

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

6d.

April, 1967

Incorporating National Christian News

The Religion of feeble minds

**WHEN YOU'RE
YOUNG**
you can do so much

Nothing seems too hard—but for old people, it's different! Many feel just too weak and unwanted to help themselves. If they are to enjoy their old age — and why shouldn't they — they need some of your strength, and your courage to see them through.

Lend a strong arm

There are so many ways to help our needy aged. Fund raising can be fun — whether you're doing odd jobs in their homes, having pop junk sales, or rag day collections to raise money for extra food and clothing. On your own, or by forming a spare-time action group, you can bring a new happiness into the lives of lonely old people. Help the Aged needs your support. Will you lend your strong arm?

Help the aged

AT HOME AND ABROAD

To: The Secretary, Help the Aged, Room NCN, 139 Oxford Street, W.1. Please tell me, without obligation, of various ways in which young people can raise funds to help the old folk.

NAME

ADDRESS



THAT'S what Edmund Burke, a politician and writer who lived nearly 200 years ago, called superstition.

Today, in a space age of wonders undreamed of by Mr. Burke, when scientific progress has for many removed the possibility of the existence of God, when belief in the supernatural is looked upon as old fashioned, and the Church written off as a club for the credulous, it's worth stopping to ask a few basic questions:

- ★ Why are the "What the stars foretell" columns that grace the pages of nearly every mass circulation newspaper and magazine so popular?
- ★ Why do grown-up people believe in lucky charms and mascots?
- ★ Why does the bringing of May blossom into the house and the breaking of mirrors fill so many hearts with dread?
- ★ Why is it that in new blocks of flats put up by local Councils you seldom find a No. 13?
- ★ Why do people still cross their fingers and touch wood if they've said something which they think has "tempted providence"?

Any answers must admit at least one thing—that the enlightened children of this enlightened age aren't half as unbelieving as they'd like to pretend about the existence of powers beyond their understanding.

Unfortunately many people cheat. They talk about fate and luck and providence as if they were perfectly sensible forces in which to believe, and then in the next breath dismiss God as an impossibility.

Christians are sometimes the worst cheats of all. They pay lip service to the God revealed by Jesus Christ and then talk about things that bring good luck and bad luck as if they believed in forces at work in the world that had nothing to do with Him.

THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT SUPERSTITION IS A BELIEF IN MAGIC.

It is far more primitive and childish than real religion—and very much more selfish.

It is a means of hobnobbing with the supernatural on the cheap.

It asks for no response of the understanding and it feeds only on fear and self-centred ambition.

It is easily laughed off by the people who are its victims as a simple pandering to old traditions—but it is in fact a relic of the dark ages, a sign that man is not half as sophisticated as he thinks he is.

MR. BURKE—YOU'RE DEAD RIGHT.

D/EX 1758/4/4



TOPIQUOTE:

This creature, the teenager, thinks itself the most important thing on earth. Teenagers have done absolutely nothing; their contribution to society has been nil. Night after night they see their stupid empty faces on television and they think they are the finest thing God ever created.

We print topiquotes to start you talking. This quote from February's topiquotes by Mr. Justice Stable has certainly stirred things up. We print one of the letters below. Mr. Bennett's attitude is not ours, but perhaps our readers would like to reply to him.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HARD AND EASY LIFE

MY UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN WIDENED

Dear Sir,

Within your "Topiquotes" of the February issue there is a quote by Mr. Justice Stable. Oh how I wish, along with millions of others, that such same remarks would enable this lucid gentleman to become Lord Chief Justice with power to administer what is truly deserved. This country, sad as it may appear, is now in the throes of anarchy. The fault? Purely the Government of the day. Not the teenagers.

I well remember that great judge, Mr. Justice Avory, quoting within his summing up in a case of rape, "You will now receive what you richly deserve—penal servitude and the cat."

Even the most hardened of criminals were really afraid to be listed for judgment before Mr. Justice Avory, who always spoke in cold, logical terms. Such salutary punishment virtually wiped out hooliganism in the so-called "bad old days"—so bring some judgment back again as quickly as possible.

Put the Mothers' Meeting committees, Boards of this and that on one side and instil discipline to the teenagers who have never been taught such, and allow them in education fully to know and realise the vast difference between the hard and easy way of life.

L. BENNETT,
Surrey.

Dear Sir,

When I first saw "Christian News" I wondered what it all had to do with the traditional Christianity I had been brought up with. I didn't like having my views disturbed and questioned. Now I look forward to seeing the paper.

I don't always agree with what "Christian News" says, but my understanding of the whole of life in Christian terms has been widened because the paper has forced me to think about so many things.

I particularly welcomed Geoffrey Brown's December article on the truth of the Bible and Ronald Gordon's letter on the same topic in the February issue. These two contributions have given new meaning and relevance to the Bible for me.

G. R. DUGDALE

Bedford Park,
London.



BOOKS by PETER CROFT

David Wilkerson draws from his personal experiences in the slums of New York and this time his theme is children. Children who are born old. Like "The Needle, the Pill and the Saviour," it sometimes reads like an American novelette—but it's much more real.

"You can talk to an addict until you're blue in the face, but he won't believe a word you say." There's more thought behind it, more real caring.

THE NEEDLE, THE PILL AND THE SAVIOUR. Keith Bill, Oliphants 5s.

I don't like this book. But if I try to tell myself why, I feel lousy. It's naive, it's emotional, it's slick. It tells of meeting the drug addict with a gospel book and a prayer. I'm sure it's real but it gives the impression of being contrived.

It doesn't hold a candle to "Come Out the Wilderness" or even "The Cross and the Switchblade." It's like bread and butter compared to prime beef. But then some folk prefer bread and butter.

BORN OLD. David Wilkerson, Oliphants 13s. 6d.

This, like "The Cross and the Switchblade" is a moving book. Again

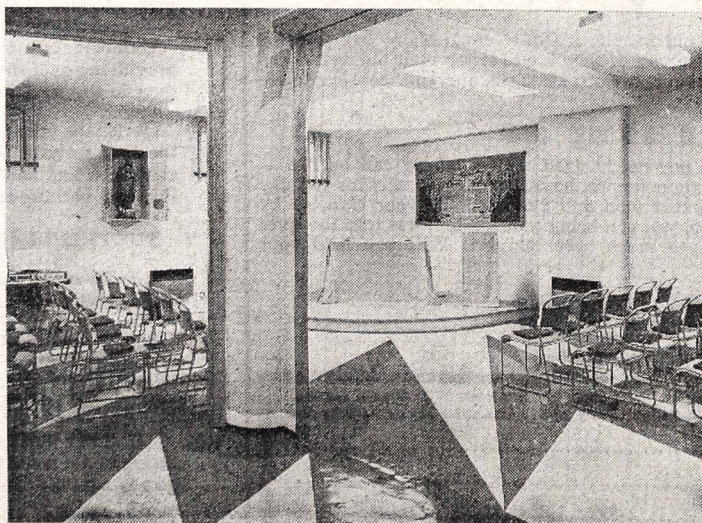
THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH. George Goyder, Hodder and Stoughton, 3s. 6d.

This is No. 14 of the series called Christian Foundations. It's an uneven work—but then very few books aren't. It's a layman's plea for partnership in the Church and

the chapters on "The Authority of the Ministry" and "Fellowship Involves Risk" are the best as far as I'm concerned—but Mr. Goyder is also an industrialist and has ideas, some practical, some less so, for making the Church more relevant to the world.

THIS DESIRABLE PROPERTY. Stuart Jackman, Edinburgh House Press, 3s. 6d.

A racy, amusing, horribly - near - the-bone, ache - around - the heart book about people. "People... are disillusioned with the Church rather than with the Gospel. And the Church appears to be at a loss to know what to do about this because it no longer knows or understands the people next door." Could be useful for house groups to stimulate discussion. The Church is a major area for redevelopment.



New Christian hospital centre

At a service taken by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster (Cardinal John Heenan), the Bishop of London (Dr. Robert Stopford) and the General Secretary, the Free Church Federal Council (Dr. Aubrey Vine), this Christian Centre was recently inaugurated at the London Hospital, and will be available for services held by the hospital chaplains of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and the Free Church.

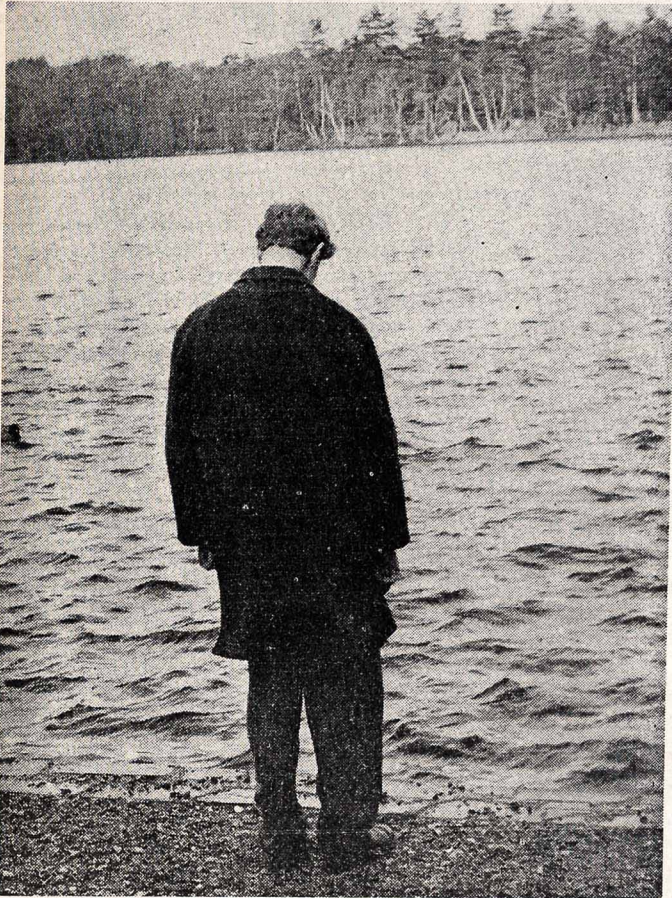
The first step towards a closer relationship between the Christian traditions was taken in the summer of 1965 when three hospital chaplains, Rev. R. S. C. Holmes (Church of England), Rev. Louis Marteau (Roman Catholic) and Rev. William Parkes (Free Church) formed a Chaplains Department.

One of their first actions was to ask the Board of Governors to establish a centre where the department could meet and hold discussions and in which larger congregations for services could be accommodated than was possible in the existing small chapel.

This, they felt, would be in keeping with the ecumenical movement. The Board of Governors agreed to the proposal in January, 1966. Design and construction began from scratch and was completed in December, 1966.

By the clever use of dividing screens the area of worship can be made larger or smaller according to the size of congregation. The screens may also be drawn to make an ordinary room suitable for meetings and discussions, outside which are facilities for serving coffee and light refreshments.

Attitudes to SUICIDE



IF ONLY . . . THAT IS HOW WE FEEL WHEN SOMEONE DIES. IF ONLY THEY HAD DISCOVERED A CURE. IF ONLY THE DOCTOR HAD BEEN THERE. IF ONLY I COULD HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO SAY, TO DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE SHOWN WHAT I REALLY FELT. THAT IS HOW WE FEEL WHEN SOMEONE—ANYONE—DIES. AND A VOICE REPLIES: "YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN—YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING THAT WAS NOT DONE—YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD." A VOICE. SOMETIMES FROM SOMEONE ELSE, SOMETIMES A VOICE INSIDE YOURSELF, REASSURING, SOOTHING.

But when someone dies by their own hand, the need for reassurance is even greater. Could I have done something, said something, that would have made the difference between life and death. The reassuring voice says, "No, you couldn't. If they're going to do it, they will do it somehow in the end. If a man is as miserable as that—as ill as that—surely he has the right to say a final no to his suffering. There was nothing that you could have done."

It is important to see what this voice is saying. It is not looking at the fact. We do not normally consider death an acceptable solution for unhappiness or illness. No

For it is nonsense for the living mind to choose an alternative—death—of which it can have no experience. In my moments of desperation this is not what I am trying to say. I am trying to say that so far I cannot make sense of my life: that I need help. I do not choose death because I can make sense of that (only God makes sense of death); I want to make YOU help me.

So often the suicide points by his act to someone with whom he has become so involved that he can think of no one else; a lover, a parent, a child. Because that person is out of reach—dead, married,

by Ian Lowery

DESPAIR ? SUICIDE ? WHO CARES ? THE SAMARITANS

THE SAMARITANS are an association of lay people from all walks of life, working under professional direction, who exist to offer their friendship to those tempted to suicide or despair. The movement was started in 1953 in the City of London by the Reverend Chad Varah; there are now over 80 branches in this country and abroad. They advertise an emergency telephone number so that immediate contact can be made at any time of the day or night. Clients may remain anonymous; but the vast majority trust The Samaritans enough to meet them face to face, knowing that their problems will be treated in absolute confidence.

The Samaritans aim not only to keep people alive, but to help them to be glad to be alive.

matter how great the suffering of the physically ill, we continue efforts to find a way out; and time and again a way out is found. And those who kill themselves are rarely suffering from a serious physical illness, though sometimes they may think that they are in the early stages of such an illness.

Attempts

Nor is it true that friendly intervention cannot prevent suicide. There are many more attempts at suicides than suicides—perhaps eight times as many. These people are saved from death because someone intervenes, someone cares—perhaps because someone is forced to care by the very desperation of the suicidal attempt. The majority of those saved from death—those whose appeal for help receives an answer—do not attempt suicide again.

Those who do succeed in killing themselves are those who have no one to intervene. On the whole they are older, more isolated, more desperate people—the sort of person the attempted suicide might have become if no one had helped him.

No, the voice of reassurance is not looking at the facts; it is simply soothing our feelings of guilt. We are right to feel uneasy. The man who kills himself attacks not only himself, but me. If I approve of his act, I am saying that all my attempts to make sense of my life—if I am a Christian, to take each day as it comes from the hand of God—are of only a limited value; that there is a point where sense stops and nonsense begins.

