

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

6d.

July, 1967

Incorporating National Christian News

THIS MONTH WILL SEE THOUSANDS OF TEEN-AGERS LEAVING SCHOOL FOR THE WIDER WORLD OUTSIDE.

There are the lucky ones who will be cushioned against the full shock of this by University and other forms of further education.

Spare a thought, though, for those 15-year-olds who are leaving their secondary modern schools to go directly into the full grown-up pressures of factory, shop or office. How well prepared are they?

Few aware

Of course, many of them can't wait to get out of school — but few of them are aware of the problems which lie ahead of them.

FEW OF THEM ARE AS TOUGH AS THEY THINK THEY ARE.

All of them are still too young to have much of a clue of how to come to terms with the world of work, without losing the best things that they've got from their school-days.

Importance

The Newsome Report emphasised the importance of preparing these young people during their last year at school for the world they'd find outside.

It suggested that the three R's are not in themselves enough, and that there must be an imaginative preparation for the world beyond school. Sometimes the preparation is not imaginative enough.

Many schools do a wonderful job along these lines Others hardly bother at all. It's worth having a look at what line they take in your own local secondary school.

ARE THEY REALLY BRINGING TOGETHER THE TWO L's — LEARNING AND LIVING? CERTAINLY LEARNING BY ITSELF IS NOT ENOUGH.

They go this month from LEARNING



Photo: "Impact"

to LIVING



Photo: Cadbury Brothers Ltd.

See inside for an account of an interesting experiment that is taking place to help bridge this gap



By Peter Croft

Faith under Fire — Canon L. J. Collins — Leslie Frewin, 40/-.

Parson's Pitch — David Sheppard — Hodder and Stoughton, 5/-.

Cleaning up TV — Mary Whitehouse — Blandford Press, 7/6.

● I never held much of Christianity — I love a brief for Canon Collins before I read "Faith Under Fire" but this is a very honest and moving book that it's WELL worth getting out of your public library. His statement about his own position on peace and war on pages 270 following is very illuminating — and convincing. I find myself going along with him.

This is not just the diary of a firebrand but the thoughtful description of a Christian Humanist's grappling with the enormous moral problems of the day. Any man who fights in a minority is open to over emphasis and misunderstanding and criticism and a feeling of insecurity and goodness knows what else, and he has to be as tough as nails to survive. What a good thing Canon Collins has.

★ ★ ★

● David Sheppard is another sincere man but, oh, so much more conformist. "Parson's Pitch" is a jolly mixture of cricket and

cricket and there's bags of details about the Test matches in the 1950's and early sixties.

● The third book is by another writer against whom I react strongly and yet cannot fail to find impressive in her sincerity. Mary Whitehouse has been laughed at more than criticised, and her book "Cleaning up TV" has been defended by no less a person than Alf Garnet.

Whatever else may be said television has a much greater and more insidious impact on the mind than any other form of communication. Humanist and Christian alike ought to be concerned with truth and the building up of all that is best in the human personality. This is a plea for responsible people in television who have not only the intelligent but also the unintelligent viewer in mind. We may not agree with the method but the first thing is to agree about the aim.

LETTERS

Here are extracts from the many letters we have received on spiritualism.

DEAR SIR,

HOW REFRESHING IT WAS TO READ THE COMMENTS ON THE REV. GEORGE A. HUDSON ON SPIRITUALISM. HERE AT LAST IS A MAN THAT GOES TO THE INSPIRED SCRIPTURES FOR AN ANSWER; SURELY THIS IS THE CORRECT PROCEDURE FOR A MAN OF GOD...

J. MARTIN,

70, BRICKHOUSE ROAD,
SPRINGFIELD, NR. DUDLEY, WORCS.

Dear Sir,

Perhaps the Rev. George Hudson (May, 1967) has not lost by death someone very dear to him that he should grudge to others the comfort received in spiritualism....

Mrs. V. Sheppard,

12, Yew Tree Lane,
Solihull, Warwickshire.

DEAR SIR,

...MR. HUDSON SAYS A PRACTISING SPIRITUALIST IS INDULGING IN SIN, IN TRYING TO FIND WHAT IS BEYOND THIS LIFE, WHEN GOD SAID WE SHOULD NOT KNOW, UNTIL WE PASS FROM THIS CON- STRICTING PHYSICAL EXISTENCE: BUT WHAT HE DOES NOT SAY, IS THAT NOBODY WHO HAS FELT GOD'S PRESENCE CAN DENY THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A SPIRIT LIFE, AND THAT SOMETIMES WE DO SEE A DIMEN- SION BEYOND OUR HUMAN UNDERSTANDING.

M. K. CLARKE,

23, ERNEST ROAD,
BEDHAMPTON, HANTS.

