tea, did some shopping and we separated. I had ironing and mending in the evening but also began a new multi-coloured blanket – for ourselves this time.

Weds 15 March:

Our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Did the housework and a very little writing work, then went shopping and met Mummy. We went with Auntie Marnie and Miss West to Jolly's for coffee, then left them and went to the Nearly New shop where I bought a red jumper for 5/1! We had lunch in Sally Lunn's where we met Rosemary (by chance) and afterwards did a little more shopping then sat in Victoria Park in beautiful sun. Went to Auntie Marnie's to see some clothes Miss West intends selling, but they didn't suit me. She then took us up to St Martin's where Mummy visited Mr Sayers, then we came back to Lyncombe Hill for tea. Miss West left about 5.15 and I gave tea to the girls, then we had our evening meal about 7. Watched TV knitted and talked. Mummy left at 9.

Thurs 16 March:

Had quite a bit to do in the way of meal preparation etc before leaving at 9.10 and meeting Mummy to go to London. We took her picture to Christy's [sic] by taxi and they were quite optimistic about its value. We then caught another taxi to the Ideal Home Exhibition and had about three hours there. It was crowded and hot and I was amazed how untired Mummy was. We bought a few small items and enjoyed it all then caught a taxi to the station at about 3.45, had tea, and caught the 4.45 train home. Knitted in the evening. Very sleepy.

Fri 17 March:

Had quite a lot to get done this morning – washing, house and shopping – before meeting my mother at 10.30. We did a little shopping together and we met Auntie Marne for coffee. Afterwards Mummy bought me a pair of shoes. Later she went to Dr Wakefield [?] and I went home to find Paul had arrived. Both Michael and Mummy came later and we had lunch and then talked. Mummy left about 3., and after the evening meal I did the ironing, washed my hair, did knitting. Sarah broke up and went home today.

Sat 18 March:

Went to the Burial Ground after breakfast to take the shears etc. Went shopping and met Michael who told me I looked very pale. The boys met 'Gran' for lunch and so Michael Hilary and I had the meal on our own. At 2 I laid tea and went to the Burial Ground where there was quite a good party of young Friends and when Andrew came later he joined them at the Meeting House in the evening. Other Friends came with tea but poor Franceys Longman twisted her ankle badly and had to be taken home. About 5, or just before, I came home and Paul, Michael, Hilary and I had tea. Knitted in the evening, but about 8, I was so sleepy, I had a bath and went to bed. The clocks go on this evening, so it is, as I write, virtually 10pm so not so very early after all.

Sun 19 March:

Andrew came to Meeting with me and joined the party of Yung Friends for lunch and the work afterwards. Met Mummy at 12.10 and we had a short walk and talk. In the afternoon I did some gardening. Paul did very little and took it easy. Knitting and TV in the evening.

Mon 20 March:

Had a busy morning – doing the house, washing shopping and even making a cake and some biscuits. Michael is on holiday this week and Paul is home of course. Had a rest after lunch. Gardening much of the afternoon. Ironing knitting etc in the evening and Paul had Andrew and I doing an intelligence test. He scored about 18, Andrew 15 and I only had 12. It is the time factor that makes it difficult. Michael did some photography.

Tues 21 March:

Andrew felt he shouldn't miss school, so didn't come to Bristol Zoo with us, but Michael Paul and I enjoyed it very much. It was beautifully sunny and there were several young animals including baby gorillas, a polar bear cub and leopard cubs. We returned about 5 and Hilary went home for the vacation today. Michael spent the evening developing our films. One was accidentally spoiled. Paul helped him while I knitted and watched TV. Michael slightly alarmed me by saying had "come up the hill too quickly" and obviously had a tight chest pain. He reminds me these days of something fully wound up.

Weds 22 March:

Michael and I went shopping separately this morning. Paul's friend, Michael Stagg came about midday and they went to Midford fossil hunting and taking their lunch. Michael and I went down town again after lunch to post a letter and go to the Bank, but in the end I did the weekend shopping (it being Easter weekend) and we had tea in Jolly's. It was gone 5.30 by the time we reached home and Andrew was wondering where we were. TV and knitting in the evening, but Michael developed a part film of Andrew's.

Thurs 23 March:

Michael Andrew and I set off quite early to go to Bristol Zoo (again) and on the train met Olive Hicks and her daughters, who were going to Bristol. At the zoo it was pleasant from a photographic point of view but oh, so very cold, and although I was well clothed Andrew was shrammed [sic – very chilled, it seems]. Michael didn't seem to notice it. By a quarter to 12 we were so hungry, we went to the cafeteria and the others had hot dogs and pies, while I had cheese sandwiches and a fruit pie. And later we had choc-ices. We enjoyed it all, but

had to wait about  $\frac{3}{4}$ hr for a bus back to the station for some reason. Caught the 3.15 train (late) home but noticed Andrew wasn't feeling too good. He said he was better when we alighted, but at home he felt ill again, and went to bed with [hot water] bottles. Later he was pretty bad, with d & v [diarrhoea and vomiting I assume] and so assume he either caught a chill, or a virus that is going around just now which makes you ill for about 72 hours. I sat with him for a while and did some knitting. Paul went out with friends went shopping and worked today.

Fri 24 March (Good Friday):

Andrew was alright again today, I was glad to find, but we took things easy with him and he didn't get up until nearly lunch time and had very light meals. Michael put fertiliser on the lawn after a late breakfast, then Paul had a bonfire for us. He went out with friends in the afternoon while Michael and I rested and read, I having done some washing in the morning. As the golf course was closed (approach course) Paul brought his friends back for a game and tea. TV and knitting in the evening. Washed my hair. I was tempted to return to a side parting today, now that the perm I had over a year ago has nearly grown out, but finally decided that it wasn't 'me' and I must persevere with the style I changed to about last summer. The drugs Michael is having wind him up so that he is quite energetic and "fully wound" as it were, soon after breakfast but by the afternoon he is tired, by the evening irritable and by early next morning unspeakably low depressed and flat. He says he feels worse if he leaves them off, which is of course what one would expect – for at least some weeks – but I am dreading what this drug treatment is leading to, and no amount of vitamins etc seems to compensate.

Sat 15 March:

We didn't get up until about 9, and after breakfast I did the ironing. Went shopping about 11.15 and Andrew came with me. Afterwards we walked up to Springfield Place, meeting Michael and Paul there. Granny and Thea gave us a very nice lunch, and afterwards we looked at some transparencies of Michael's. We left about 3.30 and when we reached home, had tea, hot cross buns again etc then I had a snooze. Did some work on my food and nutrition handbook and then made supper. Michel projected his transparencies afterwards. Bed about 10.45. Michael feels no better for his week's holiday. It is quite worrying.

Sun 26 March:

Easter Sunday. We got up about 9. Michael feeling really very low and finding the dissatisfaction year in year out terribly hard to bear. I, too, ache for him to "do something" though I can see that it is impossible to know what it would be

sensible to do. Went to Meeting and after lunch put some special 'safe' week-killer on our paths. Michael and I went for a walk and I collected nettle tops and hedge garlic and made some soup for tomorrow. We had a cup of tea at 4 and high tea about 5.30. then spent the evening knitting and watching TV. The boys did some studying and also had a game in the park.

Mon 27 March:

Easter Monday, and we were surprised to see it was snowing this morning, so we didn't hurry to get up! The snow didn't pitch, and it became quite sunny later though cold in unsheltered places. Did the washing and after a little gardening in the back garden, did the ironing. Lunch, then read and rested in the afternoon and made food notes and watched TV in the evening. Michael feels so bad he has decided to go to the doctor instead of going back to work tomorrow. An oil tanker which became wrecked in some rocks off the south coast is causing large quantities of oil to float into Cornish beaches and detergent is being sprayed there, and sea-birds treated.

Tues 28 March:

After my fortnight's minimum of housework, I was full of enthusiasm this morning, so after the boys had set off to Cornwall on the early train, I washed some curtains, blankets etc, and gave the rooms a good clean, then at 10 we went up to the doctor's as Michael had felt he just couldn't go to work. After a brief bit of shopping lunch, and a short rest. Dr Guirdham came at Dr Carr's request. He saw Michael and I separately, and Michael felt quite prepared to go into Weston Lodge if necessary, but Dr G didn't feel Michael was so bad, and decided to treat him at home. I'm sure this is the best solution, but in a way we felt disappointed, as we feel Michael will just be given umpteen pills and progress will be slow, and affect only the symptoms. I did the ironing before and after tea, and cleaned the oven. Mr Hanham came to see about the work he is going to do and stayed for coffee. I am planning to partly paint (touch up) and paper Paul's room. Michael was against it at first but has now 'come around'.

Weds 29 March:

Did some more washing of curtains and blankets, and as I had three lengthy phone calls, I didn't get out until nearly 11. I bought some paint to touch up Paul's room and got some wallpaper clippings to send him, then back to re-clean the oven and have lunch. Michael fetched a prescription and went shopping, In the afternoon I had a rest then wrote Paul, and having posted the letter, washed the paint in Paul's room and prepared the room for action tomorrow or

the next day. Michael de-scaled the kettles and did some photographic work. We watched TV and I knitted in the evening.

Thurs 30 March:

We seem to get up about a quarter to eight now, with Michael home on this sick leave. After breakfast I tidied the house etc and we went into town to pick up some photos, get the housekeeping etc. Granny Bridges came to lunch and when she had gone I washed some curtains and two more blankets (now 10) then, later, did the ironing and a little mending. Michael is still very 'touchy' and as the thought of my doing Paul's room seems to make him feel ill at ease, I've put the furniture and pictures back in place, and decided to do it when Paul has gone back to University, and Michael is better and back at work.

Fri 31 March:

Got up about 8, and we went shopping after breakfast. A fairly early lunch, then, after a rest I wrote the boys and sent off their snaps and then did some linen repairs and made 3 pillow cases out of an old sheet. Michael rested and had a very easy day but unfortunately this rest at home, or else the change in pills is not having a good effect, he must feel pretty awful as he can't open his mouth without grumbling or being perfectly horrible. I found a couple of animal books in the library today, and the photos in them have been about the only 'bright ray' in a gloomy day. We met Miriam Wells today who is shortly planning to move from Mrs Wooster's flat to one in Sydney Bdgs. She said how well Michael looked. He is certainly well physically and it is obviously just unhappiness. How can pills cure that? They can alleviate in a crisis, but surely no more.

Sat 1 April:

After breakfast at about 8.45, we went shopping. I had a cheque from Oliver & Boyd for £54 odd which was heartening. Thea and Granny called for us at about 11.45 and took us out in the car. We had a picnic in the car just behind Westbury white horse where there was an excellent view. After this, we went and looked at Edington Priory church. We tried to get over the Plain to see the village of Imber but it was still out of bounds and army territory. We stopped for a cup of tea in the car on the way home, and came back before 4. Spent the evening (after high tea) working on herb facts etc. Bed about 11.15. Michael watched TV.

Sun 2 April:

Michael was, I thought, a little better today, in that he was more amicable, but he complained of feeling very weak physically. I went to Meeting and stayed for Preparative meeting. The Meeting has decided to try to the chemical treatment

of the Burial Ground for one year. Rested in the afternoon, watched a modern version of Alice in Wonderland on TV knitted and did some herb notes in the evening. Am also sending off for some plants for the garden. Michael made the downstairs room ready for the builders.

Mon 3 April:

We got up at about 8 and I did the washing as we were expecting the builders at 9 to start work in the downstairs room. Afterwards I did some cleaning and wrote some letters but even by 10.30 they hadn't come, so Michael stayed in and I did the shopping. While I was out the man came and started work. After lunch and a rest, I made a couple of tray cloths and mats for bedroom furniture then made some tea at 3.30. Did the ironing and made high tea. Sarah was back. Michael hardly spoke to her and wouldn't have the TV news on as is usual. We had the meal and were washed up within the hour, but Michael was cross and reckoned I had encouraged Sarah to take a long time. When I suggested that his new pills were the cause of his attitude he became very irate. Watched TV and knitted. (Had a story accepted by Golden Pleasure Books today.) Many Bath telephone subscribers have new numbers, which is creating a bit of a muddle.

Tues 4 April:

We had to get up a little earlier (about 7.30) to let in the builder. Michael went to the doctor and I did some house cleaning and bathed the dog before going shopping. In the afternoon, after a rest, I did about an hour and half's gardening as it was fairly warm in the garden, whereas it has been rather cold lately. Michael rested, but mowed the lawn about 5.15. We watched TV and I knitted in the evening. In tonight's paper there are some Russian-Burmese cross kittens for sale, which tempt us very much but not only are they 5gns, but they are 7 months old! I feel we must be patient. How scarce kitten are at present? It would be so beneficial to Michael to have one now, too.

Weds 5 April:

Had the Roly Poly stories back again this morning so sent them off to Dent. Did some house-cleaning before going shopping. There is little to buy with so small a family but we had to go to The Bank and we also went to see the kittens we saw advertised. The Burmese, in particular, was very tempting but I said a definite no, as I felt we must have really young kitten. For this reason we also turned down a 8mths Russian blue cat advertised in tonight's paper. After lunch and a rest, I did some gardening while Michael read. He still feels very irritable and has a permanent headache. Sarah wasn't in for supper. Made a cake. Knitted, TV in the evening.

Thurs 6 April:

Having assembled some MSS for re-submission etc we went shopping, and after lunch and a rest, I did some writing (as it was rather cold for gardening) and Michael framed some transparencies. Although he still seems most unhappy, he does, I think, seem to be slightly better. The boys returned from Cornwall about 5 and with Sarah in to tea, there five of us. We watched TV and I knitted in the evening.

Fri 7 April:

Did the washing and housework then went into town with Michael. It seems strange not having seen any of my friends for so long and look forward to Writer's Circle on Monday. After lunch and a rest, I did some writing for just over an hour, then made a pot of tea. Paul played golf on the approach course with Kurle, and didn't return until 6. Michael showed Andrew and I some transparencies, then after supper I did the ironing and did some knitting. TV was only mildly interesting.

Sat 8 April:

Michael and I went shopping but the weather was cold and wet and we were glad to get home and light a fire. Made some scones and cookies before getting lunch, then, after a rest, read and spent the evening watching TV and knitting. We sat up until midnight to see the European song contest as we like Britain's entry of "Puppet on a string" so much. It was very exciting when we heard that Britain had won – easily. We have come second several times but never won it before. The boys did school and University work much of the day.