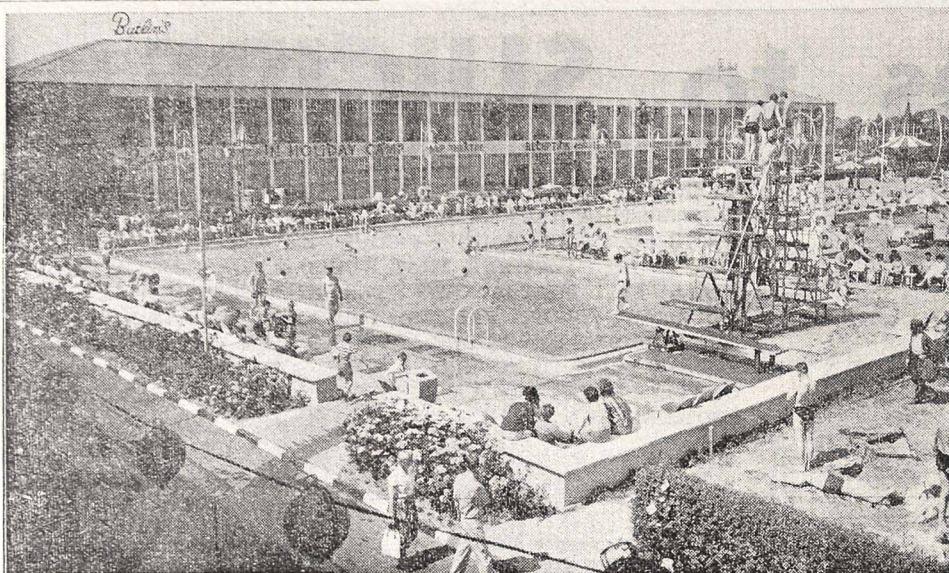
involved with someone else—he feels that there is no one else left. It takes only a very small human contact to convince him that this is not true; that life and the community still surround him.

Contact

Doctors and nurses have this experience constantly; the friends and family of those who have attempted suicide, neighbours, ordinary people with no special qualification know what the value of a very small human contact can be in reaching the desperate and bringing them back to trust and love. The Samaritans, who are a group of ordinary people working together under the guidance of professional advisers, offer this ordinary human contact to those who telephone their number, because this is what is most needed by the desperate.

It is easy to disclaim guilt; to throw it back on to the person who appealed to you. But it is better not to be afraid. So often one sees good people, Christians and church people too, so frightened for themselves; afraid of over-involvement; afraid of rejection by those they might help. I would ask them to look at the facts. As many die by their own hand as are killed on the roads. As many attempt suicide as are injured in road accidents.

It may seem considerateness—not to offer help, to pretend not to notice eccentricity or distress. But who is being considered? And which is the way to a quiet conscience?



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HOLIDAY CAMP HOLIDAY

NOT EVERYONE is suited to a holiday in a holiday camp — but about two million people a year are! If you are the type of person who likes to get away by yourself, climb mountains, fly planes, or explore caves and potholes — then perhaps this is not the holiday for you. However, an increasing number of people, of all sorts, shapes and sizes, are finding that the provisions of a holiday camp ensure a good, relaxed and friendly holiday — whatever the English weather might provide!

TEENAGERS who like dancing to beat groups, who enjoy every latest shake, can dance every evening, and often on mornings and afternoons as well. Those who are more (or less?) energetic can swim, water ski, play tennis, indoor games or team sports.

TODDLERS very often have their own "camp within a camp," with their own entertainers, their own "aunties and uncles." Such a holiday can be a child's idea of heaven.

For MUMS and DADS it means a chance to spend time together away from the demands of their children, with the knowledge that they are safe and almost certain to be enjoying themselves away from Mum's influence. Parents of young children can go to the cinema, to the theatre, or dancing, and the "night patrol" will keep a watch on their chalet, and if a child cries the mother can be contacted within minutes.

For the ELDERLY the camp means that meals, entertainment and friends are all within walking distance. Many older people love to sit and watch — watch the sea from an armchair in a lounge; watch the dancing (whether beat, modern or old time — choose your dance hall); or watch many of the competitions. They can join in the fun, or they can sit and watch others enjoying themselves.

There is NO COMPULSION to do anything — there is no "Wakey Wakey." You can take part in whatever you choose; you can just sit and relax — it's up to you, it's your holiday. Most big camps have three dance halls, two theatres (plus a children's theatre), a cinema, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, shops, amusements, a chapel and a sick bay. The food is O.K. as well.

The holiday camp is not for everyone; but an increasing number of people from all walks of life find that it gives them a good, relaxing and memorable holiday — whatever the weather.

MALCOLM GOLDSMITH.

GLOUCESTER-CITY OF ANCIENT AND MODERN

by A. R. Morland

The lovely city of Gloucester is rich in the history of Church and State.

William Tynedale, a great local scholar, translated the New Testament into English and was martyred at the stake for his efforts. Two-hundred years later Robert Raikes, a Gloucester philanthropist, assisted in establishing a Sunday School for the local children. This was done in the face of much opposition from the unprogressive, who felt that "pop" education spelled revolution. His timbered house still stands in the city and is preserved as a museum.

Across the way the Cathedral Church of St. Peter towers majestically over the countryside. It was here in the Abbey Chapter House, now part of the Cathedral, that William the Conqueror inaugurated a great survey of England in the year 1085. His object — to assess the military strength of the country, and to find out for how much he could "soak" his subjects in taxation. Today, of course, the "soaking" process is more elaborate, but just as painful.

The result of William's findings became the in-

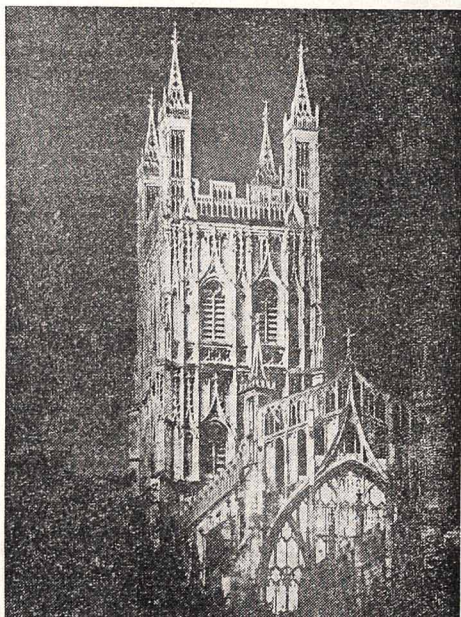
auguration of the Domesday Book.

A king was crowned here in Gloucester, and a king is entombed here.

Preparation for the coronation was hurriedly made in 1216 for the nine years old boy Henry III by the Earl of Pembroke and a loyal band of followers. Secrecy and speed were essential to forestall a plan to make the son of the King of France the new King of England. The Queen was already at Kingholm Palace in the "strong city of Gloster" when her son Henry was smuggled in. Her gold bracelet had to be used in place of a crown.

A little over a century later, Edward II was murdered in Berkeley Castle, 15 miles south of Gloucester. His body was claimed by the Abbot of Gloucester and buried in what is now the Cathedral.

Today, modern flats hug the precincts, and vast development goes on all around. But the Cathedral still stands, an oasis of peace and quiet.



By courtesy: the "Gloucester Citizen."

ROME CALLS FOR NON-POP MUSIC AT SERVICES

The Vatican authorities have called for more singing by congregations, whether in Latin or in the vernacular, but forbid the use in services of modern musical instruments which are associated with popular music.

Lay societies, according to detailed new instructions on the use of music in churches, are urged to give their members singing lessons. But some songs at weddings (such as "I love you truly"), "though under the guise of solemnity, should be carefully avoided."

New melodies are to be approved by the local bishops. In mission lands, the priests are urged to be prudent in the inclusion of popular local music in sacred ceremonies. But one spokesman said that drums might be allowed in Africa, where they were a vital part of the tradition.

The pipe organ is the only instrument, specifically approved, but others may be employed if they are in keeping with the dignity of the tempo and are not considered "noisy and frivolous" instru-

ments. "However, those instruments which are, by common opinion, or by use, suitable for secular music only, are to be altogether prohibited from every liturgical celebration and from pious public services."

Father Jose Lopez-Calo, the secretary of the Consociato Internationalis Musicae Sacrae, in presenting the new instructions, said that electric guitars and electronic music for churches were out of the

question. Personally, he felt that the simple guitar and even the sitar could be suitable on some occasions.

George Armstrong, the Guardian.

EVERYONE'S doing it. Or they soon will be. It's the up-and-coming thing. It's new; it's special; it's... ART.

If you still go to school, there will be chance after chance to develop an interest in it. Further Education classes offer it to adults in all sorts of forms, from painting to pot-throwing, from flower-arranging to fabric-printing. Art will soon be everywhere, if we don't watch out.

This is a knock-out. Didn't we always think it was just a queer hobby for queerer

people like long-haired loungers or leisured lords? Wasn't it something to do with having either lots of time and lots of money or little energy and little morality?

Wasn't it the priority of people with new-fangled manners or old-fashioned manners? But now it is advertised as a universal cure for the welter of leisure we are

all in for in the future.

Don't get me wrong. It's a great thing, this "Art for All" drive. It will lift a lot of people's eyes beyond the end of their own noses. It will help keep at bay the restricting blinkers of the mass-age.

And yet... And yet... It seems a bit too slick, a bit too pat. The impression often comes across that all

we have to do is to lay on enough easels and potters' wheels and recording studios and stages and musical instruments and so on, and then Art just happens.

But Art isn't like that at all, and it never has been. Not even for the lords and the loungers. It isn't something you go somewhere and do. And it certainly can never be something everyone

goes somewhere and does, like holidaying in Spain, or petting a white poodle, or seeing "The Sound of Music."

It isn't a bit of tinsel for the surface of life. It isn't a lick of paint to make us as smart as the next bloke.

Art isn't something you take up; it's something that takes YOU up. It comes from an inner drive you can't cork up. Somewhere along the line it's got to have vision of one sort or another.

REAL art, anyway. Now, where did I put my paint-brush...

Have an art! it's new

by Michael Dodd

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ANGLICANS
FREE CHURCHES AND ROMAN CATHOLICS
OF CAVERSHAM

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TAKEN FOR GRANTED

THIS is the time of year when many weddings take place, and when consequently many couples are keeping their anniversaries. At every wedding two people, rightly full of the highest ideals, take each other for better and worse. Yet as the years go by it becomes apparent that rather than still taking each other for better and worse all they seem to do is to take each other for granted. The husband takes it for granted that the meal will be ready when he comes home, and that clean clothes will be available when he wants them, the wife takes it for granted that the housekeeping money will be provided.

Alas, after 10 or 20 years too many marriages go stale because the partners in a marriage have long since ceased to realise that love has to be renewed if it is to remain love. Too many married people never really talk to each other at any depth—the conversation never gets beyond the trivial. But love has to bring forth things old and new all the time, and as the family grows up there should emerge a new depth in the relationship that the parents have with each other.

Cars and washing machines, which make life easier for so many, need to be serviced and kept in repair. Otherwise they are apt suddenly to let us down when we most need them. But there has to be this servicing and renewal in married relationships also, and a constant renewal in our home and family relationships. We all know that our life in the Church has to be renewed through continual reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and reading of the word of God in the Scriptures: worship must be an expression of our love of God, as well as a way of deepening and renewing that love. In marriage, the sex act is not just the means of bringing children into the world, but also of establishing and renewing a relationship of particular intimacy between two people. This relationship should deepen as the years pass, but this will not be the case unless, as with our household gadgets, we are aware of the need to service our marriage. Imperceptibly our washing machine grows less efficient when over the years we take its efficiency for granted, and married couples grow imperceptibly apart unless they make an effort to realise again the hopes of the early days of their marriage.

Perhaps the man is the more thoughtless and arrives home late to find a frustrated wife who has been trying to keep presentable a meal that was cooked for an earlier hour—a telephone call could so easily have saved the situation. And all too seldom does the man appreciate how much it means to a woman as she grows older to feel that she is still loved—the unexpected present may be well worth its weight in gold. But on the other hand the wife may not realise how demanding upon him is her husband's new job: perhaps he has been over anxious in trying to hide from her the strain it has imposed upon him: business success and promotion may sometimes be a mixed blessing so far as marriage is concerned.

Both partners need to realise that the honeymoon phase was an artificial one and not typical of married life: human love must be a living and dynamic and ever deepening thing: so don't take your married partner for granted, and as your anniversary comes round this year you may both find real help in reading over together the marriage service and making some simple act of renewal of those promises which were once made with such high hopes.

John Grimwade

MARANGU FARM SCHOOL

OUR Christian Aid collection in Caversham this year will be in aid of the new Y.M.C.A. Farm school at Marangu, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, which was opened last year by President Nyerere. Mr. Christopher Rogers, of Clifton Park Road, Caversham, has recently returned from Tanzania and has written this article for the Caversham Bridge about the school which he knows personally.

The snow-capped peak of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, dominates the skyline behind Marangu Farm School. Built on the foothills of the mountain, between the cool higher rainfall areas and the hot dry plains to the south, the school is in an ideal position to provide training in agriculture for youths who may eventually settle in either area.

The Tanzania Y.M.C.A. has for many years been concerned to find a solution to one of the country's pressing problems—namely the integration into society of boys who have spent only eight years at school. These boys do not feel inclined to return home to work, and local land pressures often mean that they are unable to look forward to owning their own land. They think their education fits them for a salaried job, but few are able to find employment on this basis. They drift to the town, only to swell the numbers of the unemployed there who are already a concern to the authorities.

A second need in Tanzania is that more food should be grown to provide a surplus to be sold to the increasing urban population. This can only be done by the intelligent implementation of the results of agricultural research, and the adoption of modern methods of farming. The Tanzania Y.M.C.A. has started the farm school in an effort to find a solution to both these problems. They are convinced that these boys who leave school after eight years should be given a further year's training in agriculture and then settled under supervision on either a Government settlement scheme or on their own land, if they have any. These boys would tend to form the nucleus of progressive farmers who are needed on these schemes. In addition they would gain for themselves a rewarding and satisfying life and at the same time benefit the nation.

