

# *Tories Pro Vita*

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## **THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE by J. Alan Smith**

Lord Steel of Aikwood, who, as David Steel, MP, introduced the Abortion Act 1967, has called for the liberalisation of abortion law with a right to abortion on demand up to the twelfth week of pregnancy. There are two dangers in this suggestion. Firstly, there is the false implication that abortions would be restricted *after* twelve weeks: some pro-lifers might be tempted to acquiesce with this proposal under the fallacious assumption that the total number of abortions would be reduced. Secondly, this change would introduce a right to abortion; under the present law, abortion is an offence unless certain conditions are met, although these restrictions are routinely flouted.

The most obvious explanation for Lord Steel's interest in a twelve-week limit is the recent publication of ultrasound moving pictures showing a foetus 'walking' at twelve weeks, yawning at 14 weeks, and opening its eyes at 18 weeks. Despite calls for a review of the abortion law using terms like "scientific breakthrough", this was not a 'eureka moment'. Those of us in the pro-life movement already knew that an unborn child, whether an embryo or a foetus, was alive from the moment of conception: if it were not so then it would not grow into a born human, I would not be here to write this article, and you would not be here to read it. Neither would it have been news to those like David Steel who have campaigned for abortion to be freely available. The most significant consequence of these ultrasound moving photographs is the effect on the casual observer or, more accurately, the casual non-observer. Those who have wilfully avoided the scientific facts of pregnancy and abortion because of social expediency will find it more difficult now these photographs have been shown.

The essence of the pro-life case against abortion bears restating.

Let us first define the terms used, which so often tend to get confused:

a *miscarriage* is an unintended event that brings a pregnancy to a premature end;

a *therapeutic termination of pregnancy* is an operation performed for the benefit of the mother, where there is no intention to kill the unborn child and every effort is made to save the child's life;

an *abortion* is an operation intended to kill the unborn child.

At the moment of conception in mammals, when a sperm fertilizes an ovum a new member of the species is brought into existence. From that moment: if the parents are cats, the new member is fully feline; if the parents are dogs, the new member is fully canine; and if the parents are a man and a woman, the new member is fully human. It is strange that so many who would not quibble with the first two statements balk against the third, arguing that 'humanity' is something added at a later stage in life. Perhaps it is easier to kill someone if you first deny his humanity. Remember, though there are people trying to hide it, the truth is out there.

The SPUC Conservative and Unionist Group comprises those members of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children who are also supporters of the Conservative and Unionist Party: *Conservatives and Unionists protecting human life from the moment of conception until the time of natural death.*

## A HOLIDAY LESSON by Charlotte Burns

Josie Goble. *Sandy's Holiday*. Riverrun Press 2003. ISBN 0 9540024 1 5. pp79. £6.50. Available post-free (UK only) from: Riverrun Press, 16 Arlington Road, East Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 2BG; Tel: 020 8891 1770.

I enjoyed reading this book. It is about a girl called Sandy who was taken on holiday by her Aunts Mo and Gina: they also take the 'snakes' who are Solly and Simon, Sandy's stepbrothers. They go by train to Looe in Cornwall and stay in a lovely country cottage owned by Mo's boyfriend. Sandy is very selfish and feels sorry for herself because she's got a step dad and her mum's having another baby that she doesn't really want.

While she's there she breaks her leg by falling off a cliff. Gina tries to go and get help but the tide is coming in quickly. Then a young lad comes by in a boat and helps get Sandy to the closest hospital: his name is Danny. Danny helps Sandy, he tells her about God and Jesus, and lends her a few books. He takes her to his churches family service. She thought it would be boring but she was surprised at how she enjoyed it so much. He then tells her that one of the Habakkuk House handicapped children cannot go on a day trip to Plymouth and asks would she like to go: she jumps at the chance. While she's there she makes friends with a boy called Clive who is paralysed from the waist down. She also meets other children who are blind etc. She realises that even though they're handicapped they still get on with their lives and seem happy. After that, when she has to have an operation on her leg to make it heal quicker, she gets really worried. At the end she talks to her step dad and seems to get on better with him. Her mum has the baby boy and asks if Sandy would like to name him but Sandy says Gina should: in the end they both decide and say 'Danny'.

This book taught me that we should be glad for the way we are and what we have because we could be worse off. I would recommend *Sandy's Holiday* to others ten years old and over, and rate it 8/10.

This review first appeared in *Prag* No. 95, SS.Peter & Paul 2004. *Prag* is a 'Christian, Tory Quarterly', edited by J. Alan Smith. Annual subscription is £4 from: Prag Publications, 40 Albany Court, Epping, Essex, CM16 5ED. E-mail: j\_alan\_smith@dial.pipex.com .

Charlotte Burns, at the time the review was first published, was an 11-year-old Year 7 secondary school student.

If you mention 'SPUC' when ordering the book, £1.50 for each copy will be given to the Society.

## PRO-LIFE POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND by Liam Gibson

Of Northern Ireland's numerous political parties, Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party is the most committed to defending the pro-life position. Both the Ulster Unionists and the nationalist SDLP are officially against any change in the law. Both also have elected representatives who favour liberalisation and others who vigorously oppose it. The Alliance Party, (Ulster's answer to the Lib-Dems) is also a mixed bag. Among the smaller parties, the Progressive Unionists (spokesmen for the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force) actively call for abortion on demand, while the Women's Coalition has been loudly criticised by the abortion lobby for lacking the courage to publicly support liberalisation.

This realisation, that a pro-abortion profile could cost votes, also prevents Sinn Fein from stating its position more clearly. While the party has endorsed International Planned Parenthood's Charter on Reproductive Rights, which calls for abortion on demand, many of its grassroots members would not agree with such a policy. Although it is probably safe to assume that it will not campaign for a change of the law, Sinn Fein's extraordinary growth in recent years has already gained the party considerable influence. Until the Assembly was suspended last year, it held both the Education and Health portfolios. It is perhaps a little ironic then that it was Sinn Fein's Health Minister, Bairbre de Brun who was in charge of defending Northern Ireland's abortion legislation in the case brought by the FPA.

**Tories Pro Vita** is sent automatically to members of the SPUC Conservative and Unionist Group. If you are not a member of this Group but would like to join: if you are already a member of SPUC, contact the Membership Department and ask for your records to be updated with the fact that you are a supporter of the Conservative and Unionist Party; if you are not already a member of SPUC: contact them at the address below; ask for a Membership Application Form; complete it and return it, stating that you are a supporter of the Conservative and Unionist Party. Printed and published by SPUC, Phyllis Bowman House, 5/6 St Matthew Street, London, SW1P 2JT.