Sun 9 April:

Andrew and I went to Meeting. Monthly Meeting was in Bath so we had several visitors. After lunch Andrew returned to go for a ramble with Young Friends, while Michael and I watched TV and I knitted for the rest of the day, and Paul alternated work with TV watching. I feel a little tired of endless TV watching (although some of the programmes I wouldn't have missed for anything) and I also miss my friends and am looking forward to Writer's Circle tomorrow evening. I didn't go to Monthly Meeting this afternoon as didn't want to upset Michael. He had said 'go if you want to' but felt he wouldn't really like it. Next week I hope there are more opportunities to meet some other people.

Mon 10 April:

Paul went back to Swansea today, and it seems a very short holiday. It's nice to think that at least I'll see him briefly on Thursday when he comes back for the prize-giving. After doing housework and washing, Michael and I went shopping.

It was a horribly cold wet day and we were glad to get home again. Lunch, rest and writing – while Michael read, and Andrew went into town. Sarah was here for tea, but Hilary doesn't return until 23<sup>rd</sup> – which is a good thing as the downstairs room is still not finished. At Writer's Circle, it was nice meeting everyone after the Easter break – although Anne and Rosemary weren't there. Walked back with Olive who hasn't been too well I find.

Tues 11 April:

When Michael went to the doctor's this morning I did some cleaning and wrote my mother, then went to the Ministry of Social Security as I had been summoned there. It was a bit like going to the doctor or a hospital in that I had well over ¾hr to wait and the actual interview was very quickly executed. (It was just to ask for further particulars of my PGs, and could easily have been done over the phone.) Did some shopping etc and home for lunch and a rest. In the afternoon I started assembling my collection of puzzles as the Pitman Press have asked to see it, having been sent just samples. After ironing, I spent the evening on puzzles too, and watched a programme on dreaming on BBC2.

Weds 12 April:

After the housework, Michael and I went out and decided to try and find an address of a Burmese cat breeder. We tried magazines and the reference library, then went to Kingpets in Brock St and there 'fell' for the 7 month old cross Russian-Blue-Burmese kitten and brought her home by taxi. Anna and Tiffin were very interested, but our new little black spitfire let forth the most frightful language at them. After a rest I did the rest of the puzzle book and sent it off to Pitman's for consideration as requested and knitted in the evening. Bath and bed.

Thurs 13 April:

We still don't know what to call the new kitten. We've tried Kinkee and Debbie but we're not too keen on them. Michael had to go to see Dr Guirdham and I went into town. There are one or two posts on Bath Corporation Michael may try for. Granny Bridges came to lunch, and Paul came home, so we had a pleasant chat. At 3.30 we left for Paul's prize-giving which went off very well. Dr Dainton, vice chancellor of Nottingham University gave away the prizes. Paul had just time to come back and have a meal then left again for Swansea. I went to bed early as have had a headache today.

Fri 14 April:

Still had a mild headache all day, and think now it was of a migraine variety as the heat of the water in which I washed my hair relieved it this evening. After breakfast I did the washing and met Michael in town, after which we did some shopping. Mr Hanham completed the bottom room and Michael spent the afternoon relaying the carpets. A man came from the gas board to service the boiler. I had a rest, wrote some letters and took Anna up to the Greenway Lane post box. We have decided to call our little spitfire – Tara, which is a name in Indian mythology and nothing evil. Nevertheless, she knocked over the standard lamp this evening and broke the special 17/6 3-way bulb!

Sat 15 April:

Went shopping with Michael, and after lunch Andrew went to watch a football match, and I had a rest before Michael and I caught a bus to Hawthorn to call on the person who had bred Tara. (Mrs Curtis Hayward) It was most interesting seeing her 7 cats – and two of them had litters of kittens but a week or two old. We were amazed to find that Tara's kennel name was Tarawood Ebony Olivia, so although she had been called "Livvy", our choice of Tara was equally appropriate. As we chose both Tiffin and Anna as names before finding that their names were already the same or similar we are beginning to think we must be mildly psychic! On the way home we bought a collar and lead for Tara. After tea, I tidied our document box, and mended a coat of Michael's (forgetting to do the ironing which I should have done). Andrew went to get another match in the evening. It is nice that he can meet his friends. Michael has had a headache this evening and is really very 'on edge' but in some ways he doesn't seem to be too bad.

Sun 16 April:

It was a simply lovely day today – almost like summer. Went to Meeting and did a little gardening after lunch, then Granny and Thea took Michael and I to Rode Zoo. There were simply crowds of cars there. The birds seemed happy in the sun and it was good for photographers. We had cup of tea and biscuits in the car afterwards, then drove home. Andrew had been doing homework, and went to Young Friends in the evening. I did some ironing and later watched TV.

Mon 17 April:

It was an even warmer day today. Did the house and washing, then we went shopping. Had my hair cut, and even now, 15 months since my perm, it is still slightly there – enough to spoil a simple straight style without a certain of amount of setting. Had a rest after lunch, then did some gardening. 'Bristol Wireless' came to replace a valve in the TV set. Michael took Tara out in the

garden on a lead. Did the ironing after tea, knitted etc. Tara was very playful. Michael worked on a gate-post for the garden gate (to replace a defective one). Had a card from Rosemary today to say she was enjoying it in Calgary.

Tues 18 April:

Another rejection. One can only tell oneself that of course more submissions must mean more rejections and that by the laws of chance it's bound to pay off in the end, but unfortunately repeated rejections still have the unfortunate effect of nipping in the bud any writing inspiration I may have had. I took ages to re-write two short articles today for another market! Michael and I went shopping this morning, and in the afternoon, as well as a rest, I tried to remedy the mess that the hairdresser made of my hair yesterday. It looked as though the mice had been at it! Of course I had to shorten it to improve it and it was very difficult and tedious doing it myself, but I was agreeably pleased with the result, and came to the conclusion that it was inefficient work on the girl's part, rather than the state of my hair as I had previously thought. Michael had a telephone call from the representative of Ideal-Standard this evening and spoke with him for at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ hr, as his firm will compensate by paying us only £10 for all the trouble we've had with the boiler, and Michael isn't satisfied with this.

Weds 19 April:

Went shopping alone today as Michael had some household jobs. Went to the nearly new shop and receiving 10/- for a coat that had been sold, I looked around and I found a very nice frock for 15/-. After lunch and a rest I wrote my mother, exercised Tara on a lead in the garden, went to post with Anna, and finally planted some plants I'd bought. Read knitted and watched TV in the evening.

Thurs 20 April:

Felt properly down in the dumps today and nothing I did seemed to go right! Went shopping with Michael then back early, so did a little sewing while Michael installed the new gate post and it is very good. After lunch, as I just couldn't concentrate on writing and there was a cold wind which discouraged gardening I had a prolonged rest then wrote Paul. Went to post with Anna, and took Tara in the garden for a quarter of an hour. Read and mended in evening. We have arranged to have Tara spayed on Monday and we feel unhappy about it, but think it best.

Fri 21 April:

Michael had an appointment with Dr Guirdham at Weston Lodge, so I did the house and washing and then went shopping on my own, Bought 3 or 4 trimmings

for possible use on the neck of the dress I bought on Wednesday – to soften the hard round neckline. We had a rest after lunch – at least as near a rest as was possible, as Michael would bring Tara up! She played with things on tables till they fell on the floor and walked over our face ..... Did some sewing afterwards and ironing and hair-washing in the evening. Andrew took two friends to Young Friends, but no one turned up, so they came back to coffee here. Again feel mysteriously 'low'. It could be due to the fact that Tiffin is not too well. We think it is possibly fur-balls. He is eating alright, but has no life in him and his meow is very quiet and croaky.

Sat 22 April:

After a night when I had rather disturbing dreams and felt I should get the vet to Tiffin, we finally did so. The vet could find little wrong with him except that he did have a slight temperature, so he was given two injections and some pills to take tomorrow. Tiffin slept most the day and was obviously very stiff where he had been injected, but his miaow was better tonight. We have kept him apart from Tara – and we telephoned Miss Curtis Hayward tonight to confirm that Tara had had feline enteritis injections. Personally, I'm now of the opinion that Tiffin's trouble is vaguely psychological – due to the arrive of the unfriendly Tara. Michael went shopping ahead of me this morning and I looked just everywhere for material for a summer suit without success. Maybe the Nearly New shop will have a ready-made one for me in a week or so. We rested and read in the afternoon (still felt depressed about nothing in particular – unless it was the two rejections I had this morning.) Sewed and watched TV in the evening. Nice letter from Paul, but he has to change digs or just have b&b in the autumn.

Sun 23 April:

We had to give Tiffin 2 pills every 8 hrs beginning early this morning. It was quite a game, but he was very good really. At Meeting I helped, or rather sat in with Pat Coveney when she took the children. She told them about Ralph Allen and about the building of Bath in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. After lunch Hilary arrived and her parents stopped for some coffee. About 3 I took Anna for a nice walk, circumnavigating as it were Rainbow Wood via Church Lane, over the top and back down Widcombe Hill. TV in the evening.

Mon 24 April:

Did the house and washing and was back from shopping quite early. Lunch and rest then did ironing, and I was overjoyed that Ron Scudamore, a colleague at work drove over (as he is convalescing from an operation) and took Michael out for a drive (to Longleat). This is the first time that Michael has had social

contact with a friend for quite a month. Meanwhile a man came to see to the gas boiler (which may have been a false alarm on my part) and the vet came and confirmed that Tiffin was better but had to have a few more pills. I wrote my mother, then, after tea, went to Writer's Circle. Olive didn't come as she felt so tired. I urged her (over the phone) to see her doctor, but she wants to wait until after her holiday (3 weeks). Anne Horsfield, who took me home, agreed with me – and said she would telephone her tomorrow.

Tues 25 April:

25 years ago today was the first night of the Bath blitz. I remember it well, but it all seems like a dream. Michael went to the doctor, and I did some cleaning and went shopping. We had an early lunch and rest, then I spent the afternoon preparing old clothes of the boys for the Salvation Army. Made some cookies and a chicken and bacon pie for tea, but was rather lazy in the evening and just watched TV. Tara was very active. Tiffin had the last of his pills about 11pm. He seems to be quite fit again now.

Weds 26 April:

And still nothing encouraging in the way of an acceptance! Did the cleaning, then Michael and I went down town. We enquired about a house in last night's paper, which would bring in a good income from flats, yet has a decent maisonette for the owner. It was in Marlborough Bldgs and would seem to be pretty nice, but is 8-9 thousand pounds, which would be a strain on our finances. Went to the Nearly New shop and found my jumper and blouse had been sold so received the money for them. After lunch and a rest, I took Anna and did a little work at the Burial Ground. Was not very active in the evening. Bath, and bed earlier than usual.

Thurs 27 April:

Did quite a bit of housecleaning before going shopping with Michael finishing up at Evans for lunch. It was a very nice, if fattening! lunch, then we went to Desmond Tripps' Photo-fair at the Octagon for an hour or so. Having been home, we both went (with Anna) to the Burial Ground where Michael took the mower to pieces and oiled it all, adjusted it etc and I tidied the shed and oiled some tools. Michel was very grumpy about the Friends and called them inefficient etc etc while I defended them but I told him I was tired of these 'arguments' which started a short row. He said I was to tell them to find someone else to work there and I said I wasn't going to, as I didn't consider I was neglecting my family and I needed a 'life of my own' and outside interests. Dear dear. We read, bathed the dog etc in the evening – TV has broken down.

Fri 28 April:

Did the house and washing and in town, Granny took Michael and I out to coffee at the Italian café in Argyle St. Afterwards we did more shopping, and I bought myself a three piece suit at Marks & Spencers. It cost £7.10.0, which was more than I intended to pay for one, but it will be very useful and is very nice, so am pleased. The Bristol Wireless man was due to come in the afternoon so we couldn't go out and Michael mowed the lawn while I did the ironing, exercised Tara in the garden, and read. In the evening I shortened the skirt of my new suit, washed my hair and watched TV. Andrew went to Young Friends only to discover there was no meeting this week. Michael says he must now leave such an 'inefficient lot'. I said 'Andrew must choose' but this started an argument. Hilary has gone home for the weekend at short notice.

Sat 29 April:

It was nice to get a letter from Paul today, but we were sorry to hear that his landlady was still ill in bed. We believe he is having to have evening meals elsewhere. In fact I wonder what happens about his breakfasts and washing. Michael and I went into town and Michael bought a beach robe for the holiday. After lunch, Andrew went to a football match, and Michael and I had a rest and after a cup of tea, went at short notice for an evening drive to Wellow to pick flowers. Supper when we returned about 7.30.

Sun 30 April:

Andrew and I went to Meeting. After lunch I wrote some letters then took Anna out to post. We had an earlyish tea as I was going up to a meeting at Hilda Bowman Beer's house. I left at 5 to 6 and walked up via Perrymead and Foxhill. It was not terribly stimulating, but Hilda had taken a lot of trouble and written her talk very beautifully. Harold provided music also and we had tea to finish. The cars were full, so Catherine Mcombe and myself had to wait for a bus. We had quite a long wait, but as the night was mild and she was a good companion, we almost welcomed the wait as we enjoyed getting to know each other. Andrew went to Young Friends and it was a small but pleasant meeting. On my return we watched a film on the life of Michael Angelo [sic] which was good.

Mon 1 May:

At 8.15 I took Tara in the basket to the vet's surgery in Wellsway. Michael kept saying "I feel awful about it" and I was resigned but would have liked to have let her have kittens. When I came back, I did the washing and housework, then Michael and I went shopping. After lunch and a rest I went as a visitor to N.C.W. to hear Dr Neubauer. He was very interesting and the most interesting point he made, I thought, was that the latest views on mental illness was that it

was a symptom of a dis-eased society just as, for instance, an itch may be a sign of lousy conditions! Often, in schizophrenia for example they are the most gifted people who are the most prone, the most sensitive to stressed conditions. After tea, Michael and I fetched Tara by taxi. Imagine our distress to hear from the vets' receptionist that Tara had had four kittens inside. Since we had kept her in the 2½ weeks we've had her, and she was not likely to have been mated in the shop, she must have had pedigree kittens. Not only were we cross with ourselves about this but we felt criminals to have caused the death of the little creatures. I did the ironing, but Michael and I spoke little. Bed earlyish.