A fine set of buildings has been built and the first Principal was appointed just over a year ago. The first batch of students has now completed just over six months of its course: about 60 boys can be accommodated at one time. Christian Aid has already provided much of the capital for building and equipping the school and farm. Now the Reading Area Christian Aid Committee has undertaken to collect £4,420 which are the running costs for the school for one year. Eventually the running costs will mainly be met from income obtained from the growing of coffee. 50 acres are to be used for coffee growing and this will itself provide practical training for the boys in the techniques of intensive plantation agriculture.



The President of Tanzania speaking at the opening of the Marangu Farm School. With him is Bishop Stefano Mushi, president of the Y.M.C.A. in Tanzania.

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PUBLIC INQUIRY

I was present during every minute of the two days of the Public Inquiry into the proposed Caversham Development and I did not see Alderman Mander after the first morning session. Cross-examination of the various opponents of the scheme (among them Caversham and Thames Liberals) took place only during the afternoon and the following day. It was then made abundantly clear, both by the Developers and the representative of the company which carried out the shopping survey, that these shops were indeed single-unit daily-need shops.

I have just referred again to my scale copies of the plan of the area and I see that the largest area which can be managed by linking up smaller units, is roughly equal to the area of the supermarket already proposed on the plan. When allowance is made for the "usual offices" and storage space, etc. (without which no efficient large store can be run) this does not, in my view as a shopper of considerable experience, anyway, leave sufficient floor space for a really adequate departmental store.

On January 3 this year I attended a Public Inquiry held because the Council had refused an application for permission to convert to offices, the flat above a Caversham shop — among the reasons given at the inquiry for the refusal was the shortage of housing accommodation. Presumably, therefore, the space above the shops in the proposed development could not be utilised as office or storage space as this is designated on the plan as "flats and maisonettes."

Sheila Clifton,

Prospective Liberal Candidate for Caversham Ward

52 St Anne's Road, Caversham.

BRIDGE POSTBAG

NEW SHOPS

With reference to Alderman Mander's letter in your March issue, I have always understood that it is the policy of the multiple store companies to open new shops only in areas above a certain population level and a certain distance from the nearest major shopping centre. These conditions do not apply to Caversham, and certainly the plan as presented contained the outline for small shops only. Throughout the inquiry, they were referred to as daily need shops.

Merely pushing two or three of these small units together would not produce departmental stores that would in any way attract shoppers to them instead of to the Reading shops as more space is required for the storage and office facilities that an efficient and well-stocked store requires.

Molly Casey (Mrs.)
14 Albert Road,
Caversham.

THE PLAN 'Top secret'

Alderman Mander's letter suggests that the residents have not given their Councillors a chance. This we think is most unfair.

He admits at last that Mr. Weston's road plan could be applied "temporarily." Temporarily unfortunately indicates a hankering to keep the Plan with its new road driven through behind Prospect Street, which does and will cause unnecessary hardship. This is a serious objection to the Plan,

CAVERSHAM DEVELOPMENT

and we feel the Councillors must think hard and try to balance human needs with pseudo progress.

With commendable drive, energy, and thought, Ald. Mander told the residents of Grove Hill what desecration was planned to their rural amenities. Together an alternative plan was produced. But who has shown the vitality and initiative to tell the residents in the village their homes were to be decimated?

No election statements over the years have even hinted that a Plan for shops meant homes being destroyed. A new shopping precinct does not of itself automatically affect homes.

In fact, until the public meeting with the display of parts of the Plan in the Library, nothing tangible was known. The meeting did — on dragging out the information — clearly go on record against the scheme. Not one councillor from the wards spoke at the meeting. But worse, they ignored the wishes of the residents by refusing the suggestion of Councillor Robertson at the subsequent Council meeting to have second thoughts on the Plan, and pressed ahead with the full scheme, and the enquiry was held.

The Plan is now years old, yet it has been treated as "Top Secret" or sub judice by the Councillors. So the residents cannot be blamed for being

uninterested when they were totally unaware of its implications.

Mr. Weston's plan does not require the destruction of homes. It does require a new road linking up with Caversham Bridge. The queues of traffic at the junction by the Library indicate already the need for this new road with lights to avoid chaos. And this is before the five shops are opened... what then if a further 30 shops arrive!!

Can we really hope for support and help and advice from our Councillors, better late than never? We do look forward to some sensible re-thinking together to find a better solution.

With our homes saved, our futures could become more secure, and we could then continue to enjoy our days with calm and dignity, living in our village.

A. J. Angliss
G. M. Angliss
V. J. Braidwood

2 and 4 South Street,
Caversham.

NOT A SUBURBAN SPRAWL

Mr. Roger Fisher in his article "Preserving Caversham's open spaces" (Caversham

Bridge, March, 1967) expresses some admirable opinions most of which it would be difficult to disagree with.

However, by directing his fire somewhat wildly in all geographical directions and by using a number of immoderate words he has hit some of his best potential friends as well as the prime foes which he rightly strikes: apathy, lack of community spirit and ignorance of public rights.

If there is one thing which Caversham Park Village is not, it is a suburban sprawl. Of course it is half completed—in fact less than half—as the project will, because of its size, take about 10 years to complete. As to being half empty; blame the natural reluctance of people to move in winter plus the economic squeeze. Mr. Fisher's inferred attack on the people who live in the village was totally uncalled for, irrelevant to his subject, and he may think upon reflection, requires an apology. Because the residents of Caversham Park Village may be able to raise a mortgage, or if elderly, perhaps buy a new house with a matured insurance policy, does this make us green-eyed monsters? The proportions of newly-married, middle-aged and elderly people in the village is, if anything more balanced than in Emmer Green!

It is not for us to defend the motives of the developers of Caversham Park Village, but, in fairness, it must be stated that the Radbury layout employed makes for an extremely economical use of the land with surprisingly little loss of public amenities. At least the village is not a sore finger of suburbia sticking out into the countryside—indeed it forms a natural quarter circle around the

northern edge of Greater Reading beyond which there should be no further development.

To answer other implied accusations: there are no chimneys in Caversham Park Village, no television aerials, no wire-scapes of any kind and no "acres of concrete." If Mr. Fisher knew of the amount of trouble the Village Association has gone to to persuade the Oxfordshire County Planners to put preservation orders on as many as possible of the existing trees in Caversham Park, I think he would be glad to welcome us as allies!

If he is seeking an opinion as to what mostly ruined Emmer Green it would be, for most people's money, the genuine suburban sprawl of what Lord Esher, the President of the R.L.B.A., calls the "builders' allsorts" which mostly went up haphazardly between the First and Second World Wars.

It is also worth remembering that there was no full public access to Caversham Park before it was taken over by the developers, just a footpath, and trying to get past the B.B.C. in the vast area they still control. The young riders and walkers who now freely roam in the centre of the park will be able to enjoy it to the full for at least another 3-5 years and some parkland will always remain.

We have no wish to quarrel with Mr. Fisher, however, quite the contrary and we would dearly like to co-operate with him and his organisation he represents in fighting for the larger community in Caversham—Emmer Green integrated with both town and country which we too would like to see established, and accepted as inviolable by people, planners and developers alike.

Roger Taylor,
Hon. P.R.O.,
Caversham Park Village Association

7 Aldenham Close,
Caversham Park Village



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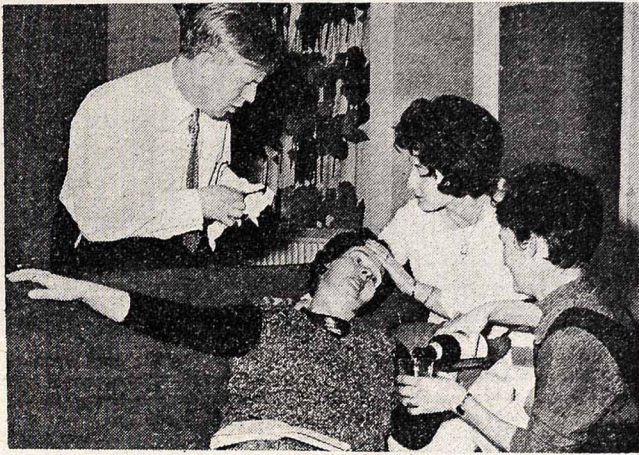


10 BAYLIS SUPERMARKETS THROUGHOUT BERKSHIRE

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE is pleased this month to publish details of forthcoming dramatic productions by local groups. The first production of Caversham Drama, the new youth drama group, is referred to on another page. The Mapledurham Players are already well established — now comes news of a drama group among the residents of Caversham Park. We hope all these ventures will be supported by our readers.

The Bride and the Bachelor



First rehearsals by Caversham Park Theatre Players (left to right): Allan Morton, Jill Burland, Sheila Chaudhuri, Connie Edwards.

An amateur drama group has been formed within the Caversham Park Village Association. To be known as The Caversham Park Theatre the group's first production is a light-hearted comedy, "The Bride and the

Bachelor" by Ronald Millar, which will be performed in St. Laurence's Hall, Reading, on May 2 and 3. Producing the play is Mr. Cecil Hole, of 2, Dacre Avenue, who is also chairman of the group. Any profits made from the pro-

duction will be devoted to wards the provision of a community centre at Caversham Park. The secretary of the group is Sheila Levy, of 4, Blackwater Close, from whom tickets can be obtained.

Murder at Midnight

River House—"a Georgian house of the right size: three rooms, five bedrooms and a couple of attics; a mile or so from Totnes"—is an ideal setting for a midnight murder story. It belongs to a distinguished writer Celia Brent, a widow and mother of 19-year-old city artist David whose paintings seem to be controversial and rather misunderstood. The Vicar's daughter is quite shocked, but then not every artist uses a pretty model to paint the head to a borrowed Renoir nude. The model is, of course, Mrs. Brent's private secretary Kathy whose "quiet and efficient manner and unflashy appearance conceal the girl she really is." She is soon replaced by Susan, "a very different cup of tea from Kathy" but hardly less intriguing.

River House would not be what it is without a river running through its grounds. Salmon fishing is excellent and Edward Hamilton, a friend of the house, has a

life-long passion for it. However, one can hardly concentrate on such a pleasant occupation with a murderer at large . . . Mrs. Hamilton seems to have lost nerve too.

Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Brent's housekeeper, keeps the party going with coffee during their deliberations, keeping her eyes and ears well open—as any good housekeeper does—and a special watch on her roving husband, the family chauffeur. Suspicion runs high after the murderer has struck and who can blame the bewildered occupants and guests at the River House for questioning each other's alibi and suspecting Mr. Langdon to be a phoney police inspector? After all, the murderer has not yet been caught.

And what about the victim? Well, it could be anyone in this party and I will let you guess it. I will say this though: If you have seen Agatha Christie's "The Mouse Trap," then "Murder at Midnight" will offer you an equally exciting evening of suspense. The Maple-

durham Repertory Association will provide the flavour and the trimmings. "Murder at Midnight" is staged at THE MEMORIAL HALL, 129, UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD, on April 13, 14 and 15. Do not miss it. It will provide you with an excellent diversion in this age of television. MRS. WAKE, 126, KIDMORE ROAD, CAVERSHAM (phone Reading 72733), will be glad to help you with the tickets.

The cast is as follows: Celia Brent—Kathleen Bubb. David, her son—Matthew Vincent. Kathy, her secretary—Marion Parmenter. Edward Hamilton—Albert Wake. Martha, his wife—Madge Penny. Robert Peters, manservant—Norman Griffiths. Mrs. Peters, housekeeper—Yvonne Taylor. Susan, Kathy's replacement—Heather Mummy. Inspector Langdon—Ray Lacey.

The production is by Kathleen Lacey. P.G.

THEY BRING YOUR 'BRIDGE'

Rosalie Hooper, with her husband Barrie and children Julie and Timothy, were among the first families, certainly the first Methodists, to move into Caversham Park Village, where she helps to deliver the "Bridge." She is an active member of the village residents' association and helps with a nursery play group.

Dan Sheen is a soil chemist with the Ministry of Agriculture. He enjoys listening to chamber music and himself plays the violin. With his wife Pauline and daughter Nicola he comes to Caversham Heights Methodist Church.



Rosalie Hooper



Dan Sheen

CAFE CONTINENTAL AT MAPLEDURHAM

Preceded by two announcements in the Parish Magazine, Cafe Continental opened its doors at Mapledurham Parish Hall on Saturday, February 11. Following the success of a previous Parish Party, which took the form of a Victorian evening, it was thought that another costume party would attract an interesting and varied crowd of "customers," and so it turned out. The pessimists who said, "No one will ever dress up these days" were utterly confounded, perhaps owing in part to the suggestions for costumes to be gathered from the tickets, which listed some of the people that might be met at such an establishment.

Decorated

The Hall, hung with yards of netting carrying occasional wine bottles, was gaily decorated with coloured posters from most of the European countries, and three enormous (but empty) champagne bottles gave the "bar" an authentically festive air. Coloured gingham cloths covered every table, set with dishes of nuts and cheese snacks.

Waiters

First on the scene, just before opening time, was a member of the Jubilee Club, and promptly at 7.30 customers arrived thick and fast. Two energetic waiters answered every call from the "patron" and gave each lady a buttonhole of early spring flowers, while three young ladies saw that the

menfolk were supplied with comic hats. Continental music manfully strove against the cheerful babel of chatter—luckily, everyone seemed to speak English.

International

The Cafe had attracted visitors from all over the world—one noticed a farmer in close conversation with a Chinese (lady) coolie, a lady from Japan sharing a table with a Hawaiian dancer, a senora chatting to a city gent, a ballet dancer, young ladies from India and Spain, visitors from a yacht, a sporting cleric complete with skis, and a natural sprinkling of tourists. The evening provided something for everyone, enacted mainly between tables on the cafe floor. An international balloon contest was won for Germany by the smallest entrant. Couples in suitably steady embrace tried their skill at tying perfect reef knots, each using the outside hand.

