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...five years," he said.
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...During the three-week
...trial, the jury heard he told
...one police switchboard oper-
...ator that he hoped she died
...of cancer and claimed he
...would burn down Cam-
...bridgeshire's trading stan-
...dards department.



Mrs Claus's Letter

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to abuse and threats. You are, I think, one of the most vindictive young men I have ever seen.

Anthony Davies QC, defending, told the court earlier that Francis-Macrae was a "loner" who had little or no business experience and was overwhelmed by the pressure of the police investiga-

tion. waunam, Hampshire, had thought she was too old to be baptised.

But after fellow churchgoers realised she did not receive communion, Mrs Smith accepted the offer to be baptised and confirmed.

It was as Mrs Smith, who normally attends Holy Cross Church in Dursley, was at a service at neighbouring St Peter's Church in Curdridge,

receive, and someone asked me why I wasn't going forward.

"I said I'd never been confirmed or baptised, and they asked me if I'd like to be. I said: 'At my age!' I was very happy to go through the ceremony, because it did sometimes feel a bit funny not to take communion."

"And the service was really lovely. I thoroughly enjoyed

day at Portsmouth's Anglican Cathedral was led by the Bishop of Basingstoke, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott.

Mrs Smith had grown up in a Methodist family, the seventh of 14 children, and none of them was baptised as babies.

She said: "Having watched it happen for so many years, to take communion really made me feel part of the service."

Proud woman with half a womb gives birth to boy

Emma Dunlop

A YORKSHIRE mother who was born with two wombs has beaten the odds to give birth to a healthy baby boy.

Multiple sclerosis sufferer Sylvie Brown, 32, of Sheffield, beat the odds to have little Marcus after being born with two separate uteruses.

She had her left womb removed at the age of 16 following complications. This left her with only her right womb remain-

ing, measuring half the size of a normal womb. Just five years later, aged 21, she then conceived MS.

Doctors told her she had little chance of ever having children. But after overcoming the worst effects of her debilitating condition she met partner Steve Wright.

And now the delighted couple have had a son, who was born at 36 weeks - last week - by Caesarean section. Ms Brown, of

Upperthorpe, Sheffield said: "Marcus is thriving. He's a good baby, has put on weight and is healthy. It's wonderful."

"I knew the risks of losing the baby were higher because of my situation but after getting pregnant I was determined to have a child. He's a beautiful little boy. I call him my 'miraculous'."

Doctors only discovered that Ms Brown, who runs an online mobility scooter business Fair Price Mobility with Mr Wright, had two wombs after complications set in during puberty.

The condition is so rare it only affects a handful of women in the world each year. It was also discovered she had only been born with one kidney.

She said: "It was pretty horrendous at that age when you are just forming your identity and destroyed my image of myself as a proper whole woman."

"I had numerous operations but the pain was

still there and the doctors eventually decided to open me up and take away a fallopian tube and my left-hand womb.

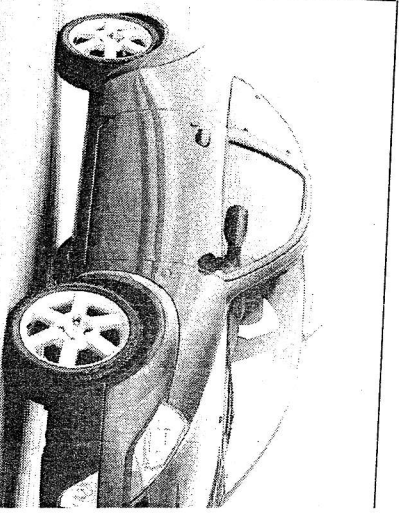
"I was effectively left with half a womb. It is half the size of a normal womb. I was just left with that, my ovaries and the other fallopian tube."

However, in spite of her ordeals, Ms Brown has never let it stop her, even taking part in parachute jumps for charity.

She found out she was pregnant while on a holidaying trip in April this year.

She said: "Having a baby was a bit of an unknown for someone in my condition. My medical notes stated that I would need to be carefully monitored."

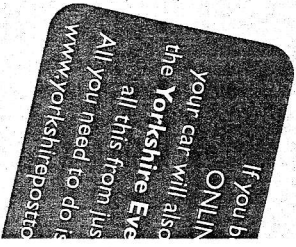
"The doctors told me they really did not know what would happen. With MS and only half a womb I was fearful myself but when I saw this tiny baby with a heartbeat on a scan I knew I wanted to go through with it."



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