Tues 2 May:

We still felt awful about Tara and wished and wished we hadn't sent her to be neutered. However, Michael had to go to the doctor (and he said that Michael could go back to work next Monday) while I did some housework and also adjusted two of my summer dresses and turned out a few clothes for the Salvation Army. Bought a pattern for a blouse, and after I had met Michael and we had a nice lunch in the Indian restaurant, I bought some material in Jolly's for the blouse. We were quite laden by the time we got home, and I cut out the blouse, then took Anna to the Greenway Lane post (for Michael) while he mowed the lawn. We had an early tea as both girls were out, then did some sewing in the evening.

Weds 3 May:

Did some housework until 10, then shopping with Michael. After lunch and rest, I wrote my mother, but only just got it finished and posted before it was time to cook the supper and make some cakes. Tara is getting better and spent the evening in the lounge.

Thurs 4 May:

Michael had an appointment with the dentist this morning, so I did some housework and went shopping. Sarah overslept and didn't, in fact, go to College until midday. I managed (with difficulty, as her telephone had a fault) to get through to Rosemary, but she was tired, she said, and didn't sound too good. In the afternoon, after a rest, Michael and I went to the Burial Ground and later Franceys Longman and Frank Frisby came to cut the grass. Fran and I took about 2½ hrs to cut round the stones while Frank operated the borrowed Rotoscythe. Michael serviced some of the tools. I was tired when I got back and glad it was a simple supper and the girls were out. In the evening Michael managed to trace by phone an Abyssinian kitten which we shall have in about a fortnight's time. After doing some mending, we spent the rest of the evening trying to find a suitable name. We like Tyche or Tuli best so far.

Friday 5 May:

Michael went on down town after having treated the lawn with non-mercurial lawn sand. I did the house and washing and opened the Burial Ground for the Rentokil people who are treating it with a grass growth inhibitor. What a chemical generation we are! I met Michael at 11.15 and we did the rest of the shopping and returned home. After a rest, I read and then did some extra cooking. But at tea-time I forgot to take some chocolate cookies out of the oven and burnt them to a cinder and caused a horrible burnt-cake smell which we couldn't get rid of. It was so annoying. Michael had planned to erect wire netting at the front to dissuade cats going out into the road (though of course they can get over it) – but it rained so he did the job in the evening, while I shut the Burial Ground, took Ann for a walk round Lyncombe Vale, and did the ironing. Michael came in tired and consequently very cross that no one had helped him. We stayed up for a programme on homeopathy which was interesting, but I found it difficult to stay awake. It is now past midnight.

Sat 6 May:

Michael got up rather early for a Saturday and set the sprinkler on the lawn to wash in the lawn sand. It looks rather a drastic dressing but I hope the greenness returns in a week or two. We went shopping and bought some utensils for wine-making. We plan to start with orange wine. Somehow I think that pets and wine-making may be good joint hobbies for us. When we came home we were in touch with Olive Hicks who told us that Rosemary was far from well. In the end I asked Rosemary to come up here for a while and after lunch, took a taxi from the Abbey and fetched her. She was certainly very 'dozed' and confused, and needed looking after. She went straight to bed, and although she got up for supper she went back to bed again afterwards. I did some mending and reading.

Sun 7 May:

Kept Rosemary in bed all day and she just slept most of the time. Went to Meeting, and in the afternoon took Anna for a short walk and to post, then rested and later knitted. Michael went with Granny and Thea to Arnos Vale Crematorium as it was the anniversary of Grandpa Bridges's death. TV and knitting in the evening. I am trying to be diet-conscious again – but it creates terrible tension and isn't at all easy.

Mon 8 May:

Having decided to go on a stricter diet and only having dried fruit for breakfast, soon afterwards I suddenly felt very sick. Realising it was just a nervous thing I took a couple of Ryvita dry, and immediately felt alright. I've decided that I shall not restrict meals too much at present. Rosemary still felt

awful, yet was afraid to have the doctor in case she was sent to Weston Lodge. After doing the house washing and shopping I had lunch with her and then had a rest and wrote letters. Rosemary came down into the lounge for a cup of tea (even this was an effort) then after supper I went to Writer's Circle while Michael took Tara to the vets' to have her stitches out. Anne brought me home and urged me to get Dr Guirdham to come to Rosemary (instead of Rosemary seeing him, as arranged weeks ago, on Friday.)

Tues 9 May:

Did the housework and rang Weston Lodge to try and speak to Dr Guirdham about Rosemary but he was away until Friday. Went shopping and when I came back Rosemary dressed. We had lunch and I had a rest, then we sat at the back in the sun, had a bonfire, and allowed Tara out a little. In the evening Rosemary went back to bed and I did the ironing. Michael was either tired or annoyed for everything was wrong and it was a most uncomfortable evening.

Weds 10 May:

Michael rather better today but Rosemary very low and I sent for her doctor who put her back on her tablets and said his partner would come on Friday. Before he had come (about 12.30) Rosemary had been most distressed as she feared she would be sent into Weston Lodge. When she didn't have to go she ate some lunch (she'd had no breakfast) and looked at books etc in the afternoon also came down in her dressing gown and did some wiping up. Thea called with some spinach cheese etc as they are going away tomorrow for a holiday. The weather has turned warm so it seems a good time to be going. Mending TV etc in the evening.

Thurs 11 May:

Although still very inclined to sleep, Rosemary did seem to be a bit better again today and dressed for lunch and posted a letter before the evening meal. She was also eating better. I did the housework and shopping then had a rest after lunch followed by gardening. Tara was allowed unleashed in the front garden for the first time. She didn't go far from the house and sat under a peony bush or lay in the sun. It was a heavenly day. Did some extra cooking after making a cup of tea, then Rosemary went down to the letter box with a letter. She found it so tiring she had to rest and it took her over half an hour! Michael mowed the lawn and wrote letters but he was tired and rather demanding.

Fri 12 May:

As Rosemary's doctor was expected, I dashed down to Widcombe to do some shopping before 9.30. Rosemary was not so good today – and dreaded the

doctor's visit. I did housework and had a rest then sat knitting with her for an hour. When I was making lunch, the doctor came and he said he'd get in touch with Dr Guirdham but she would have to go into Weston Lodge. Rosemary was pretty distressed about it. Paul arrived soon after 1.30 for lunch, then we had a good chat while Rosemary rested. Took her tea about 3.45 and I stayed a while as she was very upset and wanted to dress and go home. Dr Neubauer didn't come until after the evening meal (as Dr Guirdham was still away) and he confirmed that Rosemary must go in to Weston Lodge in the morning. Did washing and played darts with Paul in the evening. Andrew went out to see a friend.

Sat 13 May:

About 20 to 10 the ambulance came to fetch Rosemary in to Weston Lodge. She didn't want to go, but it was obviously doing her no good just staying here, and she was quite brave about it. Michael had already gone down town and I went separately. After lunch, Andrew went to football, and Michael and I went to a small Ideal Home Trade Fair on the Recreation Ground. On the way back we bought some icecream and had a sundae with Paul who had stayed at home revising. Tea was at 5.30 and the boys kindly washed up for me. Did gardening in the evening while the others watched TV. Washed my hair. I am enjoying having Paul home this weekend.

Sun 14 May:

Whit Sunday, but it rained most of the day which must have been disappointing for many people. After Meeting and lunch, watched TV, had a rest, then started making some orange wine with Michael. We had an early tea as Paul had to catch a train about 5. I was sorry to see him go, but I think he enjoyed the weekend and I feel glad he likes his course. In feeding Paul well, I ate rather too well myself! I've about 7 "units" of starch to 'take off' which will mean managing on 4 instead of 5 per day for a week! Watched TV and wrote letters in the evening.

Mon 15 May:

Michael had bad indigestion which kept him awake much of the night, and was consequently tired this evening and rather exacting. The fact that I went to visit Rosemary didn't improve matters, especially as he kindly offered to come as well, but I knew he was tired and also that Rosemary would find it more of a strain with two of us, so begged him not to. Did the usual Monday house, washing and shopping, and Olive Hicks rang me. She had enjoyed her holiday, but had some personal problems to do with finance which marred her return. After a rest, I wrote my mother and did the ironing. We are trying to get Tara to use the compost heap instead of the litter tray, but it's hard going.

Tues 16 May:

Did the housework and shopping, having also made one or two phone calls and written a letter. Back for a very early lunch and rest, then caught a bus to Odd Down and delivered the Christian Aid envelopes. On the way home along Greenway Lane I saw some dandelions so picked 2 quarts of them and started making some wine. Michael was very disgruntled. It started when he learned that his holdall for camera attachments hadn't come and he has asked twice for a phone call to be made to [xx] delivery date, but they haven't done it and he hoped I would insist on their phoning – which I didn't do. He mowed the lawn, and I helped him as was possible, then did some mending, but Michael was niggly the whole evening. He is unhappy about his job and that's the truth of it, but he doesn't like any alternative.

Weds 17 May:

Michael made it clear that he realised that his job is causing all the friction and feels he really cannot go on. I made a few suggestions but all were turned down. Did the shopping and met Olive for coffee. Miss Wigley also joined us. Olive came shopping with me afterwards and then I came home. Lunch and rest and later in the afternoon went down town again to get some papers and a magazine as wondered if a small business might be the answer again for Michael. He was, however, not in a conversational mood all evening, so nothing could be discussed. It is very frustrating to see someone unhappy who won't or can't be helped.

Thurs 18 May:

Again, Michael pretty disgruntled this morning and I found it difficult not let it throw me out of gear. I decided I could see what other opportunities were available by buying one or two papers, and cut out advts etc. [sic] There was nothing more I could do. Housework and shopping. For the first time today, I let Tara out unattended several times. She quite disappeared, but was soon back. We put the orange wine on a 'warmer' and I did the next stage of the dandelion wine, but neither wine is fermenting properly yet. Michael was busy with odd jobs all the evening and again uncomfortable company. He didn't object to my suggestions re 2 jobs and was slightly happier when we went to bed.

Fri 19 May:

Michael considerably happier today. Did the house, washing and shopping, and spent a long time in the reference library copying out particulars of jobs from papers and mags, and I bought other papers. After lunch and a rest, I examined the papers, and cut out any possibilities, typed three letters, and wrote Paul. After tea, Tara was out for a considerable time and we began to be worried

about her coming back before dark, but all was well. About 7 we had good news – Mr Frost telephoned to say Michael's up-grading had gone through. It only means another £1 per week at present but it will improve his status, means that his annual increments continue and gives him another week's holiday. We were very pleased. I went to a F.O.R meeting at Friends' House. Home to watch TV and read paper. Bed 10.30.

Sat 20 May:

Michael and I went shopping together. It was a pleasant morning. After lunch, Andrew mowed the lawn and I made some rhubarb and orange jam them, while he watched the Cup Final on TV, Michael and I rested and read. After tea I did the ironing, then went to see the Burial Ground. As Franceys Longman suspected from a bill sent this morning I found evidence of the use of a selective weed-killer, and the grass in places was up to 8 inches long (which could scarcely be called inhibited!) It was very disappointing. Came back and read etc until bedtime. The dandelion wine is fermenting well, but we have had to add a starter to the orange and are still waiting for results.

Sun 21 May:

Went to Meeting and Phyl Batten gave the particulars to include in the Quarterly Meeting report. She telephoned me later to give me an up-to-date list of members. When Michael heard that I was doing this he was quite annoyed. He doesn't seem to think that I should do anything outside the house, whereas I feel that I am almost irresponsible compared with others. Having read of early Quakers in recent day, however, I am reminded that I shouldn't look at others. Even if I just ask myself, however, I feel certain that these small clerical tasks are a small contribution, and Michael will have to get used to the idea. Read in the afternoon and knitted and watched TV in the evening. Hilary didn't feel too well today. Tara slept beside me on the sofa next to Anna, or in my knitting basket. She is getting better about using the compost heap instead of the litter tray. We do enjoy our animals! Bath washed hair etc. Orange wine on the bubble at last.

Mon 22 May:

A busy day – did the house and washing, and was out before 10. Tara worried me by being out for two hours, whereas she is usually soon back. After shopping I made some lemon curd and also some pineapple, lemon and apple jam. The curd was very good, but the jam took a long time to set and was too sweet for my liking. Lunch, rest and writing, then went to Writer's Circle in the evening where Miss Russ spoke on Bath Highlights. It was very interesting and I had to

propose the vote of thanks. Unfortunately there were several ill, so we were not very many. Yola Snelling asked me to have coffee with her but Olive and her friend did so in the end as I thought I ought to get back. Michael was feeling pretty niggly.

Tues 23 May:

Was out shopping early this morning, and came back pretty laden, having been to the Library too. Scanned the papers before lunch, but there were no possibilities for Michael. While collecting herbs for my lunch I saw a young sparrow on a stone and thought I ought to move it to a safer place. I didn't bother, however, and then I was interested to see the mother bird come down to feed it. A moment or two later, I was horrified to see Tiffin come along and carry off the young bird. I caught him and released the bird, placing it on the bird table where it lay rather inert. Again the parents found it and urged it to move. I let Tiffin out again but to my surprise he smelt out the whereabouts of the bird, so I took him in again. After lunch and rest I was surprised to find the bird gone. I looked all around, but there was no sign of him. I hope he recovered and flew off, but I fear he just fell off and was carried off by another cat. I felt that this was a clear lesson to me to obey an inclination quickly. I ponder too much and so often end up by doing nothing – better to be more spontaneous, and make a few mistakes. Wrote my mother and Bobby and went to post. Made tea and read and did ironing in the evening. Michael had a man here re double glazed windows. I think this luxury would be madness in our present state. He stayed two hours and I gave them coffee.

Weds 24 May:

Having done the necessary homework, I hurried down to Widcombe to do a little shopping. I was most distressed to see a favourite tortoiseshell cat of ours had been killed. A neighbour told me the owners didn't care for it properly, which I found difficult to believe. Olive came soon after 11 and we had a pleasant time talking about different matters, and about her MSS. She stayed to lunch, then ordered a taxi (which was late) to go out to Bathford to collect some water-colours from an old lady's house.\* (\*Miss Sankey, also May 26). I had a rest, then after tea went out to see Rosemary who I had heard was worse. I was delighted to find she was much better – in fact well. I just hope she remains so. It is the result of just one treatment. I had a lift back into town. Home and read. Michael pretty edgy.