Refreshments

The ingenuity and care lavished on the refreshments would surely have made the evening without any other diversions. Three trestle tables laden with delicacies of every kind both created and satisfied good appetites, and the "bar staff" were literally kept on their toes dispensing never-ending cups of excellent coffee. The quantity and quality of the refreshment spoke eloquently of the

generosity and inventiveness of the ladies who provided them. Modelling from a choice of clay or pipe cleaners brought to light a great deal of latent talent, and fanning tissue kippers up the floor disclosed some stylish action. Asked to join in "Frere Jacques," customers who failed to sing, or made mistakes, or sang in the wrong language, soon found their neck-ties sheared off just below the knot by the watchful waiters. A contest to see who could most quickly lower a tankard of ale proved one of the evening's highlights. Equipped with a full tankard, a candle and a box of matches, two contestants faced each other across a table, allowed to drink only while their candle was alight. The efforts to light a candle, blow the opponent's out and take a quick sip before starting all over again, brought the house down.

Auld Lang Syne

An acrobatic dance against a shining black stage curtain, the Polka Palais Glide, the famous Can-Can by two dancers, and an uproarious "Hokey-Kokey" catered for the wide interests of the evening's patrons, who finally linked hands and joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne" to end an evening of good fun and good fellowship, and as the guests made their way out, came the inevitable question—"When's the next party?"

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Caversham, 72694.

Mrs. J. Swift (East
Caversham),
224, Henley Road,
Caversham, 73221.

Mr. W. A. Vincent (West
Caversham),
12, Albert Road, Caver-
sham, 72965.

Mrs. G. Thompson
(Mapledurham),
205, Upper Woodcote
Road, Caversham, 71328

Obituaries

JOHN GIBBONS

Our thoughts and prayers
have been very much with
Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons, whose
son John was killed in
February.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons and
their family have been well-
known in Caversham for
many years. They are mem-
bers of the Roman Catholic
congregation, who have, we
know, supported them in
their sad experience. But we
are sure all our readers
would like to take this oppor-
tunity of sending a message
of sympathy from all of us.

LEONARD MASTERS

Len Masters came to live
in Caversham in 1936 and
soon attended St. John's
Church, where his son
Claude became a choir boy.
Len's regularity was soon
noticed and he became a
sidesman and a member of
the Social (later District)
Committee, and also of the
Parochial Church Council.
He was a familiar figure at
all church bazaars and
other social functions, and
always entered into the task
on hand with enthusiasm
and happiness.

But his interests were not
limited to the Church, and
he used his talents in a
variety of other fields — he
was a bandsman of no mean
ability, playing several in-
struments. For many years
he played with the
Territorial Band before the
last war, later joining the
Reading Temperance Band,
now called the Reading
Military Band. Gardening
was another of his interests,
he was treasurer of the
Caversham Allotment
Holders Association, and a
committee member of the
Reading Horticultural
Federation. He was a Trustee
of Caversham Hall. But the
list isn't complete yet. Youth
movements also claimed his
interest and for many years
the Boys' Brigade ap-
preciated his help, when he
acted as cook at their annual
camp, in addition he was
treasurer of the St. John's
Scout Guild.

Whatever Len undertook

he did quietly and unobtru-
sively, never seeking the
limelight. His sincere
manner, his willingness and
cheerfulness radiated out,
and to all who knew him he
became a central figure in
their lives. The packed
church at his funeral service
exemplified the appreciation
of his great character and of
the pleasure of knowing him
and of the loss sustained by
his passing.

MR. A. ABSOLOM

We are sure all our readers
will wish to join us in ex-
pressing our sincere sympathy to
Brian Absolom and his
family, on the death of his
father in February.

Arthur Absolom, like the
rest of his family, was very
well-known in the district,
and noted for his generosity
and willingness to help out
a neighbour at any time.
He will be sadly missed.

SCOUT GROUP

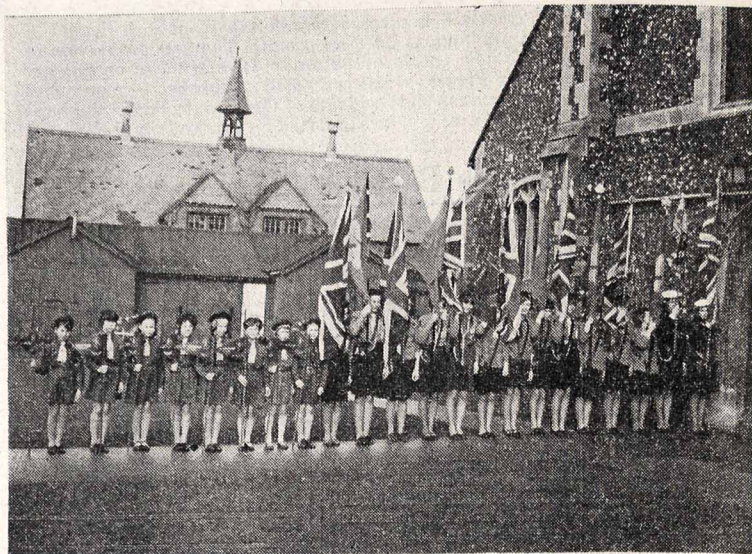
AT THE ANNUAL
MEETING of the third
Reading (St. Peter's) Group
Committee it was apparent
that the group had a most
flourishing year in 1966. The
Cub Pack had celebrated
Cub Jubilee Year with a
wonderful burst of activities
that parents much ap-
preciated being organised
for their sons. This was
largely due to the energy of
the then Akela, Mary Hasle-
hurst who has since moved
to Bristol. But her successor,
Mrs. Barbara Chapman, is
maintaining the splendid
tradition of the pack. The
Group Committee has been
responsible for the raising of
considerable sums of money,
Jumble sales (£149) and
Christmas cards (£145) were

the main sources of revenue,
and this with a grant from
St. Peter's District Com-
mittee made it possible to
buy several tents and set
aside £150 towards a build-
ing fund. This year's garden
party at the Rectory is fixed
for Saturday, June 17.

JAMBOREE

Four Scouts from Read-
ing will be attending the
World Jamboree in August
at Idaho, U.S.A. Three come
from Caversham groups and
two from St. Peter's. The
group rightly feels honoured
that two have been chosen
and the next jumble sale on
May 6 will be helping with
the expense incurred in
sending them across the
Atlantic.

THINKING DAY SERVICE



The traditional Thinking Day Service for the Guides and Brownies of
Caversham was held this year at St. John's Church. There was a splendid
attendance not only of Guides and Brownies but also of parents. The service
was conducted by the Rev. H. J. H. Stevinson.

Picture: Fred Walker

(Caversham Branch established 35 years)

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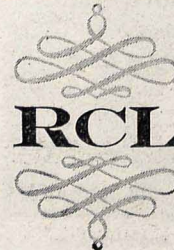
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DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW about Admiral Coffin? What connection has Archbishop Laud with the present citizens of Reading and Caversham? Whose job is it to keep almshouses in habitable repair?

Aren't most of us appallingly ignorant about what are commonly known as "Charities?" I gave up counting the number of people who demanded why the Church didn't do something about the condition of the almshouses in Caversham. Many people are under the impression that all charities are administered by the Church of England, some think that they have virtually died out.

Still others imagine large sums of money are lying idle because the reason for which they were originally given now no longer exists.

I wonder how many people realise that even today a great number of men and women spend hours of their time, without remuneration, administering trusts set up hundreds of years ago. Their functions? To match yesterday's intentions with today's needs! And that is no easy task.

This was recognised by the bringing into being of the Charity Commissioners in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of King William IV (1835-1836) in order to supervise and regulate charities.

Reading through the History of Reading Municipal Charities produced some years ago by Mr. Edward Blandy, it is obvious what the needs were in the days when many of these bequests were made. Education, care of the aged, concern for the poor — all these were obviously uppermost in the minds of most of our benefactors of the 17th and 18th centuries. It is touching to think of Archbishop Laud in the Tower awaiting trial and execution, carefully drawing up a deed of gift so that "poor maldes" might have some kind of dowry or "poore boyes" might be apprenticed to a trade.

During the coming months we hope to bring you the history of some of our charities, some information about their founders and of the way in which their desires are being fulfilled in the light of current needs.

As well as the Reading Charities, in which Caversham has shared since 1912 when it became part of Reading, there are a number of trusts peculiar to Caversham alone. Perhaps we shall be able to let you know something about these too.

W.D.

ANTIQUITIES IN CAVERSHAM

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED about those funny bits and pieces you sometimes dig up in the garden? Don't take it for granted that they are "just rubbish." It is possible that they are of historic value, because many antiquities have been found in Caversham.

Early Bronze Age

These include PALAEO-LITHIC axes, which have been found in BALMORE DRIVE, WOODCOTE ROAD and TOOTS FARM PIT. They are the earliest type of axe known to man. But in LOWER CAVERSHAM a fine perforated battle axe of PICRITE was found; this belonged to the DRINKING CUP or EARLY BRONZE AGE times. A fine stone wrist guard, used for protection against the bow string, was found at Sonning; this is of the same period.

2,700 years ago

At EMMER GREEN, a hoard of LATE BRONZE AGE socketed axes were discovered, left there by an unknown smith 2,700 years ago. In 1965 sherds of a BELGIC urn were found there, and later ROMANO - BRITISH

sherds were found. During 1966 excavations, 14 fourth century ROMAN coins were found, together with an iron brooch. A further trench brought to light more coins, a bit and nails of iron.

Other finds

Other ROMAN finds in CAVERSHAM include a coin of the reign of TIBERIUS, the same man who gave his name to "LAKE TIBERIUS"; this lay by CAVERSHAM BRIDGE.

On the HENLEY ROAD a dish of SAMIAN WARE was discovered. This red glazed Gaulish pottery was valued as is the best bone china today.

Museum

IF YOU FIND ANYTHING PLEASE TAKE IT TO THE MUSEUM. THE STAFF THERE WOULD RATHER HAVE TEN LOTS OF RUBBISH THAN LOSE ONE ANTIQUITY. You will find them very helpful.

Local "digs"

I recommend anyone interested in local antiquities and history to join the BERKSHIRE FIELD RESEARCH GROUP. The

subscription is only five shillings a year; you can attend all meetings and local "digs" and receive copies of the bulletin. MISS E. FEW, 45, WARBOROUGH AVENUE, TILHURST, is the TREASURER, and will be glad to receive subscriptions, which should be in by April 1.

G. K. THOMAS, Antiquities Correspondent.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION BEING FORMED

About 50 people were present in Church House at a meeting called to consider the formation of a residents' association. Under the able chairmanship of Mr. T. H. Clifton, an executive committee was appointed to work out a constitution and to look closely into the relationship that ought to exist between a residents' association and existing organisations representing particular interests or groups of people. It was stated that the association would be strictly non-political. Two town councillors for Caversham Ward, Councillor G. F. Robinson and Councillor R. H. Bristow were present and Coun. Robinson agreed to serve on the committee. It was agreed that the area to be served by the association should include Mapledurham, Kidmore End and Eye and Dunsden whose inhabitants look towards Caversham for many matters. Transport and traffic were among the matters. Transport and gested should be the concern of the Association, and it was suggested that there should be liaison with Reading Civic Society.

Further information can be obtained from MRS. S. CLIFTON, 52, ST. ANNE'S ROAD.

GOLDEN WEDDING



Picture: Walton Adams

MR. AND MRS. G. BRYANT

There were many rushed weddings during the First World War, but few so fraught with complications as that of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, who have just celebrated their Golden Wedding.

With a twenty - four hour embarkation pass, George Bryant of the Royal Engineers, rushed from St. Bartholomew's Church, London Road, where his banns had just been called for the third time, through deep snow to St. Peter's Church, where his bride-to-be, Winifred, waited for him. And the next day he was back with his unit and

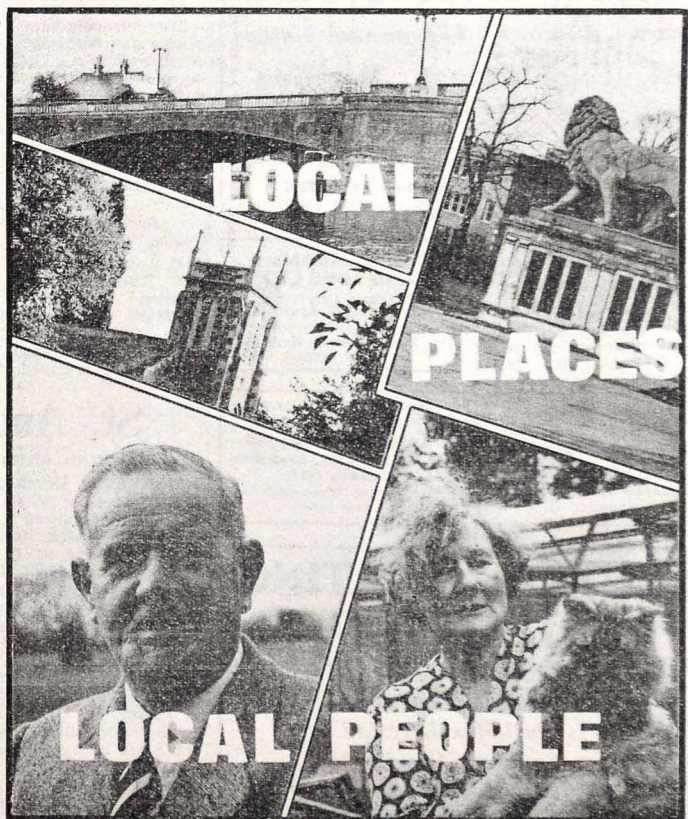
shortly in France.

After the war, Mr. Bryant returned to work with the GWR at Slough. Both his children followed him into railway work. His son, who is married and has three children, lives in London, but is shortly being transferred to Crewe. Their daughter, who lives with them at Hemdean Rise, also works with British Railways and travels to Paddington every day. And, for good measure, Mrs. Bryant still treasures the inscribed silver teapot given to her by her own colleagues at the GWR on her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, who have lived all their

married lives in Caversham, have seen great changes in what was once a village. They have many friends in the district, and the beautiful bouquets of flowers and cards which bedecked their sitting room, bore tribute to the affection they had earned from friends, relatives and neighbours.

