

Boxing Day '98

Dear Frances,

You asked kindly about the cystitis — I cured it myself in less than 36 hours with raw cranberries + a dash of honey and lots & lots of water. By the time I could get to see the wonderful Nurse Boldt at the clinic, she was able to pronounce me completely clear, + another time I wouldn't even go to the clinic. She also recommended Vit. C. in 1000 mg. doses, Maurice's "Home Remedy" <sup>book</sup> is excellent.

~~So~~ The snow here vanished in Victoria but not at Colwood, so I went to the Midnight Service alone. It was beautiful + the Church was packed + there were lots of very young people who all seemed to know each other — university students + people home for Christmas or elsewhere. Also I recognized people I've known

around Victoria for years back. Christmas Day was extremely wet, + Maria picked me up early afternoon + we visited Gail (her stepdaughter) before going on to Christmas Dinner with Mark + family. Gail's husband Ian has a brother Al who is a bachelor but really a more responsible version of Ian. Al plays Santa Claus at a big shopping mall for 2 hrs. in the evenings during the Christmas Season + does it with heart + soul, + is obviously most popular! I've never known a Santa Claus before. The kids half believe in him, even the bigger ones, because he manages to find out bits about them + knows if they've been Naughty or Nice!

Victoria is quite a feast of Christmas lights decorations so we toured one of the choice areas before arriving at Mark + Leona's. We were a big party as they had also another couple + their 2 children both much the same ages as Jeremy + Megan + they all get on well.

Mark was carrying a 27 lb. turkey,  
I've never seen such a monster. It  
was all very well organized. Maria  
brought the Pudding, my contribution  
was shortbread & I was amazed  
how it all vanished - I must make  
some more for New Year's Day.  
The children vanished also to  
computer games & watching a video,  
which is the modern way, but  
there was a lot to be said for the  
old Christmas games we used to  
play like Consequences, in which  
everyone joined.

I am writing this in bed early on  
Boxing Day, as after all the recent  
activities my sleep pattern is rather  
mixed up. Your Father Dominic  
sounds like quite a good egg. I  
rather think our St. John's clergy  
do a lot over Christmas beyond  
the actual services, as so many  
people are in retirement homes.  
I did get a call from Sandy.  
They had had the lawyer chaps  
over for Christmas Dinner but  
I gather he wasn't lively company.

I got books in the library for the holiday season - one of them is a mystery by Peter Lovesey, who lives near Bath & sets his stories around that area. The place names brought back a lot of memories for me, but I can't remember exactly where things were. It's not really a bond of who-dunnits - when they unravel they always seem so contrived.

Radio has been a great joy time with lots of lovely carols & Christmas music - some years I've suffered through so much trumpery stuff. I do hope you've had good things to listen to & bring back wonderful memories (to balance off the not so good).

Very much love & good wishes for 1999

Or Saver