Thurs 25 May:

House and shopping, and spent a leisurely morning in town looking at books. Bought a paperback of Tielhard de Chardin. After lunch and a rest, I searched

the papers for Michael – and actually found a job similar to his with the next grade salary! In the evening he said there was nothing really wrong with it, but ..... I might as well give up trying! After this I made the report for the Newsletter (Friends) and in the evening read and knitted. Tara met a grey and white 'suitor' who came, and has been coming to look for her. Tiffin watched, warning him that he didn't approve – Tara was not flattered, it seemed, and called her admirer every name under the sun. Eventually he thought he had better go.

Fri 26 May:

Did the house and washing and wrote Paul, then went to Olive's for elevenses. She showed me some water colours salvaged from a Bathford house and said I could have one. I chose a flower study and went later to Harris's to have it framed. Went to the Reference Library re jobs for Michael, then home, in heavy rain. Did some cooking in the afternoon and made some rhubarb jam. Hilary has gone home for the weekend and Sarah has gone home for a week. Ironing. Looked at some good slides of Michael's in evening. Felt annoyed today! I wish Michael would be either more satisfied with his lot or more realistic about seeking another job. He wants his cake and to eat it too.

[End of memo book – then start of a note book]

Sat 27 May:

It was nice to be just the three of us (though of course we should have liked to have had Paul with us). Michael and I went down town, and after lunch Michael rested and I went through some cigarette cards and sorted some of them – not a very valuable occupation but interesting and restful. Knitted in the evening. There was a film on the relief of Ladysmith which was good except for the fact that the commentator seemed to be extremely socialistic. He quite rightly described the British as greedy, and the soldiers (nevertheless) as very brave, but I thought it unnecessary to refer to the officers in such scathing terms. Andrew worked much of the day.

Sun 28 May:

Andrew came with me to Meeting and there was an irritating tap-tap noise – which I think was the clock. Two or three people spoke and eventually I felt I had to too. I have never risen to my feet eagerly, and this was no exception – I had quite a tussle with my self, and didn't say half what I had a mind to. Watched TV after lunch and had about an hour working in the garden after Michael and Andrew had done the lawn. Granny and Thea came to tea, and Michael showed them his latest slides. We had supper when they had gone, then

TV and knitting. Sir Francis Chichester returned from his single-handed world voyage, and we saw him land at Plymouth, but on the News immediately afterwards we heard that the situation in Egypt and Israel is becoming more and more grave.

Mon 29 May:

Spring Bank Holiday Mon: We didn't have breakfast until 10 or so, which was a gorgeous luxury. Did the washing and tried to do some gardening but it rained. After lunch, I had a leisurely rest, then took Anna for a walk and looked for some elderflowers. I could only find a few, as it seems to be early. Tried to make a little orange and elderflower jelly, but it turned out to be gluey, almost like toffee! I shall have to make some cookies with it. Being dissatisfied with the blanket I started a few months ago, (as it didn't lie flat,) I have 'tidied it up' and given it to Tara for her box and started another in orthodox 4 inch squares. I have done 8 so far, and have to do 252! I think if I am methodical, it may be finished in 9 months to a year.

Tues 30 May:

Hilary was back, but Sarah is away for the week. Andrew is home, and doing some Greek each day. We had a letter from Paul who has started his exams. After housework I went shopping. Lunch, rest, then worked on an article planned for "Collecting & Craft". Andrew and I had some toast about 4.30, then made the evening meal. Ironing and knitting in the evening, but wasn't too keen on knitting as had had a headache all day. Haven't had these headaches for years. Bed about 10.30.

Weds 31 May:

Having done the housework I decided to write my mother before going out. This took longer than expected, and then Franceys Longman telephone and asked me to go and open up the Burial Ground for the Rentokil people. This done, I did the shopping which included visits to the Library, Bank and Paul's Building Society. After lunch and rest, I wrote a PC to a Guide (another can't come on Saturday, so it looks as though I shall have to have 3 separate badge tests!) and then I typed out the article I wrote yesterday. Just the three of us to evening meal, and afterwards I went over and closed the Burial Ground. It didn't look very wonderful as it had been cut so roughly and patchily. It also looked very trampled. Knitted and Andrew watched a football match on TV all the evening.

Thurs 1 June:

The Glorious First of June! And it was, too, a beautiful day although I couldn't spare much time to be out in it. Went shopping and bought Andrew a dressing

gown, also a brooch for my mother. Granny Bridges sent Michael a wonderful letter this morning. It is full of understanding and uplifting. He told me to read it which I didn't expect or even want, but I was glad of the chance as it was so wonderful. Heard that Rosemary is worse again, which is very upsetting. I think they should have stopped at one treatment. After lunch and rest, wrote Paul and sent him some chocolate, then made a cake, flan, tart etc for the weekend, and started correcting some Guide Writer's badge entries. Knitted and watched TV in the evening. Michael framed some new photos and mowed the lawn, Andrew helping.

Fri 2 June:

Andrew's birthday, and unfortunately two or three relatives who usually give presents to him must have forgotten the date. He had quite a nice day, however, as he had David and Graham Easton here for the day. For myself it was a busy day doing house, washing shopping going to the Reference Library for Michael, getting a cooked lunch. Rest, then prepared Betty's room, packed up a parcel for my mother, did some extra cooking etc etc. Made two 'teas' (one for the boys, another for us later). Michael came with me to visit Rosemary who wasn't as well as the last time I saw her. Watched TV and knitted till bedtime. Michael Friday nightish i.e. a bit more relaxed.

Sat 3 June:

Michael went into town but I stayed to take a Writer's badge test. Half an hour early one Guide arrived and said her friend was ill and probably wouldn't be coming. This test seems fated to be awkward! Went into Widcombe shopping, then home again to make lunch. Rest, some gardening. Tea and prepared supper. Michael was telephoned to say that our new kitten was coming on a later train. This train was met but the kitten wasn't on it. Eventually she turned up just before 6pm and quickly settled, being relatively unafraid of the other animals. Tara, however, became very afraid and spent the rest of the day making the most awful language, except when she was on the frig or cupboard where it didn't smell of "new cat". Betty Wills came to stay about 7, and we had supper and looked at photos and chatted, going to bed about 10.45. Tara has been put in the kitchen with Tiffin and the little one is on her own in the study.

Sun 4 June:

In the early evening we put Tara in with Andrew, and brought Tuli up with us. She was most intrigued with Michael's feet! She was a little sick during the night, but today is eating alright and takes no notice of Tara's cussing. She is adventurous and very Kim-like, getting on with Tiffin quite well and even washing

Anna and cuddling against her to go to sleep. Betty and I went for a walk with Anna and after lunch we dug up a few bits and pieces for her garden before going to the station. Michael wrote letter, rested, racked wine etc. I took a few snaps and knitted, watched TV etc.

Mon 5 June:

A busy morning. Tuli was mewing last night and again first thing this morning, so we had her up in our room. She didn't eat very well today, though I tried different things, and I fancy she was a little listless. Tara still did a lot of swearing, but this didn't seem to affect Tuli. It was a case of house, washing, shopping etc and after lunch, a rest and writing – as an exercise for tonight's Writer's Circle. It was a fairly well attended meeting and several MSS in connection with Bath read. Michael was very tired tonight and cross about Tuli not eating. He thinks I don't care.

Tues 6 June:

We were rather worried about Tuli, but I'm glad to say that she ate a very few mouthfuls of pilchards and a little milk for breakfast, and some raw mince beef for lunch. She didn't eat much of the tinned meat and wheatgerm I gave her for tea, so I tried some mild and baby cereal later, but no good, neither sardine, so I tried more minced beef with success. She has actually eaten about a dessertspoon in all I should think! Anna tolerates her sleeping close to her, so this is a comfort. Tara, our 'prima donna' is as temperamental as ever, calling everyone names when Tuli is around! Having done the house, I went shopping, and after lunch, rested, re-wrote and typed my Bath article for the Chronicle and posted it, then started sorting out material for Sunday's children's meeting. Did a mountain of ironing in the evening, a little knitting etc. Michael had a poor night, with tummy pain. He had a routine visit with Dr Guirdham before going to work. Andrew had his last school day before exams.

Weds 7 June:

Today we decided to feed Tuli much more frequently as she was eating so little at a time. Sometimes I fed her, and sometimes Andrew did – on our lap, and although she began by eating only one or two morsels, by the evening she actually ate about a heaped teaspoonful! Success! She was also more playful by then, so we are wondering if, after all, she was just 'teething' as Mrs Menezes warned us might happen. I collected the photos I took on Sunday. They aren't brilliant but not too bad. Michael considers them over-developed and says I ought to have let him to them. I had felt it was a chore for him and also wanted to send a photo off to Paul quickly. After doing the house, I wrote my mother,

then had a rest and made our lunch. About 12.45, Andrew and I went shopping, and came by 2. I worked on some MSS of Olive's and also planned the Sunday Children's meeting. Did knitting in the evening.

Thurs 8 June:

Michael didn't have a very good night and I slept lightly – dreaming that michzel had painted some marvellous pictures (I can remember the rather vright poster-type colours) and it was discovered that he was an artist. We really don't know what to do for the best because Dr Guirdham has again said that his job is not suitable and that he must try not to keep down his real self (the self that loves animals), so we feel justified in seeking something else yet he is so 'played out' at the moment that the thought of a move and new job, even if more suitable, seems like the last straw. There are two possibilities at the moment – both at Winchester: Workd study n the Wessex Hosp Board, and Administrator in the Hants Fire Service. Yola Snelling telephoned to say she iddn't feel well so did I mind if she didn't come. Olive came, and we talked, and after lunch wen tot see Rosemary who seemd a little better. Michael wen tot his mother's for supper, and met Charles Cawood there. At this end there just Sara Andrew and I. I am still concerned aobu the small amount Juli eats. She had had six meals but little more than a heaped dessersppn in all. I've tried so many things. Tara is slightly less hostile, but Tiffin bit her passionately and licked her affectionately. Tuli rubs herself against him, She is so friendly.

Fri 9 June:

We thought that Tuli might be making headway at last, as she was very ready for her breakfast, but she only ate one or two mouthfuls, and Andrew and I found it impossible to get any thing into her at 10 or 12, even with a dropper. At 12.45 I felt convinced the kitten was running a temperature so I telephoned the vets at Beaufort East (not where we had taken Tara) and they asked me to bring her this evening. I put the kitten comfortable for the afternoon [sic] and at 6.10 went by taxi to the vet. He gave Tuli an injection and said it was either a chill or shock, and to come back Monday if not better. He kindly rang for a taxi when I asked, but since one wasn't available he told me to go home by bus as the journey wouldn't hurt the kitten. Tuli mewed all the way, and was then very weak all the evening. She 'woke up' a little at bedtime and had a teaspoon or less of chicken, then slept with Anna in the box by my bed. Apart from the kitten it was a busy day – house, washing, an hour's work at the Burial Ground, went to the Ref Library re jobs, met Olive to see the 'Shelter' Exhibition at FMH.

Shopping etc etc. Michael not very companionable, but like me I expect he is worried about Tuli.

Sat 10 June:

Michael didn't sleep too well and I was awake most of the night too. Anna, however, deserves a medal - she stayed still all night and Tuli slept close up against her. At 5.15 I offered her some chicken but she didn't want any. She did, however, purr. By about 7, though, she seemed more alert and she ate some chicken. A little later she ate a few more morsels, and then had a little milk. During the whole day she had frequent small meals. As they became larger they were a little further apart, and by tonight she was stopping me from knitting and being very playful Oh what an utter relief! Never have I been so pleased to have my wools messed up! A Guide came for Writer's badge this morning so I went shopping first. We had lunch early, and after a brief rest I went to Bristol and met Bobby. We went shopping and Bobby bought a frock. After tea we sat in the part in the Horsefair for a while. It was lovely day. Home just after 7.30. Supper. Knitting etc.

Sun 11 June:

The cats gave us no rest this morning so we were up and having breakfast rather earlier than usual on Sundays. Stupid really, as with Hilary home for a week we could have stayed on in bed later. At Meeting, I took the older children and the theme was humour, consisting of picture description, discussion and poetry. We also talked about TV programmes for there were only 2 of them and it didn't take so long to carry out the programme, as I had thought. Michael Newbiggin is having to go back into the Orthopaedic Hospital on Tuesday for another operation. He is very cheerful about it. Michael did some photography in the garden as it was another lovely day. Tule went out on a harness. She is now so much recovered that she was jumping on to my legs and back and being very wild. She has bags of spirit! Tara continues to miaow in most sinister tones and cuff Tuli when she gets the opportunity, but Tuli take it all as 'part of the day's work' and just carries on with what ever game she is playing at the moment.

Rested part of the afternoon and there was a good film "The Divided Heart" on TV: The judge had to decide whether the real mother or the foster mother (who had had the boy since he was 3, adopting him believing him to be an orphan) should keep a 10yr old boy. The real mother has him, but to my mind, although I suppose this is the correct judgment, I would hope that the real mother might decide to ask the foster parents to continue care, with visits to the real mother, and correspondence until at about 16, the child be transferred, and the

foster parents visited etc. The complete break at 10, seems to me dreadful. Knitted. (Tuli back with Tiffin tonight.) Andrew – revising.

Mon 12 June:

With Hilary away I was able to press on with housework and washing early, and do the shopping. When I returned, it was so beautifully sunny, I took Tuli out on a harness, and the other animals came round, so we had a very pleasant 10 or 15 minutes in the garden, enjoying the sun. I had no sooner begun getting the lunch, than Andrew came home. He hadn't found the first of his O Levels (Greek) too bad, he said. After lunch and rest, I typed out an article for Olive and sent it to Woman's hour, then did some writing on my own account. Andrew played Subbuteo, wrote a letter and revised. Ironing and knitting in the evening. Tuli's appetite has not been so voracious today. Tara still attacks her, but Tuli is very game about it. The Middle East war has stopped in theory, but the under-current is pretty ugly.