Dear Sir,

...What of the world's greatest Spiritualist, Jesus of Nazareth? Born into a world of darkness and sin, who spent his tragically short material life on earth teaching a religion of love and tolerance and humility and above all the message of a new life for us all in his "Father's many mansions," when our material life on earth is ended...

...Surely it cannot be wrong for the Spiritualist to believe this message of comfort and to try to pass it on to all who are in need of it?...

...Therefore let no man condemn or attempt to take away another's beliefs, for to do this and leave him without is surely a sin....

C. J. A. GERARD,

8, Richards Close,
Nuthurst Road,
Birmingham, 31.

Getting food to the starving

Dear Sir,

A missionary in Bombay was quoted in the Catholic "Universe" as saying:

"The scandal regarding the food sent here for the hungry and starving has reached alarming proportions.

They now sell openly in the streets — still with the labels 'free gift for the starving Indian people.'

Letters are appearing in the Press, but too many influential people are involved."

About three weeks ago, the girls at the Ursuline Convents collected food for India. My daughter's Convent alone gave 1½ tons.

Whilst packing it, a workman gently chaffed a nun about it. He said no doubt the Indians were enjoying all this free food and doing well. The nun, of course, was shocked and told him how things were out there.

I only hope the food collected by the children in these Convents reached its destination.

Mrs. F. Sweet,

34, Crediton Road,
Canning Town,
London, E.16.

Requests for copies

Dear Sir,

As an ardent reader of your paper, I have circulated it to the members of the C.E.M.S. St. John's Church, Egremont, and have had many requests for copies. If you will send me another 12 copies each month I shall be pleased to distribute them. I particularly admire your frank articles on subjects such as mental illness, sex problems etc., which many church people ignore.

S. H. Frost,

6, Serpentine Road,
Wallasey,
Cheshire.

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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NATIONAL COLLEGE OF
HEALTH LTD.
Enquiry Department, N.S.
208, Great Clowes Street,
Broughton, Manchester 7.

At this church, singing goes to a barrel-organ

BY C. J. FRANCIS

WORSHIPPERS at the small parish church of King Charles the Martyr at Shelland, in Suffolk, have an unusual form of accompaniment for their hymn singing. Instead of the more orthodox means, the music is provided by an 18th Century barrel organ.

The organ is thought to be unique in that it's played regularly for services Sunday by Sunday. A modern small harmonium is used for each alternate hymn.

The instrument, which is sited on a platform beneath the church's tiny west window, stands 7ft. high, and has a set of miniature pipes.

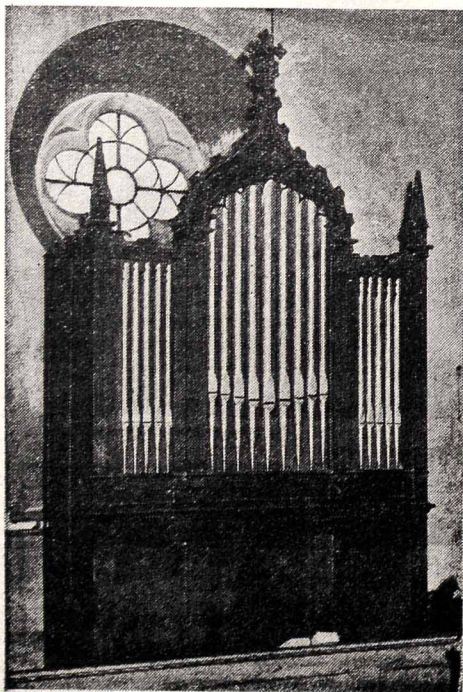
Built by Bryceson of Long Acre, it was completely restored 12 years ago. It has three interchangeable drums or cylinders, each bearing the pegs of 12 different tunes. The organ's handle turns the barrel and blows the bellows at the same time.

Hymn tunes, which include such favourites as St. Anne's and St. David's, vary slightly from the familiar standard versions found in Hymns Ancient and Modern.

Until recently, members of the local Armstrong family had turned the organ's handle for a total of 85 years.

"Christian News" welcomes your letters at:

319, GAZETTE BUILDINGS,
CORPORATION STREET,
BIRMINGHAM, 2



MR. ERNEST TROOP IS AN ENLIGHTENED MAN.

He is a secondary modern headmaster who recognises that the imparting of knowledge is, on its own, no preparation for life. He says of the children in his charge:

"My job is preparing them to live in the world."

HOW DOES HE DO THIS?

First of all by teaching them to be responsible members of a community. This starts with belonging to the school, but it breaks down into house and class.