The highlight of the anniversary was a visit from the Rector, bringing the original register in which they signed their names over fifty years ago.

Our very sincere congratulations from all the "Bridge" readers, to Mr. and Mrs. Bryant.



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News from the ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

MANY NEW MEMBERS ON THE CHURCH COUNCIL
 The annual district meetings of the four congregations held on Monday, February 27, and the following nights were again well attended. About 230 people were present in all. Valuable discussions took place about the life of each district. The first to be held, St. Barnabas', took place on a very wet night but attendance did not seem to suffer. A major topic of discussion at most of the meetings was the steep increase in the diocesan quota which is about treble what was asked from the parish last year. This means that each district has been forced to budget for a deficit but the situation is to be reviewed by the finance committee of the Church Council half-way through the year, and a decision reached as to whether the quota can be paid in full.

Sunday night worship was also discussed. It was noted that since certain variations had been introduced congregations had improved considerably in each district. It was felt that perhaps during the summer months it would be wider to revert to the more traditional pattern: at two meetings suggestions were made for the service to be at a later hour during the summer months.

The new Church Council has many members who have not served before. At St. Barnabas a vote of thanks was recorded to Mr. A. A. S. Julian who did not seek re-election after continuous service for at least 27 years. Mr. W. J. Eves, of St. Peter's, is another stalwart who is not serving on the new Council, and at St. John's Mr. C. G. G. Fowler did not seek re-election. Two new district wardens were appointed. Mr. J. Scriven replaces Mr. R. Bowen who has served with great devotion for four years at St. Peter's, while Mr. H. Gray returns to the Council as district warden at St. Barnabas. Other newcomers are Mr. H. P. Briggs, Mrs. E. B. Evans and Mr. P. South (St. Peter's), Mr. B. Gardner and Mrs. E. Goodban (St. John's) and Mr. R. Barnes and Mr. G. Hall (St. Barnabas). Also at St. Barnabas a former councillor, Mr. J. Bannion, returns after a period out of office. Mr. G. Hall is taking over the treasurer's

at St. Barnabas in place of Mr. H. C. Bennett who was warmly thanked for his work of the past two years. No new candidates for office emerged at St. Andrew's and all the existing members were re-appointed, though it was announced that Mr. B. Butler wished to retire from the post of district warden in a year's time.

A report of the Annual Vestry meeting will appear next month.

THE KEY GROUPS
 On Friday, March 31, members of our four congregations who have agreed to form the Key Group in each district will gather together in St. Peter's at 8 p.m. There will be a service of an informal nature when all those who have offered to help in this project can come together to commit this undertaking to God. Later in the spring each district will be holding the first of the special Sunday night gatherings in connection with Key Fortnight.

FAREWELL TO THE REV. D. CLIFT
 The Rev. and Mrs. D. Clift and Joanna expect to move to Arley on Wednesday, April 12, but the date of Mr. Clift's institution has not yet been fixed. Members of all congregations will wish to show their appreciation to the Clifts for what they have done during their stay of almost four years in Caversham, and we shall gather together for this purpose in Balmore Hall on Sunday, April 2, at about 7.45 p.m. or as soon after Evensong as we can reach the hall from our different Evensongs.

MOTHERS' UNION FESTIVAL
 The Lady Day Festival service for all members of the Mothers' Union takes place this year at St. Barnabas' at 2.45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4. The preacher is the Rev. H. A. T. Bennett, Vicar of Kennington, near Oxford, whose father has for many years been a worshipper at St. Andrew's.

EASTER WEEK WEDDING
 The wedding of Mr. Frank Beetham and Miss Ruth Blanksby is on Wednesday, March 29, in St. Andrew's at noon. Their many friends in the parish will be most welcome at the service.

St. Peter's News

New Zealand Visitor
 A welcome visitor early in March was Mrs. Blake, a member of the Mothers' Union of St. Peter's, Caversham, New Zealand. She was able to take part in one of the Lent discussion groups on the new liturgy and later lunched with members of the Mothers' Union Committee.

St. Peter's Wives' Group
 The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, in Church House. There will be a clothing exchange at 8 p.m. and then the President of Caversham Horticultural Society will be giving a talk on general gardening. All wives most welcome.

April Saints' Days
 Tuesday, April 14, Feast of the Annunciation. 7 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion Tuesday, April 25, St. Mark. 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Holy Communion. Except when saints' days fall on Saturdays it is hoped for the

most part to be able to provide an evening service of Holy Communion, but this will not always be possible, especially in the summer months.

Children's Society Preachers
 The Rev. B. G. Sanders, diocesan organising secretary for the Church of England Children's Society will preach on Sunday, April 16, at the Parish Communion and Matins. Interest in the work of St. Benet's Home in the parish has increased lately — we hope Mr. Sanders' visit will increase that interest still further.

Key Fortnight
 St. Peter's Key Fortnight Committee have been at work and devised a special act of worship for St. George's Day, Sunday, April 23, at 6.30 p.m. Children from different schools in the district will be taking part, and we hope St. Peter's will be packed for what promises to be an exciting occasion.



Picture: Fred Walker

PANCAKE PIE AT ST. PETER'S

A light-hearted entertainment on Shrove Tuesday provided St. Peter's congregation with the best evening of fun that has been seen in Balmore Hall for many a day. John Scriven and his helpers succeeded in uncovering a wealth of varied talent from people of all ages. Fred Walker caught the vicar-designate of Arley stepping it out with Graham Hubbard and Martin Thorp, while another highlight was the conjuring of Martin Harbor as Michael Burnside pumped water from the elbow of Graham Riddle. We look forward to another topical edition next year. Many thanks to all who gave us such an excellent evening. Picture above and page seven.

St. Andrew's News

Back from Africa
 Miss Effie Devenish, a former member of St. Andrew's congregation, is back in England after teaching for four years at St. Andrew's School, Turi, Kenya. She has a large number of colour transparencies which she is anxious to show and to talk about. A Coffee Evening has therefore been arranged in St. Andrew's Hall for Thursday, April 6, at 8 p.m. for this purpose. Admission will be free, but there will be a collection for Christian Aid. Please book this date

Young People
 The new activities for Young People reported in the last issue are now well established. Caversham Drama meets every Friday in St. Andrew's Hall. The first production — "The

Christophers' Not for Burning" by Christopher Fry—is planned for September. The Teen Action Group meets on Sundays, also in the Hall, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. We are very grateful indeed for an anonymous donation of £20, given for the benefit of Young People in St. Andrew's District. This has been divided equally between the two groups.

Saints' Days
 Arrangements for the observance of Red-Letter Saints' Days have been unsatisfactory in recent months. There will sometimes be two celebrations of Holy Communion in St. Andrew's on these days in the future. One of these services will be at 7.30 p.m. This situation is complicated by clergy holidays (es-

pecially after the Great Festivals) and weekly days off, not to mention meetings already arranged on some Saints' Days. Nevertheless, the District Committee feels that some attempt should be made to improve this aspect of our worshipping life. Holy Communion in St. Andrew's on Saints' Days in April will be as follows: April 4 (The Annunciation), 7 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. April 25 (St. Mark), 7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Fellowship Meetings in April
 April 13: The Rural Dean, the Rev. Douglas Bean, will show slides and talk about his recent visit to the U.S.A. April 27: Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship.

Caversham Churches

St. John's News

THE SAME MAGIC TOUCH?
Mr. Emmons who is well known to many Caversham people is taking over as Group Scoutmaster at St. John's in succession to Mr. Jack Cowley. He will be combining this new work with his responsibilities for the Cubs. This pack, which he founded, quite a long time ago, is flourishing as usual. Its membership is full at present, and many of the boys have so many badges that they look like soldiers in chain mail.

He has various plans for developing the work of the whole Group here, and if his magic touch can extend to the Scout troop we should be seeing some rapid growth there too. If anyone is interested in joining, either as adult assistants or as boy members, please get in touch with him. He lives at 22, Woodcote Way.

RETIREMENT

For over 40 years teaching in Sunday School has been one of Miss Cleare's joys. Younger teachers have come and gone, they have been upset, distracted or have over-slept but Miss Cleare was always there. If something was forgotten, she would probably remember it. Long past normal retiring age, she has gone on faithfully serving St. John's and the countless children she has taught. But now as a result of her accident last year, she has decided she must retire from this work.

KEY FORTNIGHT: A RETREAT BEFORE ADVANCE

For the first time ever, there is to be a weekend Retreat specifically for St. John's men and women. A group of them are going to spend the weekend May 19 to 21 in the Cowley Fathers' house in Oxford, under the leadership of Father Jonathan Young who is to conduct Key Fortnight at St. John's this autumn.



THREE OF THE BOYS "STEPPING IT OUT"

Photo: Fred Walker

ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM NEWS

On Saturdays during the past winter, the congregation at St. Margaret's Mapledurham have been making a car park for the church on a derelict piece of ground adjoining the churchyard, formerly part of the Vicarage garden. The first job was to clear the ground of all the sycamore trees which had been growing for 15 years or more. A professional forester helped us greatly at this stage, while the trees were being topped and burnt. The next job was up-rooting them. This looked like being a long archaeological dig until a tractor came and bulldozed up the roots. Then the sawing began, at first all done by hand, but later done

by machinery. Meanwhile, the logs were being taken round to the old people of the parish. On most Saturdays, the ladies have provided tea and scones in the Vicarage garage after helping the men with the work.

The work continues and it must be completed as soon as possible for Mapledurham House is opening to the public and there is nowhere now for people to park their cars to go to church. On Saturdays in April the job will probably still be going on and help will be welcome from anyone who cares to come and give a hand. The car park must be in use in time for the Vicarage garden party on Whit Sunday.

St. Barnabas' News

THE CHURCH HALL

Stemming initially from the No Small Change discussions a year ago, the district committee asked a small working party to survey the hall and report on its condition. Our thanks are due to Mr. Garlick and Mr. Miles for producing a thorough and comprehensive report. Happily, they assure us that the hall is basically sound for another 20 years. However, they have given us a detailed schedule of maintenance work which is essential, and another of work which is highly desirable in the interests of appearance, comfort and efficiency. Using voluntary labour wherever possible we hope to effect all their suggestions in the next year or so.

LENT DISCUSSIONS

More than 40 people met together in our four Lent house-groups to study the Holy Communion service. We all learnt many things and enjoyed ourselves into the bargain. Thank you those four families, who invited us into your homes, for your hospitality.

There were also four Sunday evening discussions in which we examined Christian worship in general. These were most successfully held in the freer atmosphere of St Barnabas' Hall after a shortened Evensong.

SUNDAY EVENINGS IN APRIL

Many people have commented favourably about the two four-week terms, firstly during November and secondly during Lent, when the evening sermon was replaced by a discussion. Congregations were noticeably larger on those occasions. Clearly, it is something we must continue to do and develop. Some have said they would like to hear speakers from other Churches and religious backgrounds, others have suggested films.

Accordingly we have tried to do something special in April. On Sunday, April 16, the sermon at Evensong will be preached by Rev. Saunders who is the area secretary to the Church of England Children's Society.

On April 23 the Evensong sermon will be preached by Mr. Davis who is a Methodist lay preacher.

On April 30 we have the first invitation service in connection with Key Fortnight.

St. Paul's Presbyterian News

THE REV. GEORGE E. SHEARER, M.A., Minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, was installed as president of the Reading and District Free Church Federal Council on Tuesday, February 14, by the retiring president, the Rev. E. Morley Jones, B.Sc., B.D. The Mayor of Reading and other civic officials were present at the induction held in Broad Street Congregational Church, and the Moderator of the National Free Church Federal Council, the Rev. Dr Norman Goodall, gave the address. Mr. Shearer who was described by the retiring president as "a minister of the old school" had to take the office a year earlier than anticipated because Mr. Morley Jones' new commitments did not allow him to continue in office longer.

St. Anne's News

R.C. COFFEE MORNING

THE CATHOLIC LADIES COFFEE MORNING GROUP invited the REV. R. PACKER of St. Andrew's Church to come and address them on January 26 at the home of MRS. ANNESLEY, 5, Blenheim Road.

MR. PACKER chose as his subject "The Authority of the Church," and pointed out the differences between Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in this respect.

In the stimulating and entertaining discussion which followed, it emerged that there is a genuine wish to know the points of divergence with other Christians, and a feeling that this can be a constructive factor in the effort towards Christian Unity in so far as the clear knowledge of one another's basic beliefs can erase many misconceptions.

The ladies who were present are indebted to MR. PACKER for his kindness in coming to their meeting, and to MRS. ANNESLEY for her generous hospitality.

METHODIST PREACHERS IN ANGLICAN CHURCHES

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD recently announced that he would be willing for incumbents to invite a Methodist lay preacher to preach annually in each church in the diocese. So it is with great pleasure that we can announce that in the weeks after Easter four well-known Methodist lay preachers will be accepting this invitation. First comes Coun. C. E. Buck to St. Peter's on Sunday, April 16 the following week Mr. Davies will be at St. Barnabas' and a week later, April 30, Caversham Bridge board member, Mr. J. Hollingum, at St. Andrew's Mr. J. Clark will be preaching at St. John's but the date has yet to be arranged.

BACHELOR CURATE FOR CAVERSHAM

THE REV. JOHN CROWE, at present assistant priest at Tattenhall, Wolverhampton, is to join the staff of Caversham parish in September, in place of the Rev. David Clift who leaves shortly.

KING'S COLLEGE

Mr. Crowe was born the month that the war began. He was educated at King's College, Taunton, one of the famous Woodard public schools. After teaching for a short spell in a Hampshire preparatory school he was one of the first 14 volunteers when in 1958 Voluntary Service Overseas started. He went out to Borneo as assistant and private secretary to the Bishop, where, besides office work he did a lot of travelling with the Bishop by air, land and water.

THE PALACE

He has kept up many links with the diocese of Borneo. As a result of being one of the first volunteers in V.S.O. he was lucky to see the inside of Buckingham Palace when in 1961 the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh received 100 ex-volunteers.