Tues 13 June:

Turned out the back porch where we keep cleaning things, gardening requisites, paper etc and did the other housework, then went shopping and met Mrs Hancock for coffee, after which we saw the exhibition of dolls in aid of the Save the Children fund. It was interesting exchanging news. Home and had lunch, then Andrew and I took the cats on the lawn for a short while. Rest, then did about 2 hours gardening. It was a beautiful day. After tea, knitted etc. Michael rather tired. Tara and Tuli play rough games endlessly now, but I think they also are coming to love each other. Andrew even got a photo of Tara licking Tuli. Michael threw a book at Tiffin when he attacked Tara this evening, but I didn't really think it was 'testiness' as was presumed. Tiffin often washes Tara. I think we have much to learn about the ways of cats. It amuses me that if Tara (or Tuli) roll on the ground (or use the litter tray) the other will not attack but waits till her friend is on her feet. Almost like boxing rules!

Weds 14 June:

Spent the morning making a little gooseberry and orange jam and writing letters. After lunch Andrew went to school to take an exam and I had a rest, then went shopping. Having telephoned Weston Lodge yesterday and been told Rosemary was still staying there, I planned to visit her this evening. I found, however, when Olive phoned me, that she came out today, and was able to telephone her this evening at her home. Spent the evening shortening dresses.

Thurs 15 June:

Yesterday I took several Benerva compound tablets and this morning I was free of cramp for the first time for several days. It in some ways tones up the

tummy and I then assimilate the calcium in the food. Andrew had two exams today so was at school all day. Sarah left. I did the washing and shortened a dress, then Olive and Florrie came for coffee. When they left at 12, I fed the kittens and went to Granny's for lunch in the garden, and Mary Phillips of Newton St Loe was there. It was very pleasant and warm, then Mary left, and Granny and I went to an exhibition of flowers, and art, in St Stephen's church, Did a little shopping on the way home and had the animals in the garden. Made tea, did the ironing, knitting and TV. Tara is now devoted to Tuli. She washes her and they play together most of the day, so I have put them together to sleep tonight. A documentary on Billy Graham on TV. He's a good man, but I'm not happy about his tactics.

Fri 16 June:

Another lovely sunny day. Andrew had a morning exam, so after doing the housework I went shopping and to the Reference Library re jobs. After lunch and a rest I started making the blouse I cut out some weeks ago, and finished it in the evening. But on trying it on, I found that the shoulders are too broad and I prefer  $\frac{3}{4}$  to the full length sleeves, so still have some work to do on it. Andrew went out to tea. Michael tired and head-achey every day.

Sat 17 June:

Michael had to go to the Cremation of a member of the Hospital Board staff this morning. I went shopping. On my return, I went into the lounge and found it very unpleasant as the litter tray had been used by the cats and the room was shut up and stuffy. I was just opening the window when Michael put his head round the door. I said "Pooh, it's dreadfully smelly in here" whereupon Michael said "I've brought someone to see the animals," and ushered in a couple he had met at the funeral. It was all very embarrassing, but I hope they weren't too appalled! I felt so uncomfortable that I forgot to offer them coffee. After lunch I had a rest, then did sewing in the afternoon and evening, finishing the blouse satisfactorily, and shortening a skirt etc. I felt. A bit liverish, but this passed off later in the evening. After a bath, I listened to a debate on TV as to whether there was a God. Quentin Hogg, claiming that there was, won by one vote, but actually I was inclined to feel that the other side had the better speakers.

Sun 18 June:

Father's Day, so we had some special 'extras' in the food line and gave Michael a card and a photographic magazine. Before going to Meeting, Michael decided that he couldn't face going out to Mrs Northmore's for tea, because of his

headaches etc. so I tried to telephone her to say we wouldn't be coming, but the number in the book was a new one and she hadn't yet been put on to it, so as it involved ringing the operator re the old number I decided to leave it until dinner time as I had no time. Meeting had several ministries and was interesting. When I came back I told Michael I had decided I'd better go out to tea on my own, and then Michael said perhaps he would come after all. Read and rested after lunch and we bused out to the Warminster Rd and walked the last part not to arrive too early. We had the utmost difficulty in finding Mrs N as we rang bells which didn't ring, went upstairs to doors which again had no bell, and eventually we found a gardener who went in search of her for us. Rosemary was spending the weekend there, and we had a vivacious time[?] with plenty of conversation, followed by a sit in the garden (which is an acre, and very overgrown). In the end, Rosemary drove us home. I shortened a coat. Supper about 7.30. Knitted. Bed about 10 and Hilary returned.

Mon 19 June:

The usual house and washing, then shopping. Andrew and I had lunch about 12, then had a rest etc. Watered the garden and wrote to Paul, then evening meal and to Writer's Circle where Miss Shean (Eileen Meyler) spoke on her writing of children's books. We were all very taken with her, and liked her ideas. Anne Horsfield ran me home and then Michael showed some transparencies of his and Andrew's which were good.

Tues 20 June:

Had the article back that I had sent to the Chronicle (as they had another like it) and I felt rather dejected. During the whole of the last year I have had so little success one is tempted to think it is all a waste of time, yet one hears of farmers' crops being ruined by weather, people's research burned, and this isn't nearly as costly or disastrous. Did the housework and went shopping. Early lunch, rest and what I now call 'inner retirement'. This 'written communion' has a most calming and also heartening effect on me. I only wish that the 'me' that likes to be like everyone else didn't keep telling me it's a silly practice! Unlike the MRA people I don't feel the slightest desire to 'share' what I am sure is a very private experience, even if it greatly affects my life. After all, a union between husband and wife is not meant to be public, so how much more should one with the Spirit be private. The only reason I try to express some of it in words, is to make more impression on myself, and to enable me to recall it, when there is a 'block' at any time. Much, I find, cannot be translated into mere

words. One 'knows', without hearing words. Wrote my mother and did some mending. Ironing in evening and washed my hair.

Weds 21 June:

Another splendid day. Housework and shopping, then, after lunch rest etc took the cats in the garden and prepared Children's Meeting for Sunday. Made some cakes etc for tomorrow's morning coffee party then the evening meal. Mending all the evening. Tuli and Tara are now almost inseparable. Andrew was at school all day today as he had 2 exams. I hope he has passed them. Michael has heard that he hasn't got one of the jobs at Winchester.

Thurs 22 June:

I was expecting about 5 people to coffee this morning, but unfortunately Olive's friends couldn't come, and Anne rang up to say she must shampoo a carpet or her husband would feel he had to do it this evening – so I only had Olive and Rosemary. We enjoyed a pleasant chat about interesting subjects, but I was a little concerned about them. Rosemary appeared to be too 'up' and overspending, and Olive, in an attempt to forget about her husband's dangerous position in Aden, was understandably filling her life with other things and getting rather wound up. I went shopping the afternoon after Andrew and I had had lunch and I had had a rest etc. Read for a short while before tea and Rosemary telephoned to say Caroline had rung up from Edinburgh to say she had given up nursing, and was going to Liverpool (where her boyfriend lives) to study domestic science. The telephones in Bath came on to STD today. Knitting and TV in evening.

Fri 23 June:

Did the washing and housework while Andrew went to school to do a Maths exam. Had a rest etc before going out to do shopping, went to the Bank re the sale of rights to some cheap shares in Trinidad Canadian oil Co, and went to the Reference Library to see job adverts as usual. Met Granny in Colmers as she had invited Andrew and I out to lunch. It was a splendid 'do' and we enjoyed it very much, and hearing family news. On the way home it rained heavily so Andrew and I had to shelter in Woolworths'. Home about 3, and I named the General News Letters I had collected from Macbrooke (for Friends). During the evening Paul telephoned to say he had passed his exams and secured an Honours school place. We were so delighted! I phoned both Grannies. Poor Andrew wasn't too happy with his Maths today and is feeling apathetic and non-workish. I'm wondering how I can pep him up for the 3 exams next week.

Sat 24 June:

A humid, thundery day and Michael had headaches and got up and walked out of tea as he couldn't bear the sound of conversation. We went shopping in the morning and to Jolly's for coffee. My water-colour by the Bathford person was at last ready at Harris's but then they found the round frame was beginning to split, and so the picture had to go back for reframing. Michael bought some 2<sup>nd</sup> hand accessories for a Retinette C he has bought for me (and Andrew now has my Vito B). Personally, I feel we can ill-afford this expense, but there it is. He also bought a sparklet soda syphon. He will, I think, feel at some time in the near future, that he has been a bit extravagant this month, and regret it. After a rest, I went to the FoR 'garden' party at Franceys Longman's. There were 18 of us. We heard a talk by a Bristol man on what they are doing re disarmament. He hoped to inspire Bath to action, but if the others felt the same as me, I couldn't but be bored by the idea. I wonder if one can, in fact, legislate peace. It is like trying to prevent the spots coming out in someone who has measles. You can nurse someone with measles, and you can create conditions where measles is unlikely. I would like schemes for international aid, co-operation, friendships, exchanges etc, and by all means let's help FSC, Ambulance units, Red Cross etc but as for pressure on governments, 'sit downs' and marches which aggravate the non-pacifists..... I'd rather have advertised private vigils in which all people can join, austerity lunches etc. Came home about 5.45, just as Andrew was dishing up the food I'd left ready. Knitted in the evening, and awful TV.

Sun 25 June:

Took the Children's Meeting again, and we read different things that manifested a sense of humour and discussed it. I should have given them more to do. I think it was rather boring. I also distributed several of the General News Letters. Knitted in the afternoon and evening, and Granny and Thea visited us about 5. There was a special world link-up TV programme on at 8pm which was very remarkable.

Mon 26 June:

House and washing. Andrew had a science exam and Hilary the first of her exams today. Olive rang me up to say she was concerned about Rosemary – as were Granny and Thea yesterday, so I telephoned her. She wasn't in, so I rang again when I had been shopping and found she had been fetched by Mrs Northmore late at night and taken back to Bathampton. There a young friend had sung her a little lullaby and then Mrs Northmore put her hands on

Rosemary's head and she went to sleep, waking refreshed today. She is sleeping there again tonight, but we are all concerned about her as she is in a very excitable state. After lunch, rest etc, I made some gooseberry and elderflower jam and a raisin and elderflower cake, also some maize meal scones. Andrew, fortunately, liked these but I didn't, and Hilary dare not try one. Michael refused to have any supper or a cup of tea, having only some soda water. Later he had some of it, but after seeing an excellent Panorama on the Middle East problem, we went to bed about 9. Hilary is almost in a state of panic over her exams, working non-stop and feeling awful. Michael has a permanent headache. Fortunately Andrew is alright, and found today's exam not too bad.

Tues 27 June:

After the usual housework, I went shopping and took a belated birthday gift to Olive. She was feeling a little low, as she hadn't heard from Peter (in Aden) for over a week, and he had said he had dysentery. She gave me coffee and we talked for a while, then I left, as Paul was due to arrive about midday. I found that Tuli had made several messes and not on the tray, also she hadn't used the tray during the night. We are worried about this change of habit, and also her bouts of looseness. Michael is cross that it has happened and thinks I should feed her better. I think she may be getting too much, and am in any case going to cut out milk and fat for a day or two. Tara looks well, but even she is having too much, I believe. When Paul came, we had lunch and chatted. Andrew thought his exam not too bad, and even Hilary found hers 'possible'. After a rest etc the boys and I did some gardening, and Andrew did some revision – also more in the evening while I knitted. TV not very good.

Weds 28 June:

Having done the house, I wrote a hurried letter to my mother and then went shopping. We had lunch when Andrew returned from his last exam then I had a telephone conversation with Rosemary who did sound a little better and was looking forward to Caroline coming to see her this Saturday when they hope to go to Mrs Northmore's cottage for a week. After a rest etc I walked Anna up to Combe Down for a prescription for Michael, but had to go for a walk and wait a long time for it as Mr Palmer was out when I went to his shop. By the time we got back it was 4 o'clock and there was not time or energy for gardening. In the evening the boys, who had played, and also gone into town, in the afternoon, mowed the lawn. I washed my hair but went to bed slightly early to read.

Thurs 29 June:

Felt rather un-workish today and rather had to force myself. Went shopping. Lunch about 12, then Greens rang to say they were going to come and fix the downstairs meter. I was very annoyed as we had told them we didn't want it until the end of July, but I finally consented. Rest etc and when Hilary returned, she went in the top room to revise – but Green's electrician didn't arrive until 4 instead of 'after dinner' as they had said, so it was gone 5 before Hilary was able to go back. Knitting and TV in the evening, but feel today has not been very satisfactory. I had intended to garden, but it rained. I started to do some writing, but inspiration escaped me.

Fri 30 June:

Am quite tired tonight. Did the house and washing this morning, then went into town and there were quite a few places to go, including the Reference Library. Just as a treat, I bought some strawberries for lunch, but it is very difficult to fill up Paul and Andrew these days – they eat enormously. Had a rest etc then we worked in the garden. It was a lovely day and rather hot for gardening but we did quite a bit. I 'wormed' the kittens at lunch time, in case they are suffering from worms. Tara is certainly suspiciously hungry. We had a snack tea at 4, but as Hilary was out, planned to have supper at 6.30. When Michael returned, however, he said he had had three or four losses of balance during the day and we decided to see Dr Carr. We found he was at Odd Down, so we had a taxi there. We didn't have to wait too long, and Dr Carr thought the trouble might be the combination of nicotine acid in the Villescon tablets, recently (a few weeks ago) prescribed, and the Aventyl he has been having some time. I then explained I had given him extra nic-acid in the form of Benerva compound the last week, so we were asked to drop these. We walked to St Martin's, bused to Devonshire Bdgs, walked home, then had supper, ironing etc. Bed just before 11.

Sat 1 July:

Michael gave up not only his Villescon (Vit B & ?C) and Benerva tablets, but also his Aventyl tablets and although he had a headache he had no loss of balance, and what was more, he was 'human' for the first time since (I should think) the last week of his time off in April! Suddenly he didn't bulldoze through the town grumbling and being rude, but seemed to enjoy our time out together. He bought me some polaroid spectacles and suggested that I get a candlewick dressing gown I had seen (to be shortened for a beach jacket). He chatted gaily through lunch, helped me put a film in the newly acquired camera, then, after a rest, cut short by the arrival of Thea and Paul (who had been up to do some work for Granny) we worked in the garden. Michael took some photos and we all had a

pleasant time. In the evening Christopher Merccici came (Michael having invited him when he telephoned to speak to Paul) and Stephen Kurlle came too, and they had supper with us and coffee. Paul walked up to Combe Down with them. Christopher had a problem – his girl-friend was so depressed she was being suicidal. She had 'land-lady' trouble apparently. Andrew went shopping in the morning and with friends in the afternoon. Paul is studying paintings – Italian school onwards for the summer vacation, so I have decided to study post-war poetry and write notes and views on the different poets. Tuli climbed on the garden wall for the first time, and also climbed a tree and nearly fell about 9 or 10 ft.

