**DISCUSSION POINTS FOR TOPIC 1 OF *UNPLANNED*: HOW MIGHT MIGHT FRANCES MARY ACT DIFFERENTLY TODAY?**

1. Frances Mary and her parents would likely report the incident to the police and involve a Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC) to conduct a confidential forensic medical examination. Originally known as a Rape Crisis Center, the first such establishment occurred during 1976

In war-time, the incident would have become public knowledge, and unmarried pregnant women were shunned and made to feel guilty. Sympathy would be received by the perpetrator because of his importance and in any case, it would have been one person’s word against the other (no witnesses). It is almost certain that the complaint would have been handled by a male police officer, and subject to gender bias. At the start of the war, there were only several hundred women employed as police officers in the UK, and only 45 police forces out of 183 hired women.

1. The offer of marriage from George may have been influenced by the rape laws in force at the time. Marital rape was exempt from rape prosecutions, a ruling that was abolished in the UK during 1991.
2. Abortion was unavailable during the war, and was not become legal in Britain until 1967, with the passing of the Abortion Act that allowed pregnancies of up to 28 weeks to be terminated (later reduced to 24 weeks). During 2018 in England and Wales there were approximately 205,000 abortions. In the United State, the 1973 Roe v Wade Supreme Court ruling granted the right to choose. The most recent data for the USA indicates around 876,000 abortions during 2018, down from 1.3 million in 2000, with over 85 percent involving unmarried mothers and less than 0.5 percent as victims of rape. It is probable that with hindsight Frances Mary would have chosen abortion.
3. Adoption was possible while Frances Mary was pregnant but the rules were being changed under the UK Adoption of Children (Regulation Act) 1939; its implementation was delayed until June 1943, two months before Frances Mary became pregnant. The new regulations required adoption societies to register, financial inducements were forbidden and informal adoptions (for example, within the family) had to be regulated by the local authorities. “Boarding” as it was called (similar to fostering) was permitted as an alternative to being placed in a public assistance institution (formerly known as a workhouse), or orphanage.
4. The author will never know with certainty why his mother decided to keep him. Was it because she was deeply religious and swayed by the playing *Ave Maria* as her child was born, or because as a young infant, she was sent herself to permanently live with a childless aunt and uncle, hated it, and returned home? Maybe the offer of accommodation from Dot Daniels lessened the risk to Frances Mary of keeping the baby.