OXFORD

On returning from Borneo he took his degree in theology at Keble College, Oxford, enjoyed three full and happy years at the University and rowed for the 3rd College VIII. Then came two years at Lincoln Theological College, the college which sent a party of ordinands to Caversham in 1965 and at which the REV. MALCOLM COOPER was still a student when he arrived. Ordained in 1965 he has been at Tattenhall since then. He has been actively concerned with the work of Christian Aid, organised U.S.P.G. functions and helped to run diocesan Parish Life Conferences.

BROTHERS

MR. CROWE is unmarried. He has two brothers, one a professional gardener and the other is Vicar of St. John's, Clapham. His parents live at Bristol. MR. CROWE will be living in the Rectory flat and the REV. COLIN SCOTT-DEMPSTER and his wife will shortly be moving into the clergy house at 25, Ilkley Road.

BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S COFFEE BAR

In our issue of May last we reported the opening of the BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S COFFEE BAR in the converted organ loft of the West Memorial Institute. Such has been its success that the membership of the group has almost doubled and on Friday evenings the place resembles Broad Street on a Saturday afternoon. This overcrowding has prompted the young people to obtain permission to convert the gallery of the Hall into a Coffee Bar-cum-Lounge with the object of not only easing the accommodation problem but of "reaching out" to other young people in the neighbourhood.

FOLK GROUP

The evening's entertainment included "hits" by the YOUNG PEOPLE'S FOLK GROUP and a duet by two glamorous male "females" whose attire was most unbecoming. A fairy cycle race was hilarious and following an "accident" the Minister of the Church had to be disentangled from his machine. REFRESHMENTS were served to the vagrants not in doilies but in "dailies," both national and local, and all cutlery, such as it was, was adequately secured.

TRAMPS

It is perhaps worthy of comment that some of the tramps appeared to be remarkably prosperous but one of the lads of the group tells a lovely story which is taken with a pinch of salt as much as possible from claims that whilst standing outside a tobacconist's shop they are organising a series of fund raising ventures. The first of these, a Tramps' Supper, took place recently and proved to be both a social and financial success. The first of these, a Tramps' Supper, took place recently and proved to be both a social and financial success. The first of these, a Tramps' Supper, took place recently and proved to be both a social and financial success. The first of these, a Tramps' Supper, took place recently and proved to be both a social and financial success.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK on May 19th A COMPETITIVE ART EXHIBITION

in the Methodist Church Hall, Ardler Road on May 19

- Five classes: first prize in each class
Class A: Children who are under 5 on May 1
Class B: Children who are under 8 on May 1
Class C: Children who are under 12 on May 1
Class D: Boys and girls who are under 16 on May 1
Class E: Anyone over 16 on May 1

Choose your own subject and materials:
No picture to be larger than 20in. x 24in.
See next month's "Bridge" for final details
Enter as many pictures as you like
— 6d. per entry —

ROUND THE LOCAL CLUBS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

MRS. HAYDON presided at the meeting on February 16. MRS. JOAN SLATER, chairman of the Reading West Guild, who has been in the wholesale and retail bakery business for 28 years, demonstrated "Easter cake decorations and novelties." A competition for an Easter decoration was divided into three sections and the winners were: Cake, MRS. HARRIS; Floral arrangement, MRS. PAYNE; Easter egg, MRS. INNWOOD.

The Social Studies Group met on February 7. The speaker was MISS ANGELA BUTLER, who is a parish worker in the East End of London.

The International Group met twice during the month. They were invited to a social evening at the home of MRS. GINGELL, 59, Albert Road, Caversham, on January 25. The theme for this special meeting was UGANDA and Mrs. Gingell had decorated the room with pictures and ornaments from Uganda, which all helped to create the right atmosphere. MR. KWONKA, of Reading University, a native of Uganda, answered questions. The usual monthly meeting was held at the Highmoor Road Methodist Church hall when MRS. FRANCIS spoke about her country, Sweden.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
At the February meeting the Chairman, MRS. E. RISIUS, welcomed MR.

RAYMOND ASKEW, who gave us an insight into the work carried out at the Mary Hare Grammar School for the deaf.

On February 22 the Social Studies Group had as their speaker DR. T. WILLETT, who proved to be an excellent start to this year's programme.

The Choir are to hold a recital at the Art Gallery on Thursday, April 20, and the Drama Group are busy rehearsing for the Federation Drama Festival in April.

The Guild Rummage Sale will be held on April 15 at the Emmer Green Primary School.

The next Guild meeting will be held on April 11 when MR. BRIAN GALLOWAY will speak on "Towns of the Future." New members welcome.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The Chairman, MISS E. BAKER, presided over the February meeting of the Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild and welcomed one new member. The competition for a poster advertising the Jubilee Sale on March 11 was won by MRS. T. KIRBY. Classes for making lampshades are being started by the Arts and Crafts Section.

The history and beauty of Hampton Court was described by MRS. NANCY ARMSTRONG in a most enjoyable talk illustrated by a film.

Meetings are held at Church House, Caversham, on the third Thursday of each month. New members will be welcomed and should contact the SECRETARY, MRS. B. STRATFORD, 35, FEPPARD ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING. Tel. 75350.

ROSEHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

MRS. SEABY (President) presided over the February meeting, which was held at the Caversham Hill Chapel Hall on Monday, February 6.

A talk on Associated Country Women of the World (A.C.W.W.) was given by MISS J. MATTHEWS, and coloured slides were shown of their Dublin Conference.

The competition for a jar of home-made marmalade was won by MRS. STRINGFELLOW. MRS. HELME was second.

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GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER IN CAVERSHAM

UNITED WORSHIP

For all Christians

Good Friday at 6.30 p.m.:

THE ABBEY RUINS, FORBURY GARDENS

An act of penitence for our divisions.

6.00 p.m.: Assemble at St. Laurence, Wesley Church, Queen's Road or St. James'.
For Free Churchmen

Good Friday, 11 a.m., at Caversham Heights Methodist Church: United Service — Preacher: The Rev. L. S. Lewis.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Good Friday: Matins, Litany and Ante-Communion. St. Andrew, 9.30 a.m. St. John and St. Barnabas, 10.00 a.m. Children's Services: St. Peter, 10.00 a.m. St. Andrew, 11.00 a.m. St. John, 11.15 a.m.

The Three-Hours Devotion: at St. Peter's, 12—3 p.m. Conducted by the Rev. Canon Basil S. Moss, General Secretary of the Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry. Evening Prayer: 8.00 p.m. St. Peter and St. Andrew.

Holy Saturday: Matins and Ante-Communion. St. Andrew, 8.00 a.m. St. Peter, 9.00 a.m. St. Peter, 9.00 a.m. Evening Prayer: 6.00 p.m. St. Peter, 8.00 p.m. (with lighting of Paschal Candle and renewal of Baptismal vows). St. Andrew, 8.00 a.m.

EASTER DAY: 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter, St. Andrew). 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (all churches). 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST (all churches). 11.00 a.m. Matins (St. Peter). 11.00 a.m. Children's Service (St. John's). 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew). 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter). 6.30 p.m. Festal Evensong (St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. Barnabas). "Sing Alleluia." Hymns and music (St. John's).

ROMAN CATHOLIC EASTER DAY

St. Anne's: Mass, 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
St. Our Lady of Caversham: 9.30 a.m.

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Easter Day: 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.: The Rev. L. S. Lewis.

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (Gosbrook Road)

11.00 a.m. Morning Service, Mr. C. E. Buck. 6.30 p.m. Evening Service and Holy Communion. The Rev. E. B. Wright.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Day: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.00 a.m. Morning Service, and Holy Communion. The Rev. E. B. Wright. 6.30 p.m. Evening Service. Mr. J. Ogden.

ST. PAUL'S, YORK ROAD, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Good Friday: 11 a.m. Meditation on the Cross. Easter Day: 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion. 6.30 p.m. Thanksgiving.

April Sunday Services

CHURCH OF ENGLAND St. Peter's 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION 11.00 a.m. Matins 11.00 a.m. Sunday School (Balmore Hall and Hemdean House School) 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays) 6.50 p.m. Evensong St. John's 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST 11.00 a.m. Children's Church 6.50 p.m. Evening Service (1st Sunday, 5.15 p.m.) St. Andrew's 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Sunday School (Church Hall) 6.30 p.m. Evensong (3rd Sunday, 3.15 p.m.) St. Barnabas' 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist 9.15 a.m. Sunday School (Church Hall) 6.50 p.m. Evensong St. Margaret's, Mapledurham 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays) 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION 6.30 p.m. Evensong	ROMAN CATHOLIC St. Anne's 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Mass Our Lady of Caversham 9.50 a.m. Mass. (except 1st Sunday when at 8.50 a.m.) BAPTIST Caversham 11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship Evening Service 1st Sunday after Morning Service 3rd Sunday. 2.45 p.m. Sunday School. North Caversham 10.45 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship Communion after service on 3rd Sunday. METHODIST Caversham Heights 11.00 a.m. and 6.50 p.m. Worship 10.15 a.m. Sunday School. Senior Dept. 11.00 a.m. Sunday School. Junior and Primary Dept. Gosbrook Road 11.00 a.m. and 6.50 p.m. Worship 11.00 a.m. Sunday School. SALVATION ARMY Prospect Street 3.00 p.m. Young People. 6.30 p.m. Adults. CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL 11.00 a.m. and 6.50 p.m. Worship 10.50 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Sunday Schools.
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We record...

BAPTISED St. Peter's February 5 Paul Bailey Penelope Drew Sara Grimsdale Judith Jenkins St. Andrew's February 19 Rachel Osbourn St. Barnabas' February 26 John Phillips Matthew Denham Caversham Methodist Church January 15 Helen Brazitis February 5 Christopher Hurley Caversham Heights Methodist Church January 22 Karen Bleasby St. Anne's Diane Monaghan David Sarfas David Netley Stephen Sleep Antony Ward Vito Franco Duncan Horne	St. Barnabas' February 25 Roger Nuttall and Judith Orme St. Anne's January Patrick Dodd and Delia Wennell Caversham Baptist Free Church March 4 George Rushton and Vivienne Collett Vivienne Collett Rixon Davis and Janet Hughes 18 Keith Lusted and Janet Bird Caversham Methodist Church January 7 Brian Linney and Barbara Pritchett
MARRIED St. Peter's January 28 Jack Pudney and Janet Stoddart February 11 Patric Corbett and Ann Stephens March 4 Keith Wright and Angela Dolton St. Andrew's February 18 Terence McDougall and Carol Gordon	BURIED St. Peter's January 17 John Earl 19 Emma Prosser February 7 Henry Nowell St. John's January 11 Henry Roache 16 Clifford Lunn February 9 Leonard Masters St. Barnabas' January 9 Ella Atherton February Frederick Compton Olive Ward Frank Church

Methodist preaching appointments CAVERSHAM

April 2 11.00 and 6.30 Local Preachers' Sunday. 9 11.00 Mr. P. Smith. 16 11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright. 23 11.00 Rev. J. O. Cochran. 30 11.00 Mr. E. J. Steiner. 6.30 Rev. S. M. Wendt	9 11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright. 6.30 Rev. W. A. A. Tutt. 16 11.00 Mr. J. S. Marsh. 6.30 Rev. E. B. Wright. 23 11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright. 6.50 Mr. D. Tomlinson. 30 11.00 Mr. F. W. Button. 6.30 Rev. S. J. Dain.
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Note: (1) Church Anniversary.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

April 2 Rev. L. S. Lewis — Evening Communion. 9 Young People's Anniversary. 23 Rev. L. S. Lewis. 16 Rev. L. S. Lewis — Morning Communion 30 Women's Sunday.

THE CLERGY AND MINISTERS OF CAVERSHAM

ANGLICAN
Rector: The Rev. John Grimwade
Caversham Rectory, Tel. 71703
Assistant Clergy: The Rev. David Clift, 25, Ilkley Road, Tel. 72070
The Rev. Malcolm Cooper (Priest-in-Charge of St. Barnabas') St. Barnabas' House, 33, Grove Road, Tel. 73095
The Rev. Roger Packer (Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's) St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road, Tel. 72788.
The Rev. John Stevinson (Priest-in-Charge of St. John's) St. John's House, 9, South View Avenue, Tel. 71814
The Rev. Colin Scott-Dempster, The Rectory Flat, Church Road, Tel. 75152.

BAPTIST
The Rev. L. S. Lewis, 8, Kidmore Road, Caversham Tel. 73633
METHODIST
The Rev. E. B. Wright, 17, St. Anne's Road, Tel.: 72223
ROMAN CATHOLIC
The Rev. W. O'Malley (Parish Priest)
The Presbytery, 2, South View Avenue. Tel. 71787

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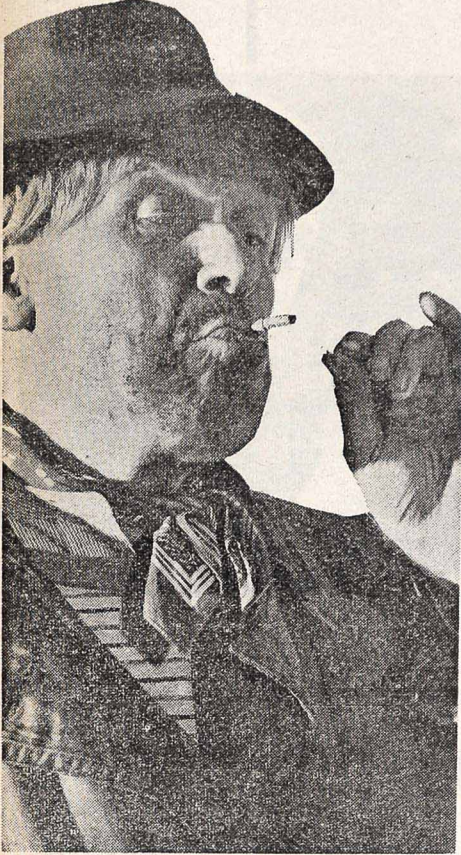
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G. AGER

THE STRANGER ON MY STEP



HOW LONG is it since a beggar came to your door? And what would you do if one came?