Sun 2 July:

Went to Meeting and Preparative Meeting, then home for lunch. Made a few things for tea and had a rest. Hilary's father was so unwell that they decided to go back today instead of staying the night and returning tomorrow, so tonight we have the house to ourselves until 15<sup>th</sup>. Granny Thea and Nanny came to tea and stayed till about 6. Paul went out with friends in the evening so Michael Andrew and I were alone for supper. To bed rather early. Michael says he still has a heavy head, but he continues to be a good companion and I hope he doesn't have to go back to Aventyl tablets.

Mon 3 July:

It was a full morning, as always on a Monday, as there was a lot of housework to do and washing, then quite a bit of shopping. Back at about 10 past 12, but by the time I had fed the cats and made our meal it was 1 o'clock and it was quite a tight fit to squeeze in a rest etc before going down to meet Mummy off the train arriving at 2.30. She came up to our house and had an ice and some of our raspberries, then a cup of tea and we talked. Paul was pointing the back wall (but Michael subsequently found that he had put no sand with the cement, which of course was wrong). As Hilary had left, we had supper at 6.15 and this seemed just right as Michael had time to 'unwind'. We had a pleasant meal and later I did the ironing, but tomorrow he is going to Truro, and the thought is making him a bit edgy [sic] now, as we come to bed.

Tues 4 July:

Michael went off to Truro this morning for a meeting. I seemed to get little done! A book arrived (lent by Thea) which I dipped into and found interesting, then I received a couple of telephone calls. There was housework and an explanation to Paul about one or two duties etc and in the end I had quite a rush to do some shopping and meet Mummy at 10.30. Auntie Marnie took us out to coffee, then at 12.30 Paul met Mummy and I and we went to Dr Oliver's for

lunch. At 2, Mummy and I went by coach to Longleat House, These days, as in all 'stately homes' you go round in parties of 20 or so, and are moved on pretty quickly. It is amazing how valuable are the things set out on tables there and remarkable that there have only been a few very minor robberies. It seemed ironical to queue up for a chocolate biscuit in a marquee afterwards and have to get tea from a machine! We visited the Plant Centre there and I bought a Brazilian plant, and Gran – 2 plants for Auntie Marnie. I was home about 7 and cooked supper. Paul, however, went out. BBC2 was fairly interesting and Andrew and I talked quite a bit before going to bed after 11.

Weds 5 July:

Got up about half an hour later than usual, and prepared the evening casserole and did quite a bit of housework. Shopping and met my mother at 10.45, for coffee. We had lunch at Auntie Marny's and Paul came too. Auntie M made a really magnificent meal, and was most hospitable. It was 3.30 before we knew it and we had to go, so Paul did a couple of commissions in town and Mummy and I had a taxi up from the Abbey. Andrew was waiting for us to return as he hadn't a key and he had brought two friends to play Subuteo. We had tea and later, when Michael returned, we had the evening meal. Talked all the evening, and Gran left about 9.

Thurs 6 July:

There was quite a bit to do, including the washing, this morning and when Paul was invited to a play in London by MRA for Saturday, it touched off a discussion on various aspects of religion. I have great respect for Paul. He is so undogmatic for one of student age, and admits that he is still forming his views, but intends to be committed when this has been done. I met my mother and went to Sally Lunn with her and Auntie Marnie for coffee. Later, we went again to Auntie Marnie's for lunch and back to the bus station to take a coach trip. It was a lovely day and we went up on to the M4 and to Severn Bridge and Tintern Abbey. After an hour there, we went on to Monmouth for tea. St Mary's church there was disappointingly new, but we had an excellent tea at Stennett's (Carlton Grill). We came back through the Forest of Dean and stopped at Severn Bridge. Home about 9.20.

Fri 7 July:

Went to town after doing the housework and to the Reference Library as usual on a Friday to look for adverts in the municipal Journal etc. Home later than usual. After lunch and rest, I did the ironing, then tried out the 'new' camera which is to be primarily mine. The kittens were being very photogenic but – it

was maddening – I took too long taking the meter reading, fixing everything and using the rangefinder. Paul cleared out some ground elder by the japonica then later in the evening I replanted the irises there. Paul went out with friends, and Michael went to the doctor. He had a busy day, and it made him feel very irritable this evening.

Sat 8 July:

We heard from Mummy by telephone this morning that her picture, believed to be by Chinnery, and which we took up to Christy's in April, fetched £500. It was exciting news. Michael and I went into town as usual, but there was so much to do that we didn't stop for elevenses. After lunch, I spent the afternoon reading, as I was behind with the "Friends" and other things I had been lent, not to mention library books of poetry. Michael was quite busy – made some wine and did some photography, wrote letters etc. He wasn't too affable. Paul and Andrew played and read. There was an interesting programme (Chronicle) including some paleontology on TV this evening. Also did some cooking (cakes etc).

Sun 9 July:

A small Meeting today. After lunch Paul and I went with Thea to Beech Field, Corsham Court to see an exhibition of student's work. The pictures were essentially 'scientific' rather than 'intuitional' and really none of us was impressed, but on the educational side there were some most interesting photographs of children. It was a glorious afternoon and it was a recreational time in the true meaning of the word. I was very amused at the clothing I saw. One boy student wore a rose in his hair, some looked as if a comb hadn't been numbered among their possessions for months, and if the girls wore much less, they might as well wear a bikini. This is certainly an age for 'laying bare', getting at the 'naked truth'! It corresponds to winter – a testing time, where there is little beauty. Perhaps, however, a type of renaissance will follow. Thea came back to tea with us and we had supper later, after she had gone. TV but went to bed early with Michael, who has driven himself hard all the weekend – writing letter, making wine, taking photos and now has a headache and some hay fever. He is in a 'driving' mood and has given Paul and I a load of tasks to do. I wish I knew how to get him to live, as it were, 'hand in hand with life'. It would be so much easier on himself – not to mention us!

Mon 10 July:

As there was so much to do today (mostly for Michael), Paul did most of the washing for me and thus I was able to get out earlier than usual for a Monday. I enquired at the travel agents re cancellation of the holiday if necessary and they said it was possible. I dearly wish we were having a holiday in the British Isles, as if Michael became ill abroad it would be so difficult. Sometimes Michael says he is not happy about going to Italy, but the next day he is pressing me to get vaccinated (not really necessary) and to buy beach-wear. After lunch and rest I did a number of jobs in the house and garden, and after tea was taken to Mrs Wooster's for the Writer's Circle party. Unfortunately, though, Anne Horsfield who took us, couldn't stay, so, not wishing to be too late, I left with Mrs Holbeche at 20 to 10 to catch the last bus, and was home soon after 10. Paul had friends in until quite late, The party was quite enjoyable and it was interesting meeting Keynsham members. Perhaps, however, it was a bit too slow-moving. I don't know.

Tues 11 July:

Michael had to go to Torquay for a meeting and catch the 6.15 train so we had to set the alarm for 10 to 5. I cooked him some breakfast and then went back to bed for an hour. Andrew wants to have his train layout in his room, so we had a 'conflab' about how it could be possible and then later I went shopping, and Paul met me and took it home while I went up to Frieda's, stopping to buy some peaches in the Lansdown road. We picked up Daphne Potter and all went over the Severn Bridge and drove on to Beachley to see a stone commemorating one of the Bridges family who lost a number of daughters by drowning. We also saw a war cemetery. We went on to a good picnic place near Tintern, and had an excellent lunch prepared by Frieda, then, as Aunt Edie had found a pistol, (which we thought was only a toy one) we went to look for a police station. Not finding one, we took it to the PO. They could have thought it was a hold-up – it was rather funny. It was only a toy one. I went back to Aunt Edie's for tea, then Frieda drove me home. Michael returned about 7-7.30. Did the ironing. Very hot. Michael has decided to cancel our Italian holiday, and I told him I felt relieved, although I know everyone will think we are crazy.

Weds 12 July:

Michael definitely suggested that I cancel the holiday in Italy in favour of something easier and quieter in the British Isles, so I have done so. I think we shall have difficulty finding an alternative, but there we are. Everyone will be surprised but I think we are wise. Met Rosemary in town and had coffee with her, then finished shopping and home for lunch and rest. Wrote some letters, then Paul and I did some furniture moving in preparation for the 3 German boys

on Sat. Helped Andrew in the evening as he is changing his room around to make room for his train lay-out. Michael tired and out of sorts. He took a film of photos of the lounge. Very hot again. Tired.

Thurs 13 July:

Slept better tonight as we left the door open and the room was better aired. We didn't have to get up quite so early as Michael had to go to see Dr Guirdham. Dr G put Michael back on the Aventyl talbets and I feel very fed up about this as I'm sure they don't suit him. I did a lot of housework then the weekend shopping. Back soon after 11.30 which was quite good going, then Caroline, and later, Rosemary came and we had lunch about 12.45 and chatted a lot. About 2.45 we went up to the City of Bath Boys' School for Andrew's open day. He was with the Puppet Group and their efforts were very good. Paul and Caroline went round the sideshows together, and Rosemary and I had some tea. Afterwards Rosemary had a pony ride, and Caroline also – but the poor dear fell off at one stage. None of us saw her do so. She came back to the evening meal with us, while Rosemary went home, then after she had left for the doctor (who was seeing her leg which is now better) Paul followed with a mack, as there was a heavy thunderstorm. Paul went home with C. We had a "bitty" evening, doing nothing very special.

Fri 14 July:

Did the house and washing, addressed the remaining Quarterly News Letters for posting and did various jobs. After lunch and a rest, I went into town with Andrew, and went to Best's where Andrew bought a picnic table – to be the first of a possible 5 to support his model railway lay-out. At the Travel Agents I was able to book two quite good seats on a tour to the Peak district and Lakes etc. As a result of this I feel very thrilled and Michael, too, is pleased. Did the shopping, and home to make 2 cakes and some cookies, supper etc. Ironing, in the evening, and looked at some of Michael's new slides. Michael, who had taken back a Retina C he had bought and obtained a credit note, 'redeemed' it today in exchange for Andrew's Vito B (once mine) and some accessories. I don't think really it was a necessary expense, but there we are. I am going to pay £35 and have Michael's Olympus and he is getting another one. Andrew came home midday as the afternoon school was of little use to him, Paul did various errands etc for us and finally burnt up most of a few lilac boughs which fell down this afternoon.

Sat 15 July:

Michael woke early and restless, so we had an early breakfast – which suited me as there was much to do. Prepared lunch etc etc and did some shopping, then met Michael for elevenses. We eventually went to the Central Youth Club to meet our Germans, and Olive was there, so we had quite a chat. They arrived late, and although we were given a lift in a car, we didn't get home until about 2 for lunch. Herr and Frau Matthes were feeling very tired, so they had a bath and rest. I took them tea about 4.30 and we had an evening meal at 6.45. After this they went to a dance. The boy in the top room is called Karlo and he is very nice. He and Andrew went down town together. He is remarkably good at English for 17. Did some mending and washed my hair in the evening. Michael was very hospitable today.

Sun 16 July:

We had breakfast at 9.30 and I was able to go to Meeting. Michael went with our German friends up to Beechen Cliff to see the view. Fortunately it was a lovely day. We had a cold lunch and hot pudding, coffee etc then the Germans went to the Tech for a meeting and Michael and I took it easy. We had a cup of tea at 4.30 and high tea at 6, but Herr and Frau Matthes didn't return until nearly 7, so I cooked theirs then. Later we played them some folk music of different lands while Karlo went out with friends. I am picking up a few German words as Frau Matthes cannot speak English. Did quite a bit of mending and feel very virtuous!

Mon 17 July:

A rather hectic morning with relays of breakfasts, housework, washing shopping and Paul's lunch to get before he caught a train to Ledbury. In the middle of my rest Karlo came back, and having forgotten his key, rang the bell, however I was able to resume the rest, before sorting out some clothes to take to the Salvation Army, and tidying my sewing box. We had the evening meal about 6.30 then sat chatting to Herr and Frau Matthes until soon after 9, when they decided to go to bed and we went fairly soon afterwards. Very hot again today.

Tues 18 July:

After breakfast I did the usual housework – washed kitchen floor etc but I was rather behind as Tuli and Tiffin were apparently upset by some food they had and there were certain cleaning operations to be performed. Did the ironing and went shopping, and after lunch and a rest, wrote my mother. Andrew came home midday and doesn't intend going in tomorrow, so school is over until September. Michael went to Dr Carr, and (I am so relieved) he says Michael can continue without the Aventyl, and need not start it again as Dr Guirdham had advised. I spent the evening trying to converse with Fra Matthes and showed her photos.

It is difficult to know how to entertain her, as she understands very little English.

Wed 19 July:

About 10, having done the housework, I took Frau Matthes with me shopping, and we met Olive Hicks for coffee. Olive has lived 6 years in Germany and understands much of the language, so I thought it would be a good meeting, and indeed it was. Afterwards Frau M left us, and Olive and I went to the Nearly New Shop. There I saw a very nice red, green and black wool winter coat in my size and only 45-. It was the last thing I wanted to do – spend money on clothes, as my account is so low, but I knew I needed a new coat this winter, and in the autumn I might not be able to find what I wanted, so I bought it. After shopping, I went home, and Andrew, who has broken up, had lunch with me. I had a rest etc then there was a very bad storm, so instead of gardening, I made some very slight adjustments to the new coat. The evening meal was at about 6.15, then our German friends went out for a social evening at Odd Down while Michael spent a long time looking for a magnifying glass and being very boorish. Bath.

Thurs 20 July:

Did the housework, then, as Herr and Frau Matthes were obviously staying in most of the morning I wrote a letter and then went shopping. Later I did the washing, lunches and rested. Did gardening all the afternoon and half expected John and Mary to call. They came eventually about 5, and only stayed a short while as they had to get to Thea's in Devizes by 6. They wanted to meet us tomorrow, but Michael wasn't at all keen. Eventually we arranged to meet at Jolly's for coffee. The German guests were well over an hour late for the evening meal, It wasn't their fault. They had a coach tour and the trip overran the time. We sat and talked afterwards, but they were tired. Tara was naughty about coming back tonight. We hunted everywhere. At last she walked up as cool as you like.