"We have to find out," says Mr. Troop, "What belonging to a community means. It soon becomes apparent that the big group is always split up into smaller groups, and we have to learn how to fit into each of the groups to which we belong. At school we learn to fit into a number of societies and clubs, and we come to see that the world of work is just a new society, to be understood and adjusted to. After all, a firm is only another group of people."

But the firm is a more complicated community than the school community, and it needs more understanding. So, too, does the world of leisure outside school, where the wage-pocket is a key that opens up all sorts of possibilities—not always good ones—denied to the schoolboy or schoolgirl still dependent upon pocket money from their parents. The life of work and the life of leisure have to be prepared for, and this is the main aim of the last year at school.

But, however good the school organisation may be, it is limited in what it can do. There is the need for something beyond the school walls to provide a vital link in the chain of preparation for adult life, and various experiments are going on up and down the country to find the best means of providing this link.

Nechells Park Secondary Modern, which is Mr. Troop's school, has been involved with other Birmingham schools in an experiment based on a full-time residential course of five days to develop and expand many of the themes pursued at school.

Supported

These courses were started and organised by a Joint Committee consisting in the main of the Youth Department of the Birmingham Council of Churches, the Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs and the National Federation of Boys' Clubs, and are now supported by the Local Education Authority.

"We get a very good cross-section of the children going, and the numbers would be much higher if it wasn't for home ties of one sort or another and part-time jobs. The children pay a minimum of £1 towards the cost. In the early days the rest of the expenditure was borne by the voluntary bodies that formed the Joint School Leavers' Committee, but there was a limit to what they could do, and now the Education Committee is taking on more of the burden. The money still isn't enough to provide all the courses that Head Teachers have asked for, but we live in hopes of increased grants."

Careful thought

The courses take place in the country—we call them our Country Club Weeks—and very careful thought is given by the staff here at school and the members of the School Leavers' Committee to the contents of each course. We try to include all sorts of subjects which will give the school approach from a different angle, and we know that the youngsters will be introduced to all sorts of Club activities which they could not have at school.

The subjects of the talks and discussions include such things as trades unions, delinquency, the police, time and how to use it, choosing a holiday, buying

A sensible use of the last year at school

clothes, planning a budget, how to save and is it worth it? sex and personal relationships, marriage, the family, different religions and usually there is a visit to a place of interest such as a farm or factory or club.

The activities range from canoeing and archery to horse riding and folk singing, with staging a formal dinner, complete with wine and speeches, thrown in for good measure.

These are the measurable ingredients of the five days, but many of the advantages are hard to pin down.

Perhaps the most important thing," says Mr. Troop, "is the fact that the school leavers taking part in the course are thrown together for the whole of twenty-four hours, and not just the school hours of nine to four; and they mix with adults—their teachers, the training officers and speakers—on a quite different level from that which they're usually used to."

It's one thing for the headmaster to see the importance of all this, but what about the youngsters involved?

Claudette Brotherson came from Antigua in the West Indies to England when she was eight. She is now fifteen and recently went on a Country Club Weekend—the only coloured girl in the party—and enjoyed it so much that her enthusiasm is as obvious as Mr. Troop's.

"It was great not being organised all the time—you had a lot of freedom and you could talk a lot. We had a lot of fun. I did horse riding and canoeing which I'd never done before, and everyone enjoyed what they did. You got to know everyone well and no one got left out. Some people said that they wished they could have stayed there for ever. I suppose it was being in the countryside and doing things together that made it so good. The talks were interesting too."

The fear of course is that when Claudette and her friends return to their city world a lot of the things they were first introduced to on the course, and enjoyed, will not find a place in their leisure lives. Why? Because, as Claudette put it:



A group relaxes at one of the courses.

Preparation for life and leisure

"It's all right when you're all doing something together, but if you were to go to the community centre and suggested a canoe club or something they'd all think it a drag."

Full of ideas

But you never know what the long term effect of these courses will be. There's no doubt that the young-

sters come back full of ideas, and with a new desire to do something positive about living.

"They learn to be a full member of a group taking a full part in the group's activity—and that's not a bad preparation for life or leisure." This is Mr. Troop's summing up of the course, and the majority of the boys and girls from over a dozen schools which have taken part in similar courses would agree with him.

ONE DAY, PERHAPS, SUCH COURSES WILL BECOME AN ACCEPTED PART OF THE FINAL YEAR AT A SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL. CERTAINLY AN ENLIGHTENED ATTITUDE WITHIN THE SCHOOL COUPLED WITH THE IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES OPENED UP BY THESE COURSES, WILL TOGETHER HELP TODAY'S TEEN-AGER TO STEP MORE CONFIDENTLY OVER THE THRESHOLD INTO ADULT LIFE.