By Jessica Riley

In these more affluent days, the beggar going from door to door is a rarity, and one often hears it said: "No one need beg nowadays, what with increased pensions, National Health benefits, National Assistance, etc., nearly every class is taken care of."

So it was rather a shock to me when answering a sharp ring on my doorbell recently, I was confronted with a shabbily dressed man who thrust a card into my hand and muttered: "Can you help, lady?"

I walked back into the kitchen to read the card. The beggar had written on it a message asking for help, and claiming he was suffer-

ing from war injuries but had no pension.

I felt a stab of indignation at first, not like during the pre-war years when a genuine beggar at the door was a common caller in genuine need of help; when if one had no money to spare, a gift of food or socks was gratefully accepted. My indignation was mainly because I felt—perhaps wrongly—that there was plenty of work or help available for him without going from door to door begging.

Then into my mind came the words of my old Sunday School teacher.

"Never turn a beggar away from your door," she always said, "seize every opportunity to practice charity, eagerly and cheerfully: give, in Christ's name, if only a cup of water."

Do teachers ever realise how much their words are remembered years after they have tried to instil them into their seemingly indifferent pupils?

I opened my purse and hesitated between a shilling and half-a-crown. Ten minutes previously I had been worrying about my unpaid electricity bill and the rates demand. Ah

well, half-a-crown wouldn't make much difference. I went to the door where he was still standing patiently. I handed him his card and the coin with a smile.

He thanked me, turned away to go down the path, hesitated and then came back. "Lady," he said, "will you do me a favour and say a little prayer for me now and then?" His face with its earnest pleading expression still haunts me. "I will, I promise," I assured him.

"It was my Sunday School teacher," he said suddenly, "'pray for one another' she always used to say." Then, as though embarrassed by his words, he turned quickly and was away down the path.

HOUSE PLANTS AND SOME TIPS FOR THE NOT-SO-GREEN FINGERED

By Olive Ferraday



Zebrina Pendula

1.—When you water, do it before the soil is completely dry and remember that in winter growth slows down and may even stop altogether, so that very little water is required. On the other hand, in the spring and summer, watering may be necessary two to four times a week. Whatever you do, don't overwater and, except with occasional plants like African violet cyclamen, don't leave your pot standing in a saucer of water. The right way to water is to fill the space between the soil and the rim of the pot, and let the water soak down.

4.—Plants need a constant temperature and one that is not too hot. Don't keep them too close to fires or radiators, and remember—the higher the temperature, the more water they need. On very cold nights don't leave plants between drawn curtains and the window.

5.—If you're going to give your plants some kind of boost with a liquid fertiliser, and this isn't a bad idea, then only do it in the growing and flowering season.

These are some general tips that may turn failure into success—but plants vary almost as much as human beings, and if you're still not producing the plant you want—why not take a trip to your local library where there's sure to be something on your own particular plant.



Maranta (prayer plant)

2.—Plants need to stand in a good light but, except for cacti, not in direct sunshine. Variegated plants (i.e. plants with different colours on the leaves) need more light or their leaves will turn to green.

3.—Plants need fresh air. They hate fumes—especially gas fumes—and they loathe draughts. Between them these two count for the majority of all house plant deaths.



Hedera (English Ivy)

IF YOU'RE one of those people who only have to look at any plant from a blade of grass to a giant cactus for it to grow and flourish in lush shades of healthy green—you can skip this article.

This column is written for the lady with the touch of death. The person who, however hard she tries, always ends up with a pathetically yellowed and wilting midget as out of place in its gay pot as a burnt pea on the plate of some expensive restaurant. We don't guarantee success, but at least we might conjure up a little ray of hope.

In the first place, house plants need to be looked after properly. It's no good sloshing a drop of water on them occasionally and hoping for the best. Neither is it any better treating them as if they all needed the same kind of attention. There are, however, a few basic things to remember that are common to nearly all plants.

Women at woodwork

by SUSAN BARKER

I FIRST started woodwork classes four years ago. I had heard of women at such classes before, of course, but I was surprised to see over half the class were of the fairer sex. Most of us were beginners.

First of all, we learned the names of tools, what they were for and how to use them. We made some simple joints which our teacher told us could be used as pan stands. Then—progress! We each started making a small book trough. Several weeks later, I presented mine to my father. He was very kind about it and hasn't thrown it out yet, even though the gaps in the joints are nearly large enough to drop a book through.

NEW TRAY

My next effort went to my mother-in-law: in an unguarded moment, she had once said she would like a new tray. The teacher had to devote more than the usual time and energy correcting my mistakes and making all the corners fit, more or less. Even so, the finished object had rather a nasty wobble, only overcome by padding two opposite corners on the underside.

Then I made a seven-foot pelmet in plywood. Collecting

the wood and walking through town with it, shoulder high—like skis—was hazardous and exciting, especially when I hooked a shopper's hat on one end of my weapon.

I miscalculated my measurements at first, but decided to amend the design of the pelmet rather than the window itself. The following week, I arrived to find my wood had warped to a useful curve, ideally suitable for a bay window. Unfortunately, the window in question wasn't a bay.

At last the pelmet was fitted, somewhat precariously perhaps, and half-an-inch short, but I was triumphant. But joy was short-lived for it had taken so long to complete the pelmet that the lease on the flat had all but expired and I had to move on.

TROLLEY

Teacher is helping me again with the present project, a tea trolley. The other week it was mistaken for a clothes-horse—some of the collapsible variety—so I may think of a conversion soon.

What's next? Perhaps I'll try a pan stand. I may be able to manage one now, with teacher's help of course!

Varicose Ulcers and Eczema

Is your leg painful with wounds or ulcers which do not heal? Is your leg raw, sore, inflamed and burning? Do you suffer from dry scaly eczema or weeping eczema? Do you suffer from swelling, tiredness, heaviness and aching pain in the legs?

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We have published an illustrated brochure which tells—Why slight knocks may cause years of suffering—Why a scratch refused to heal—How painful ulcers are formed—Why the skin becomes dry and scaly—Why the leg becomes sore and weeping—The cause of swelling and aching pain.

Whether you have suffered for only a few weeks or whether you have suffered for years, the brochure is a revelation. It gives most useful information and records an amazing volume of personal tributes.

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Here is the opportunity you have sought. Send for the brochure. Do not despair and suffer needlessly. Write today, enclosing one shilling in stamps. Address your letter to—

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Enquiry Department, N.S.
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Broughton, Manchester 7.

Personality of the month

If we ever make real cuts in the number of road deaths in this country, one of the men to thank will be Australian William Gissane, now Hon. Professor of Accident Surgery at the University of Birmingham.

William Gissane was educated at a Jesuit school — St. Ignatius College, Sydney, and at the University of Sydney. He spent two years in the Australian Artillery. After completing his service in 1919, he travelled to

London for post-graduate training and stayed here to continue his medical work.

He is certain that further surgical advances in the care of injured people can help to reduce the present toll of the roads. But he itemises "Education, Engineering and Enforcement" as the three pillars on which

PROFESSOR WILLIAM GISSANE

London for post-graduate training and stayed here to continue his medical work.

In 1960 he founded the Road Injuries Group at the Birmingham Accident Hospital, where he was the founder Clinical Director and Surgeon-in-Chief until 1964. With his research colleague, Dr. John Bull, he has since directed the Group's work concerned with the rising toll of road accidents. The aim is to lessen both the numbers and the severity of these injuries.

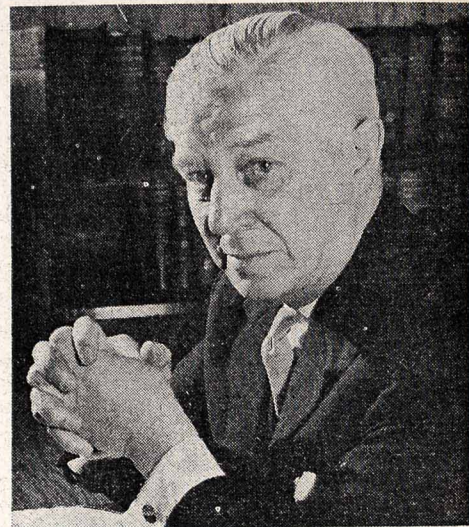
Not many people have come face to face with what

accident prevention programmes should always be based.

Safer cars and roads are the engineers' contribution. The enforcement of sensible laws is the police responsibility.

Both engineering and enforcement will be important means in the education of the public into greater self-control, better road discipline and a regard for the safety of others.

And so will the skilled work of people like Professor William Gissane.



"If you faint, we'll leave you on the floor"

By John Duncan



Courtesy "Birmingham Mail."

I'M six foot four and 15 stone. "If you faint, we shall just leave you on the floor," said the midwife in the delivery room five minutes before our daughter was born.

We had planned that we should both be there to greet the new member of our family. Of course, my wife had no option, but I had chosen to be present, and here I was feeling rather important and pleased with myself and all toggled up for the occasion in sterile boots, mask and gown. I really, felt part of the "in" crowd—and after all, I had had quite a bit to do with it!

"I can see the head. Push!" said the midwife; my wife pushed and suddenly there was the head; another push and 'sploosh,' there she was, an unexpected greyish-mauve colour at first, lying on the delivery couch in a pool of pink liquid. Deft, skilled

hands picked her up, started her breathing, cut the tough-looking cord with what looked surprisingly like a pair of pruning shears—(amazing the silly impressions you retain) — and we could hold our baby for the first time. I hadn't fainted!

Normal childbirth — and of course there can be complications — is not horrific, unpleasant or gory. It's hard and painful work for the mother and it is good that husbands should know about and share this as they share other aspects of their marriage. Why should this beautiful and central part of human life be kept in the women's secret natter world and fathers be reduced to little more than stud animals?

Thanks to the work of the National Childbirth Trust it is increasingly possible in many hospitals for husbands to be partners in their wives pregnancies and confinements. During pregnancy they are encouraged to assist with the breathing and pushing exercises which help control labour pains and in the delivery of the baby.

During a course of classes at the ante-natal clinic, there is a "Fathers' Evening" when anxieties, problems and practical points can be sorted out. You are told that if you wish to be there for baby's delivery you can be, but that if there are complications you will be asked to leave.

If you have shared your wife's preparations in pregnancy, you can give real encouragement and comfort during her labour. The pain of contractions is distracting and she needs encouraging and reminding of the breathing which can help to control the pain. A special kind of back rub-

bing which you can practise beforehand is soothing. And above all you can help to calm her by just being there — after all you are her husband.

Of course, as the sister at our "Fathers' Evening" said, "You may feel that 'The Pig and Whistle' is the place for you at this time." If so, fair enough, but I'm glad I took the opportunity of seeing our baby born.

For those interested there is a new leaflet out entitled "Expectant Fathers." This is obtainable from

The National Childbirth Trust,
41a, Reeves Mews,
London, W.1.

and costs 1/- plus postage.

Any readers who wish to attend a local course should write to the above address, and they will be put in touch with their nearest centre.

Answers

1. 1911.
2. (a) David Copperfield, (b) Martin Chuzzlewit.
3. A Night to Remember.
4. 1984 by George Orwell.
5. Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe.
6. Edmond Dantes.

The lure of Gold

By Raymond Efemey

TO SIMPLIFY trade we use a symbol for our goods—money. Obviously this symbol must not be easy to forge or in too plentiful supply, otherwise inflation results.

Long ago mankind settled on gold as a good symbol (with silver as second choice). It works until population and production exceed its availability and it becomes TOO rare. This happened in the later Roman Empire and has now happened to us.

The problem of "gold reserves" is a false one, the

reality of living becomes chained to a myth. Individual nations overcome the difficulty with paper money which is sufficiently complicated to make copying almost impossible, but in the international sphere (the one which now counts in view of world-wide interdependence), we are still tied to gold. Not enough can be produced for our needs and, worse, there is a lot of hoarding

in nations.

What we must have is a new international currency. Many experts and nations are striving for this and Christians should be behind their efforts. For this seemingly remote subject has practical and ethical implications. The love of gold, by itself, the neglect of things like food and shelter, is sinful and born of a desire for

gain without work.

It is time we dispensed with gold, that symbol of avarice, and looked to more humane ways. It is time we stopped digging up the precious metal in order to put it into another hole at Fort Knox or the Bank of England as if this charade had something to do with genuine wealth. It is time gold was treated like diamonds and handed over to the only people who can make it yield beauty and happiness—I mean the goldsmiths and jewellers.

HOW ARE YOU?

"SHE HAS PINK spots all over, is five years old, please could you call, doctor." And the message, on behalf of a patient obviously unfit to attend the surgery, is phoned through before 10 a.m. to give the doctor a chance to plan his morning's visiting.

Doctors are not the only people who come to help when illness hits the family or, more happily, when babies make their appearance: the role of the midwife is obvious and we often notice the district nurse on her round. But, after glimpsing her in an office at the Town Hall and hearing about the toddlers' club and child welfare sessions at the clinic, I wanted to find out more about the job of the Health Visitor.

The one I met recently is the mother of three children still at school. She qualified as a nurse and midwife before marriage and later trained for her present work by taking a year's special course. The origins of the Health Visiting Service are to be traced back about a hundred years to Manchester and the pioneering efforts of the Ladies Sanitary Reform Association; though the good ladies then had none of the professional qualifications now required.

ROUTINE

This modern health visitor talked about her work near the centre of a large town, and described first the routine calls that most people know about: seeing the mother of a new baby, helping her with feeding and bathing queries, encouraging her to come to the clinic for injections and check-ups. In this town there are other Health Visitors who look after school children, mental health, and do specialised work amongst families where T.B. and other chest diseases have occurred.