Fri 21 July:

Michael took the day off (annual leave) today, so we got up a little later. The Germans went to Oxford for the day, and we met Mary and John in Jolly's for coffee, spending a good hour together. As the new Olympus Pen camera arrived yesterday, allowing me to have Michael's, Michael wanted the money, but I was a little annoyed as I had told him I was willing to wait without a camera, and couldn't pay until I had some expected money from my mother early in August. As he was in difficulties, however, we drew out £20 from the TSB Special

Investment a/c. Home soon after for lunch, then rest etc and ironing, while Michael wrote letters and rested later. After the evening meal we talked and did our best to entertain Frau Matthes while her husband and Karlo went to a lecture. When she had gone to bed I tried, with Michael's help to learn how to use the Olympus – but then the older one jammed. We tried very hard to free it but couldn't. Bed at midnight.

Sat 22 July:

Breakfast for our German guests was at 8.15 as usual, and later Michael and I went into town. Michael had freed the jammed Olympus early this morning to our great relief but he couldn't decide what to do about cameras. In the end we decided that he should keep the second Retina c3 he has, and exchange the old Olympus for a new body only. After lunch we all had a rest, intending to go for a walk after a cup of tea. After our tea, however, it had changed from brilliant sun to rain, so we talked and watched TV. The evening meal was at 6.30 and Paul came back about 8. Tuli was off her food this evening, and we are wondering why.

Sun 23 July:

Another nice day. Our visitors went to the Botanical Gardens and I went to Meeting. In the afternoon Paul and Karlo went up on Bathampton rocks, and Michael and I rested and read. We talked with our guests after tea until the evening meal, then Herr and Frau Matthes went out to coffee, and Paul and I played darts. Later we watched TV. Michael is being a good host to the Germans. They are very considerate.

Mon 24 July:

Michael had a second day's holiday today and it was excellent weather again. I hurried through the housework and washing, and Paul finished it off for me so that we could go down town soon after 10. We had quite a pleasant shopping time, then, after lunch, we had a rest and I did the ironing. Soon after 4, a Mr Moore of Whitemans' book shop in Orange Grove, brought his daughter to see Michael for photographic advice. I gave them tea and biscuits, and the daughter stayed until some time after 5.30. Our Germans were in for the evening meal as usual at 6.15, then Frau Matthes stayed to watch TV while the others went out. Michael a little disgruntled and dissatisfied with his leave, but friendly with guests.

Tues 25 July:

Karlo made a mistake over the time and came down for breakfast an hour early. It didn't matter, of course. The housework was soon done today and I sat and

talked to Paul before going into town shopping. I banked the cheque for £30 which I received this morning for the *Germans*, and got some books from the library for Paul. Unfortunately the photos from Cyril Howe were all wrong and I shall have to take them back tomorrow. After Paul and I had had lunch, I had a rest etc read and wrote my mother. The Matthes went out to coffee in the evening but Karlo stayed in to watch TV and see some slides. Michael had a trying day at office, and patience was at lower ebb this evening. Washed my hair and fortunately Karlo elected to go to bed quite early, which allowed us to do so too. Paul – out with friends.

Weds 26 July:

A rather better day than yesterday's showery one. Our German friends went to Stratford for the day, so had an early breakfast. I went down town quite early and did the shopping then we had lunch early too. Had a rest etc and spent the afternoon taking photos. Paul, Michael and I had our evening meal soon after six, then the others came back for theirs at 7.30. Frau Matthes wasn't too well and had to go down and rest and take a pill, so didn't have supper until a little later. I begged her to stay in bed and I bring her a hot drink but she protested she was alright. We watched TV but reception was bad. Michael is almost explosive when not with our visitors, and very 'driving'.

Thurs 27 July:

Frau Matthes took it easier today and rested morning, and afternoon. I left the washing and did it in the dinner hour. Went shopping in the morning and began painting in Paul's room in the afternoon. We are just touching up, and doing the surrounding part of the ceiling, then papering. At the moment Michael is finding something wrong with everything anyone does, so it is doubtful if I will get far with house improvements as I hope. Frau Matthes spent the evening with us and Michael developed my film for me.

Fri 28 July:

Frau Matthes seemed better again today and went shopping. She and Herr Matthes gave us a very nice record of Strauss waltzes and Karlo gave me some flowers. Michael was not at all good this morning and said he really couldn't stay in his job. I am pretty concerned about him. Went to the Ref Library then met Granny for coffee. Shopping and home for lunch and rest. Paul went off to Bristol and Clarke Nicholl are going to give him a job from August 14<sup>th</sup> for a month. He also bought some books in *George's*. I did the ironing and then some painting in Paul's room. Frau Matthes spent the evening with us and Paul and I learnt some German. When the cats were put out after their last meal, Tuli

didn't return. We all went out looking for her, but there was no sign of her. At last, when we were getting most anxious, she appeared from nowhere – naughty girl. I am seriously considering taking 2 A Levels. It is difficult to decide if I would have the time or ability to do the work.

Sat 29 July:

Paul left for Fowey on the 7.53 train and at 9pm after much 'ceremony' and 'speeches' our German friends left us. Michael and I went down town, but Michael felt pretty out of sorts. We had an early lunch followed by a long read and rest. (The weather had turned in wet) After a cup of tea I did some washing then, with supper over, I did some mending etc and I begged Michael to 'do something' about his unhappiness, since the situation was disrupting the family which seemed to be so tragic.

Sun 30 July:

As we were going up to Granny Bridges for lunch I suggested to Michael, who was feeling particularly despondent that we go for a very long stroll and he agreed. We set off about 10.15 and went along the canal, taking our cameras. The weather was overcast and sticky, so the walk was not ideal, but in the end we went as far as Grosvenor, then up to Claremont, along the path beneath Mount Beacon and out into St Stephen's road. Although we only went very slowly because Michael lacked energy, we arrived early at Granny's and we rested a little before the meal which was very nice. We returned about 2.30, taking a taxi from the Abbey. We then rested until 5.45, and read. After tea we watched TV and I knitted. Bed soon after 9.30. Michael is amazingly tired all the time, but I feel it is because he is so unhappy.

Mon 31 July:

Much as I miss the boys, it was lovely to have so little housework today! I had the usual clear-up in the study because the kittens are not properly house trained. (Tonight we have put them in the kitchen without a tray, in the hope that they will be better, and feeling that it will be easier to clear any 'accidents' up.) Did some washing which included about 5 sheets etc. then did about 30 mins painting in Paul's room. Went shopping, and after lunch and a rest, I prepared for my guests and also sent off an application for a correspondence course in anatomy and physiology as a prelude to either naturopathy or herbal medicine. At 3 Rosemary, Caroline and Richard came and we sat at the back for a while, then came in and had tea. We had interesting conversation but I felt sorry for Richard who was rather left out. They left about 5.20 and when Michael and I

had had the evening meal a man came to see him about a possible controller in the boiler. Bed about 9.40.

Tues 1 August:

I've had a very nice birthday. – money, tokens, gifts ... I felt very fortunate. After breakfast I wrote a joint letter to Mummy Paul and Andrew, then went shopping and met Granny at Sally Lunn's for lunch. We sat a little while in the Abbey Churchyard, then decided to go to the Nearly New Shop but we found it was closed for about a month for holiday. I did some more shopping and went home for a short rest etc. Caroline rang to say she was coming over, and about an hour later she arrived with a gift from Rosemary. We talked for a while, then she left and I wrote a letter before getting the evening meal. At 5 past 6 I went with Michael up to Dr Carr. We had a long wait as there had been an emergency putting the appointments out. Dr Carr has put Michael back on to an anti-depressant, but a weaker and different one from the one that caused the loss of balance. I don't feel this is at all radical, but Michael doesn't feel fit enough to seek training in a more conducive post, and psychotherapy doesn't seem to be possible under the National Health, so it would seem that we must just go on accepting things as they are. I find it very difficult to do so, but I was glad that Michael seemed reasonably satisfied. Bed about 9.30.

Weds 2 August:

Spent the early part of the morning writing thank you letters etc then started writing a book! The number of books I've started and never finished! This is the story of Tiffin written in the first person, and is aimed at the 8 and overs. If it gets further than chapter 2 it will be a miracle, but there we are. Olive joined me for coffee and stayed over an hour which was nice as we had a good chat. After lunch, read, rest etc I did the ironing and went to post and then made 8lbs of apricot and gooseberry jam. Tuli is for ever hungry, and reminds me of Paul as a baby. I think her metabolism must be very quick for she starts mewling for the next meal barely an hour after the last! Michael mowed the lawn in the evening and I washed my hair and knitted. TV reception very poor lately, which discourages viewing. Bed on the early side.

Thurs 3 August:

Before going shopping I did the washing, and when I came back I had lunch, rest etc and then did some writing in the courtyard. I think I should have worn my sun spectacles as I had a headache this evening. Did some ironing and wrote two letters in the evening. My mother phoned and Michael was very cross to hear that the boys were not returning until Thursday (instead of Tuesday). Even when we went to bed he still complained, and said he had enough troubles at

work without this one. I found it difficult to sympathise, for who could say that the news that one's sons were to have two extra days holiday was 'trouble'? I am very pleased for them.

Fri 4 August:

The first lesson of my anatomy and physiology course came this morning, so I was busy trying to drum into my head the different cells there are. Did the top coat of paint where required in Paul's room and did some shopping in Widcombe. After lunch and a rest etc went up to Beechen Cliff to see the whereabouts of house Olive had told me was for sale. I am still not quite sure which one it was, but decided the garden would be too shaded and I wouldn't be interested. Came back and did some gardening until about 4.30 when I made some cookies and the evening meal. Michael is pretty tired and feels uncooperative. Francis[sic] Longman asked me to look at the Burial Ground, so I went round there, and Joan Berry and her husband were working there. The grass is pretty dead-looking in most places but it is made green by speedwell! Came back and read paper etc.

Sat 5 August:

Michael was quite disgruntled last night about going out today with Granny and Thea, but now today, he accepts the idea happily and thoroughly enjoyed it. We went down town, getting back just before 11, then Granny and Thea called for us. We left Tara and Tuli shut in with Anna, and some food which we hoped they wouldn't find too soon. It was a lovely day – not too hot except out of the breeze, and we went to the gardens at Stourhead and had a picnic. We took quite a lot of photos and stayed till about 4. Unfortunately Michael lost his polaroid spectacles. When we left we went to King Alfred's tower and had our tea nearby in the car. It was all most enjoyable. Home about 6.30-7 and spent evening doing very little – wrote a letter etc. Bath. Bed about 9.30. Found that my remembering to wear my sun glasses most of the day, I haven't had the headache I've kept getting in the afternoon most of the week.

Sun 6 August:

It was a completely silent Meeting, but afterwards I spoke to a stranger who had sat next to me and he said he was merely an attender and voiced his doubts about Quakerism. My replies were probably not in the least convincing but I found, somewhat to my surprise, that answers came readily – not authoritative ones, but some based on experience, or indirect answers which perhaps were nearer the roots of the question. Also had a discussion with Fran Longman about the Burial Ground. After lunch we found we had to put flea powder on both Tuli and Anna. I hate the vile stuff as it gets up all our noses and one doubts if the

powder can be better than the fleas! Wrote the boys, and then Michael and I had a long rest. After tea, Michel was rather out of sorts again and he went to bed at 7.30. He says he is very tired, but one knows that his tiredness is largely an escape from his work situation and I wish so much there was something I could do. I watched Jim's play on BBC2 about an Indian girl, and called "55 columns". Reception was not too good towards the end, but I thought the play a good one.

Mon 7 August:

Got off to an early start and did the washing and cleaning, then stripped the wallpaper off Paul's walls. Telefusion came and improved our TV reception. Went shopping and bought some wallpaper to go on one wall and tone in with the other I bought last week. Rosemary telephoned in the lunch hour and asked me to tea, so after a rest etc and writing a letter I went up to her house. Caroline had got herself a job in Lansdown Grove Nursing Home for a week, which is good. Richard is working in the garden. Rosemary took me home and borrowed a library book. After tea I did the ironing. We watched TV and on Panorama they examined the "Hippies" – the 'beautiful' teenagers. They wear or carry a flower and believe in taking 'soft' drugs so that they will be less ego-conscious more themselves and lead a happy existence. To a certain extent I feel it is a healthy swing away from the very hypocritical and inhibited lives most of our generation live, but they have gone too far and off at a tangent. They spurn sacrifice and the hard things of life, which is a very necessary part of life, I think. Also, their journeys in the sub-conscious aren't directed. Who is to say what 'power' may get hold of them when they lose control?

Tues 8 August:

Directly Michael had gone and I had washed up, I started mixing the paste for papering Paul's room. Start at 8, and taking an hour for lunch, rest etc, I worked through the day, finishing it at 5. By this time I must say I felt pretty tired. It hadn't been an easy day. First of all I made the paste lumpy and had to try and remedy that, it was very difficult working behind all the furniture in the room, and having to carry every piece of pasted paper up from the kitchen. In addition to this I knocked a small jug of paste right over on one occasion, and the kittens came and played around me. In desperation I fed Tuli every 2 hours instead of very 4 or 5. (Actually, I think this suited her, and am inclined to think that I may follow her apparent needs rather than the book, as she still doesn't thrive all that well.) We did one or two odd jobs in the evening but went to bed early as Michael is off to Newton Abbott early tomorrow morning.

Weds 9 August:

Not too good a night's sleep – rather restless from thundery weather. Alarm went about 5.30 for tea, and Michael and I had breakfast about 6.30 as he had to catch the 7.11 train. Went back to bed to read for half an hour afterwards then up, and cleaned Paul's room and did other cleaning. Went shopping and after lunch and rest etc wrote my mother, put up pictures in Paul's room and painted waterproofing on the wall by the door so that it can be sponged. Also wrote a Mr Twissell re a quotation for maintaining the grass at the Burial Ground. It was generally a day of odd jobs for this morning, as well, I tried to enquire about the Writer's Circle bill for the room at the Tech. We hadn't expected it as we'd been told the room was free. Michael returned shortly before 7 for the evening meal and I did mending and knitting in the evening. Tuli does seem a bit better as a result of 'little and often' feeding.

Thurs 10 August:

Spent the early part of the morning shortening Paul's curtains and making a valance out of the pieces. Went shopping and to Ref Library re jobs for Michael. After lunch, rest etc I put up the valance, which took some time, especially as both Telefusion and Bristol Wireless called to see the TV set. The kittens were very naughty – I fed Tuli on the six times a day basis, on which she definitely seems to be thriving better, but she still miaowed for more food and at one stage both she and Tara had to be shut in Andrew's room. The boys came back about 5 and they looked well and brown. TV etc in the evening and we tried our hand at a programme of questions about money. I only scored 14 instead of any average 21. It was really a test in law.

Fri 11 August.

Did the washing and house-cleaning early, and then went out with Andrew just before 10. I went with him to buy a sports jacket and he chose one in a sale that was rather modern in style. It was a good fit and not 'outrageous' so I passed no judgment. Went on alone to do rest of shopping and go to Ref Library for Michael (to no avail). Lunch, rest etc then hemmed Paul's curtains and looked at his fossils. He 'de-pested' the kitten (Tuli) and should have mowed the lawn but it rained heavily. After tea, did the ironing and later washed my hair. Michael has had a letter from the Bank to say he is overdrawn, which is worrying. I had thought lately that cheques had been written without regard to the statement.

Sat 12 August:

Anna was nine today. Michael went to the Bank early re the overdraft and it seems he can have it a bit longer. He isn't at all worried, but I found it difficult not to be cross. A friend of Michael's – a young architect – came to coffee and gave his ideas for redecorating the lounge. It was, I felt, a good job he didn't know our financial position for it was all rather ironic. After lunch Michael and I rested, Andrew went out, and Paul watched athletics on TV. Before tea, Michael mowed the lawn. Reading, TV and some writing in the evening. I found some job adverts for Michael in a magazine but he showed little interest. I find it so difficult not to be angry – he does nothing but grumble and say he can't go on for long in his present post yet he does nothing about transferring .... simply because he has been turned down for two or three jobs in the last few years. Yet these jobs were nearly all quite outside his capabilities or experience. Paul went out with Stephen, but returned soon after 9.30 as Caroline and David came at 10 to see a match on BBC2. Michael and I left them and went to bed.

Sun 13 August:

Meeting was well attended and was a good one and I had interesting conversation with Agnes Wolff and Rex Orledge. After lunch and a little TV I joined Michael who rested from 2 until 6. He is very downcast and grumbly this weekend and cannot face any changes, either, to make his situation more to his liking. Granny and Thea called about 10 past 6 and stayed a half an hour or so. They brought us some apples and I ate two or three straight away as apples have been about 6d or more each and any bought have been used for Michael's lunch. These were Beauty of Bath from Granny's garden. Knitted in the evening and went to bed to write for a little while at 9.20 and Michael came too as he was so bored. The boys were watching TV.

Mon 14 August:

We found that part of the lavatory was leaking so I telephoned Blackmore's early to send a plumber. Did the washing, and Michael and Paul went off to Bristol together. Andrew had Graham up during the morning, and I went out shopping. Lunch about 12.30, rest etc, then, to our surprise, Paul returned – as he isn't wanted until next Monday. (There had been some confusion, as he had been told one thing in the interview, and something else in a letter, and telephone inquiry could not elucidate the situation.) We felt it was rather bad that they kept him over 3 hours waiting to be given this news at the office this morning. He went to the Museum, not to waste the day completely, and ate his lunch in the train. We spent much of the afternoon photographing some of his geological specimens and also some Victorian Christmas cards. These photos I

hope will illustrate some articles I hope to write. I also did a little writing. Did the ironing after tea, then knitting and TV.

Tues 15 August:

For the first time since we had them, the kittens left no mess for me to deal with – red letter day! Having told Michael I didn't feel at all workish, I suddenly felt I'd like to 'deal with the stair carpet' and started straight after breakfast. It was very worn again in several places so had to do some cunning joining! At the top of the first flight the worn parts were so close together, I realised I needed a long strip, which necessitated my using the part on the top landing. This led to my wanting to move the bedroom round as I could then use a piece of the needleloom carpeting there to replace the stair carpet. After shopping, lunch etc Andrew went to Bristol shopping and Paul helped me with the bedroom and stairs and also we put more runners on his curtains to improve them, and put a piece of Contact<sup>9</sup> on the table in the top room. My mother sent me the money she had promised, and I am resolved to use it wisely. Paul and Andrew also had £10 each from the sale of her boat. Andrew found a maggot in his semolina and I find that moths have been laying eggs in my packet cereals. I've had to throw away some packets I haven't used lately, and put the rest in tins. I think I'll dream of them tonight – ugh!

Weds 16 August:

Finished turning out the food cupboard, then paid special attention to the study flooring partly to eradicate moth, if any and partly to make thoroughly clean after the room was used for the kittens. When the boys had got up I went down town to get some cheap emulsion paint. Having tried to get some half-price Brolac I'd seen in several shops and failed, I bought another kind in Knights and when I came home Paul and I started work on the downstairs lavatory. (Andrew was with a friend all day working on his railway.) Had lunch and a rest, wrote my mother and then Paul and I did nearly another two hours painting. About 4.45 Granny Bridges called with some apples for us and stayed to have a cup of tea. In the evening we viewed some transparencies of Andrew's and read. Bed earlyish as had a bath. Paul went out with Stephen. They changed the letterbox in Lyncombe hill from a Victorian one to a small new one.

Thurs 17 August:

Made an early start to Bristol and enjoyed a pleasant morning in the Park St area buying presents, a paperback for myself, and bedside lamp for Andrew etc

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<sup>9</sup> Contact was the brand name of a product, a roll of adhesive-backed patterned plastic; if applied to an old wooden table (say) it stuck firmly and provided a washable surface.

then later met Michael and we had lunch at the Posada. Spent the afternoon in the Broadmead area, but it wasn't as pleasant as the morning as the shops were oppressively hot and I bought a record with tokens of some music by Bach and it wasn't pleasantly lively as I had thought it was, but rather mournful. Michael likes it fortunately – but I may change it at the record exchange. Came back about 5 and the first thing I found was that the study had been left open and the kittens had made about 5 messes in there! Felt very tired and had a headache, but was quite OK again after tea. Did some mending in the evening. Paul has done some more painting in the cellar. Andrew has mowed the lawn and worked on his railway. Paul had Stephen up for darts this evening.

Fri 18 August:

Another full-day – Michael had to see Dr Guirdham this morning, so we didn't get up until 7.20. He had asthma in the night and doesn't feel at all good, so I urged him to say so to the doctor. Dr G suggested that Michael come in to Weston Lodge for the second week of his holiday. He isn't at all keen to do this, but wonders what the alternative is. I did the washing and shopping after lunch and rest, Paul and I worked on the painting in the cellar until 5.30, Andrew going to get some more paint and making the supper. Both boys were paid for their work. In the evening there was ironing to do and I washed my hair. Paul went for a run. Michael felt very niggly.

Sat 19 August:

We had a profitable conversation in bed this morning whereupon Michael decided to ask Dr Guirdham if it would be an idea for him to have some more abreaction treatment instead of the sedation suggested. We did shopping separately this morning while Paul worked in the cellar and Michael and Paul worked on preparing doors and walls for painting on downstairs landing. I read and slept! After tea I did some mending practically the whole evening and made next week's menu. Michael seemed very much on edge. Andrew is still working on his railway.

Sun 20 August:

A quiet Meeting. In the afternoon Paul went out with Stephen Kurle to go for a long walk. As I write now at 20 to 10 he has still not returned and took no food with him so I am hoping he has managed to get some sustenance somewhere. Wrote two letters and Lesson 1 of my anatomy and physiology course, and also did a little gardening. Knitted and watched TV and re-viewed some of Michael's slides in the evening. Bath and bed on the early side.

Mon 21 August:

Paul returned at 10.30 last night having walked to Westbury and back – well over 30 miles. Today he started work in Bristol at Clarke Nichols' for a few weeks and as he was not exactly feeling energetic, he was not delighted when his first job was to go shopping! Never mind. I think he got on alright. I did the washing and housework, then went shopping, and bought some pieces of car matting cheaply in Best's, also some leather cloth for the table in our bedroom. Andrew is getting his own breakfast and lunch, and making our evening meal for us until Friday (and will get 15/-). I came back from town with a not so uncommon belly ache, so, before rest I took some Panets and Neutradoona tablets. These proved no use, so I picked some epeta and made a tea with it. After 1½ mugs of it the pain went in no time and I was able to spend from 2-5.30 painting in the cellar. Paul doesn't get back until 6.45, so it was gone 7 before we'd washed up, and then did the ironing. TV was quite entertaining. Bed about 10.30.

Tues 22 August:

Did some shopping before going out to Bathampton to visit Mrs Hancock. She seemed very happy in her new house in Down Lane and we enjoyed a cup of coffee. The only thing which worries me about her is her lovely big dog Rex who is really much too big for her. He needs a lot of exercise and she cannot take him out as he is so unmanageable. Much of the time he is shut in a room, and then he barks and barks and must annoy the neighbours. Having come home and had lunch and a rest I worked in the cellar, and Andrew helped too. Andrew made tea and I worked on until 5.45.

Weds 23 August:

Paul's birthday today. We gave him 2 books and two ties and Andrew gave him a set of darts. Otherwise he had money. Instead of a birthday cake I got a dairy cream sandwich and also made a kind of sundae in glasses with fruit, sponge and mousse, topped with chocolate polka dots. Andrew was pleased to learn he had passed all his O Levels except Greek, so he now has 8, and that is splendid. Having written my mother, I went shopping, and also went to the Technical College again re payment of the room by the Writer Circle. From about 2.20 onwards in the afternoon I worked in the basement. Did a little ironing and clothes sorting in the evening, and Michael advised me on certain matters in connection with the painting. He was very tired.

Thurs 24 August:

Wrote one or two letters and did the housework, then went shopping and looked at some wallpaper in Shuther's[?] for the lounge. After lunch and a rest I started some painting work in the basement while Andrew mowed the lawn and

later showed a friend his trains. When the phone went soon after 4, I had a talk with Granny Bridges. I rung off and then was surprised to see Michael sitting in the lounge. He had apparently been there some 2 hours and he gave me quite a start. He had come home early as he had felt so tired. In the evening I did quite a lot more painting. When we came to bed we couldn't find Tiffin. We called but he didn't come, the naughty boy.

Fri 25 August:

Andrew had to wait up quite a while for Tiffin last night. Worked on the carpeting in the top room this morning, tacking down the new 'car pieces' I bought at Best's the other day. After shopping Andrew and I met Granny Bridges who took us to lunch at Colmer's. Afterwards Andrew helped me home with some paint, then he went to see a friend while I did some more painting. Michael was home early and we had a cup of tea before I got the evening meal. Did more painting in the evening and the ironing. Bed about 10.30.

Sat 26 August:

Michael and I went shopping early in the hope of missing the worst of the pre-Bank Holiday crowd. We had coffee at Jolly's. When we got home we both did a little work in the basement and more work of the same nature after lunch before having a long rest and read. The boys went to a football match. Michael did some painting in the evening, but I did some cooking towards tomorrow's lunch and washed my hair. Knitting. Michael seems to be cross at the slightest thing.

Sun 27 August:

Michael did some painting in the morning, and although I did about a half an hour's housework I went to Meeting as usual. On the way back I met Granny who was on her way up to join us for lunch. Paul went to the Cleveland baths and out to high tea in town. Granny had a rest and I did too, then gathered and stewed some fallen pears before tea. Granny left soon afterwards and I watched Meeting Point which was about nervous breakdowns and was very good. Michael and Andrew spent much of the day working on model engines. Bath and bed after supper (about 9.30).

Mon 28 August [Bank Holiday]:

Bank Holiday Monday, and Tara was one year old today. We had breakfast around 9, and I did some gardening in the morning. Andrew Taylor came to see Paul and we invited him to lunch, but he couldn't stay. Paul went to the Cleveland baths and stayed out until about 9.15 when Michael and I went to bed. He and I read and rested in the afternoon and I did some sewing and knitting in the

evening. Michael is worried as he finds he cannot focus his camera with his right eye – yet his eyes were tested quite recently. Also he cannot read properly with his right eye. I am glad he has an appointment with the doctor tomorrow and can tell him about it. Andrew worked on his railway, and went to see a football match this evening.

Tues 29 August:

Did some sorting of bedclothes and made up the students' beds, so that there would be less to think about when we return from our holidays. Did housework and began the washing, but asked Andrew to finish it for me and went shopping. After lunch and a rest, I made a bedspread for our bed out of two single ones (and I hope to cover a chair with the left-over material). Also mended a blanket and put some furniture in the bottom room. Michael came home for an early tea, which Andrew prepared and went to the doctor who found he had rather high blood pressure and this was the probable cause of his 'giddy' spells and the inability to focus with his right eye. To confirm it, however, he is to see a neurologist almost immediately. Put some left-over Fablon<sup>10</sup> on some trays and did the ironing. TV. Bed about 9.15 as Michael had gone up half an hour before, feeling tired (as he does every day, and has done for what must be years.)

Weds 30 August:

Michael felt very tired this morning, however he went to work and seemed slightly better this evening. He was keen to see an Abbott and Costello film, so we didn't go to bed until gone 10.30. I read and knitted. This morning, having done the house, I wrote my mother and went shopping. After lunch and rest, I papered the back porch. The wall is bad in places so it wasn't a very good job, but Michael seemed pleased. Andrew went to see some friends in the morning and worked on his railway in the afternoon.

Thurs 31 August:

Michael decided not to go in to work today as he expected to be called for an appointment with the neurologist, but actually he had a letter telling him he was to be admitted to the Manor hospital tomorrow. It was a bit of a shock, but I think it will mean he will get a more thorough investigation. I did the washing and house then we both went shopping. After lunch and a rest, I went to the Burial Ground to meet a gentleman from Oldfield Landscape Gardens who may be going to look after it for us. While waiting for him I clipped bit of the long grass and weeds. Home, and put some Contact on the low kitchen cupboard and mended a towel, sewed cushion covers on etc etc. Mrs Mould called this morning asking me if I'd take a Thai girl (Tech) but I said I was down for University

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<sup>10</sup> Fablon was very similar stuff to Contact (previous footnote).

students and later phoned the University to confirm that I wasn't forgotten. Later they phoned back to say they were almost sure I'd get some students and that allocations hadn't been made yet – except to Rosemary. Knitted and watched TV in the evening – when I should have done the ironing.

End of Volume 2.

Volume 3 starts the next day: Friday 1 September