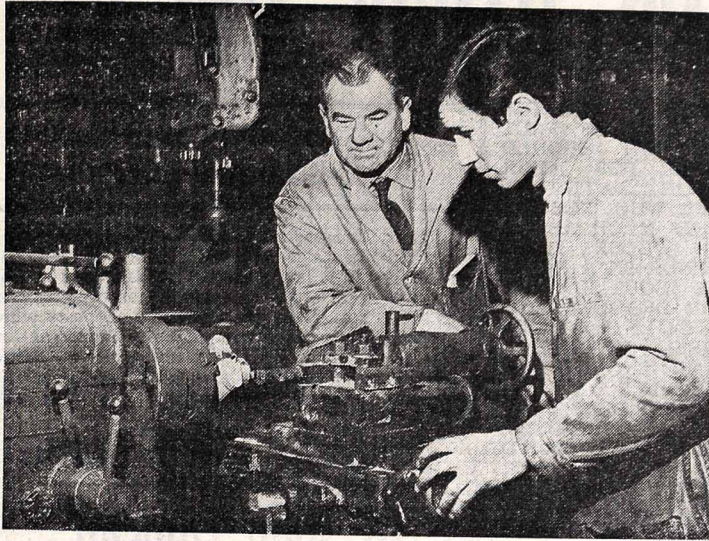
She went on to show how the Health Visitors' work has been extended by the National Health Service Act to cover the needs of the whole family. In some areas today they work directly with family doctors in their practices. This particular Health Visitor, though, follows the older pattern and cases are referred to her from a variety of sources.

She stressed how valuable is the co-operation with the clergy. "If a vicar is worried about an elderly person in his parish, he should get in touch with us at the Town Hall, and we can then call to see what assistance is needed — perhaps more social contacts through a Darby and Joan club or a luncheon club; we may be able to find some voluntary visitors.

TRANSPORT

"We can check that they are receiving sufficient medical attention; for instance transport can be arranged to take them to a clinic for chiropody or they can have this at home if need be. Perhaps they could have a Home Help for shopping and a weekly clean through. In my area there are night-sitters available for urgent cases." And vice-versa the local Christians may help. "I mentioned one family to the vicar and he made sure that the children each had a present at Christmas."

No wonder that Health Visitors are dissatisfied with their title. Medico-social workers, socio-medical workers? Whatever new name is invented it is unlikely to give a full idea of their job.



Turning patterns on a lathe.

A CAREER IN THE FOUNDRY INDUSTRY

DURING the next few months, members of the National Association of Malleable Ironfounders throughout the country will be inviting headmasters, careers masters, youth employment officers and school leavers to visit foundries and see for themselves the opportunities that exist for rewarding careers in Britain's modern mechanised malleable iron industry.

Holiday Accommodation

CONTINENTAL

HOLLAND. Inexpensive holiday: Teachers exchange or let their homes in holidays. Some take guests. R. Hinloopen, English Master, 55 Stetweg, Castricum, Holland.

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Old methods have gone

In the past decade, malleable iron foundries have poured many millions of pounds into modernisation programmes. Out have gone old-fashioned methods of manufacture and in has come highly mechanised production. With this technical revolution it has become abundantly clear to the leaders of the industry that more and more highly qualified technologists and skilled craftsmen will be required if full advantage is to be taken of the heavy capital expenditure involved. Accordingly the structure of training and education for the industry has been modernised and improved.

The Institute of British Foundrymen, which has pioneered

the new training plan, has so designed its education programme that it will be possible in the future for school leavers with the appropriate 'A' and 'O' levels to gain full professional qualifications.

At Loughborough Technological University, a course has been instituted which provides an opportunity for students to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in foundry technology. In addition, courses at Bolton Technical College, Constan-tine College and the National Foundry College provide training leading to Diplomas in Foundry Technology.

COURSES

Through other training channels, skilled craftsmen can study for City and Guild foundry technician and pattern maker certificates. Other foundry craft courses have been instituted for school leavers without G.C.E.

The production of malleable iron has increased rapidly since the last war, and like any other branch of the foundry industry (there are well over 1,000 foundries in the U.K.) opportunities exist for any young man with aptitude and an enquiring mind to reach the very top of the success ladder.

Learning without tears—that's television for schools

Says Harold Jeffries

I'M ASHAMED to admit it, but my three-year-old twin daughters are telly mad. You'd think they'd be concerned with intelligent, mindforming constructional toys and splashing paint around in a wildly creative manner, but they're not. Not really. Their idea of a well spent morning is to loll in front of the T.V. set and view, and this formula for contented girls is repeated in the afternoon if nothing inconvenient like a walk in the park or a trip to the shops interrupts.

My wife tries rather lamely to stop them, but they're dab hands at switching on and adjusting the knobs and there's not a lot you can do about it—especially if your opposition is somewhat tempered by the fact that it keeps them quiet.

I don't approve of the twins' enthusiasm for viewing, but I do approve of the programmes they watch. On a few occasions now I have lolled in front of the set with them and seen the transmissions that the critics never pass comment upon, but which are of a higher standard than the majority of their evening competitors, and I speak, of course, of the programmes for schools.

Here we have learning without tears. Knowledge served up with great skill and a maximum of interest value. The programmes inform, stimulate and entertain in nearly every subject that has a major place in a school timetable, and by the highest standards of writing and presentation they are able to free even the most unlikely subject from the shackles of boredom.

TOO TIRED

I said in this column a few months ago that I regretted the fact that so many good television programmes were put out late at night when one was too tired to appreciate them fully. Now I think I must complain that so much television which would be greatly appreciated by an adult audience is only put out during school hours when most people are at work.

Personally, I think that the best of the schools' current affairs, geography and history programmes should have an evening airing, and if the answer is that there is no room for them, then once again I would plead for another channel to be opened.

It's not kinky to wish to be well informed, and if information can be given in a very entertaining way, then this sort of programme should have its fair share of viewing time at peak viewing hours. I am thinking particularly of the recent series on the history of the United States put out by the B.B.C. It was fascinating,

easy to follow, brilliantly illustrated, and comparatively wasted.

I'm grateful to the twins for introducing me to this new television world—and I'd be even more grateful to the powers that be if they would make this learning without tears available to a far wider audience.

QUIZ TIME

HOW GOOD IS YOUR READING KNOWLEDGE?

- In which year was the Authorised Version of the Bible first published?
- In which of the Dickens' novels would you find:
 - Uriah Heep?
 - Sam Weller?
 - Sarah Gamp?
- What was the name of the book and also the film which portrayed the sinking of the Titanic?
- With what famous book do you associate "Big Brother" and who was the author?
- The adventures of Alexander Selkirk inspired a famous book. What is it called and who wrote it?
- What was the original name of the Count of Monte Cristo?

(answers on page 6)

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UH15

GOD FOR ENGLAND, HARRY AND ST. GEORGE



STRANGE THAT THE MATTER - OF - FACT ENGLISH SHOULD CHOOSE FOR THEIR PATRON SAINT A SAINT WHO NOBODY KNOWS MUCH ABOUT AND WHOSE FAME DEPENDS ON A FAIRY TALE ABOUT SLAYING FIERY DRAGONS AND RESCUING FAIR DAMSELS. ST. GEORGE IS AS ENGLISH AS PICCADILLY CIRCUS OR ROAST BEEF: JUST LOOK AT THE PUBS, CHURCHES AND CLUBS NAMED AFTER HIM, NOT TO MENTION THE ROYAL NAVY SAILING UNDER HIS BANNER.

April 23 is
St. George's Day

and just because St. George is such a vague figure of fiction it is easy to associate ourselves with him. And in the past, and perhaps now, it is easy to assume arrogantly that English ways, English wars, Eng-

lish attitudes, English institutions — our ways, are automatically right. much to answer for, both in this country and abroad.

Topic of the month,

by John Duncan

Perhaps the Englishman has such an affection for St. George because he sees himself astride the saint's significantly mythical white charger, dealing a death blow to the dragon of evil with the sword of righteousness. Of course we all like to see ourselves on the side of the angels

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Be proud

By all means let us be proud of England and all the characteristics of English life which warm our hearts. Let us be

George can remind us of the reality of the eternal struggle between good and evil. We can't assume though that the English are never on the side of the dragon.

Rector to be Lord Mayor

Alderman the Rev. Frederick Vyvyan-Jones has been nominated as the next Lord Mayor of Bristol. He will be the first clergyman to hold the post.

A Labour member of the City Council for 21 years and an alderman for two years, he is chairman of the City Education Committee and is rector of St. Michael's, in the city of Bristol. He is the second longest serving incumbent in the city, having been at St. Michael's since 1935.

The Bishop of Bristol (Dr. Oliver Tomkins) gave Alderman Vyvyan-Jones permission to accept the nomination, and the diocese will provide assistance in maintaining services during his year of office.

Variety gift

The Variety Club is to give £100,000, spread over three years, towards a new experimental pathology wing at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to house a medical research team trying to find out why "foreign" tissue grafts are rejected by the human body.

BLOOMERS CREATE PROBLEMS

by JOAN BEST

THE TWO most striking features emerging from the Paris round-up of fashion shows are exotic African prints and bloomers.

The former are beautiful, gay and very chic, and should be an enormous success this summer, but I doubt very much whether the bloomers will really catch on here or on the Continent.

I don't think they will be widely approved of by husbands or boyfriends, either except perhaps on those lovely little blondes that they love to ogle. They are really only for the thinnest of the thin — anyone who is just slightly rounded would look fantastically hippy in them, and girls who have been described as "pneumatically curvy" will definitely steer clear of bloomers. Even their name is unfortunate.

At least nobody as yet has tried to flog them as ideal office wear. I seem to remember trouser suits not being very acceptable in that direction.

My favourites among new fashions were the neat shorts worn under mini-dresses in matching fabrics which are great fun for the young in years, not just in heart, and the beautiful swirly, curly hairstyles. As one who has been sitting smugly contented for the last few years while friends have frantically been trying to straighten out their curling locks, I can see my troubles are just about to begin, and I doubt if I'll receive much sympathy.

Still, with the amount of gadgets there are on the market in the form of heated rollers and curling tongs, perhaps life won't prove too difficult.

TOPIQUOTES

Our country has sometimes in the past been gloriously served by drinkers, adulterers, perverts, invalids and eccentrics. For these room must always be found. It is up to them to make their failings tolerable and, this done, up to us to tolerate them.

—Daily Telegraph

Our grandchildren, standing as far from us as we stand from the Boxer Rebellion, may regard our failure to absorb China into the comity of nations as the most fateful and grievous folly of our age... our grandchildren will no doubt be astounded that some people in the sixties actually welcomed the Sino-Soviet conflict.

—Editorial, the Guardian

Addiction has attracted sincere helpers. Unfortunately their sincerity is often accompanied by dangerous naivety. An addict in London recalls the evening he went to a new venture designed to help addicts. The first words were: "Let us pray." He walked out.

—Eric Clark, Observer

Redhead Marjorie Janney curls up on a couch. She is wearing a mini-dress that ends seven inches above her knees. And she is checking the notes for her husband's sermon. It is the sort of job that all church ministers' wives have to do.

—Mirror

ERNEST ADKINS offers a three-point column

Another letter to the MCC Advisory Committee

GENTLEMEN, Regarding your meeting in December, 1966, to discuss the recommendations of the Clark Committee set up by yourselves to investigate county cricket and advise thereon.

In my ignorance I was foolish enough to believe that in the interests of cricket at least some of the recommendations could be acted upon.

On reflection, you were quite right in rejecting these proposals, obviously made by reactionary revisionists, and your overall attitude that if the public didn't like the game as it is (as suggested by falling attendance figures) they could jolly well go elsewhere, was the right and proper one to take.

I was even naive enough to express the view in this column that the immediate abolition of the registration period for overseas players would be a good thing. Your action in this matter has clearly established that the game can well do without such an undesirable element.

Posterity will, I am sure, remember and thank you for your most dramatic piece of legislation that by increasing the number of points for first innings lead we shall be able to enjoy a three day game with very little likelihood of a result.

I would welcome the opportunity of thanking you personally for all your efforts to reverse the present trend in county cricket. Please don't hesitate to approach me during the coming season—I am the solitary figure on the popular side.

E. F. ADKINS.

Is all this speed worth the effort?

MAN'S dissatisfaction with his station moves him to expand in all directions — down holes — up mountains — to the moon — along the earth, sea and sky at great speed.

This is not just a question of travelling from A to B, but from A to infinity, which recalls the fable of the overzealous goldfish who aspired to break the underwater speed record.

Men and women that dedicate themselves to the end have one thing in common, physical courage, a courage that captures our imagination, and when coupled with skill our admiration.

The speed aces are very much the right types; clean and wholesome — the sort of people we are happy to meet in the local.

The fringe people of motor racing, the regulars at Mallory Park and Silverstone are very much part of the "in" crowd and rather tiresome, but such as Jack Brabham, Jim Clark, etc., rightly command our respect.

WINNERS

The appeal of the sport is one of spectator identification, we all see ourselves as potential winners of a Grand Prix, lacking only in opportunity.

Perhaps this all-consuming desire for speed is right and proper and part of the scheme of things; I don't know. But I do know that to pretend that these activities have any value or purpose is a callous piece of deception.

We are told that the performance of the production

car is improved as a direct result of motor racing — RUBBISH!

Can anyone in 1967 seriously believe that the only way to test the stresses and strains of metals and components is to thrash a prototype round Silverstone?

Are the only safe tyres ones that have been used in the annual bore the Monte Carlo Rally? Of course not.

There is something quaintly archaic in this attitude to motor racing.

LESSON

When cars were assembled in sheds and back yards, there were lessons to be learned from exploits at Brooklyn but now the drawing board laboratory and test track provides the answers.

It used to be said that success on the track was followed by increased sales, a theory exploded by Mercedes Benz, who withdrew from competitions in the forties because they felt that there was nothing more to be gained.

Is this abstract desire for speed worth the time and effort, and even more important the human sacrifice? I seriously doubt it.

"News of the World," but not so new

Following Mohamed Ali's (Cassius Clay's) convincing if controversial win over challenger Ernie Terrell in a World Heavyweight title fight in February.

The News of the World carried a front page story quoting a Harley Street specialist to the effect that the champ had hypnotised his opponent before and during the fight.

All credit to them for a good "think piece." There is nothing like being topical. National Christian News readers read it all before, in July, 1965.