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A gleam of gold-1

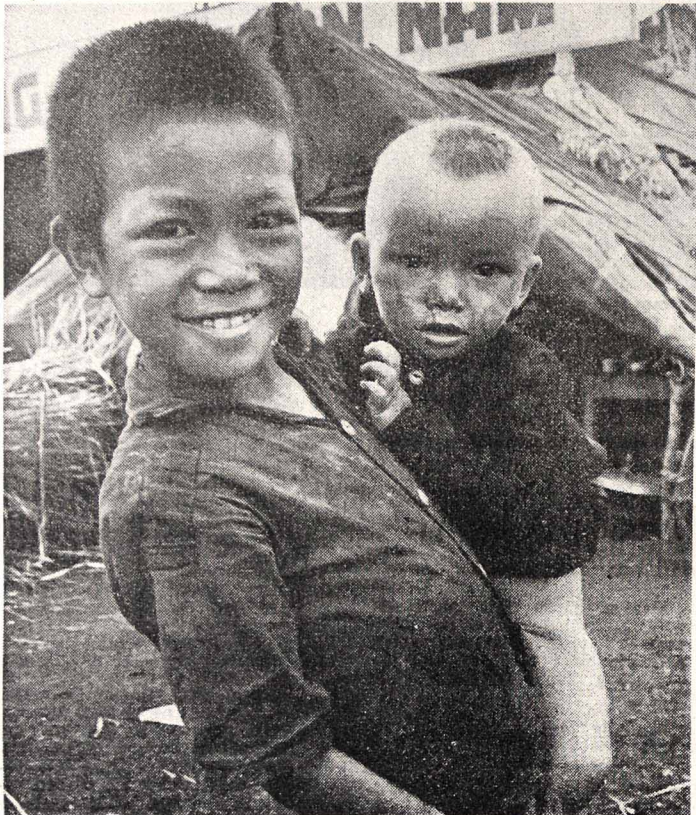


Photo by courtesy of the "Derbyshire Times"

Homes for war orphans —offers pour in after vicar's appeal

ONLY A WEEK AFTER ANNOUNCING HIS PLANS TO BRING VIETNAM WAR ORPHANS TO BRITAIN, REV. BRIAN WALSH, VICAR OF ST. AUGUSTIN'S CHURCH, CHESTERFIELD, HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR RECEIVED NEARLY 70 OFFERS TO ADOPT THE CHILDREN.

The offers have come from all walks of life: from company directors, schoolteachers, miners and factory workers.

Mr. Walshe, who is 38, stated that he was astounded and impressed by the generosity of the public. "Children are the main casualties of the war and there are vast numbers needing homes," he said. "We want to bring them here to be adopted or fostered, and, in some cases, to have medical treatment. It will cost nearly £200 to bring each child over."

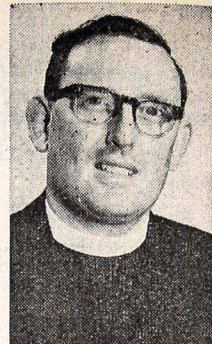
ADVICE

This Project Vietnam has the backing of the

South Vietnamese Ambassador, who has set up a committee in Saigon to control the scheme. Advice and assistance is also being given by the Foreign Office.

Mr. Walshe and his parish began by adopting Ha-Than, a South Vietnamese village of 47 families. Now there are five other churches in this side of the scheme and another village, Lai-An, with 1,500 families, has been adopted.

Together the parishes plan to provide both villages with medical aid, food, fertilisers, building materials and clothing. A new school in Ha-Than is to be built from the scheme. The plan of this school has been sent to Vietnam.



The Rev. Brian Walshe.
—by courtesy of Michael Platt, Chesterfield.

Mr. Walshe, whose church members quickly set about raising the £1,000 needed to build it.

A VISIT

Sparing no effort the enterprising Vicar behind it all has even arranged to pay a personal visit to the two Vietnam villages, and to visit refugee camps. He explained, "We want other churches and organisations to join us."

"By raising the standard of living in Vietnam we can make a big contribution towards peace. There is nothing political about this campaign. We are not taking sides and we are equally anxious to help the people of North Vietnam."

A gleam of gold-2

Lost your faith in human nature? Think again. In the flood of black and white newsprint poured out by the Press over the past months it has been possible to discern a gleam of gold.

A St. John Ambulance Cadet, aged 12, gave first aid to a boy injured in a road accident and by her coolness and prompt action helped to save his life.

A policeman gave away a bike. Two boys were fined for riding on one machine. Then the kindly P.C. discovered that one of the culprits had no bicycle of his own. So he produced an unwanted machine from his shed at home and gave it to the delighted boy.

In the busy thoroughfare of a Midland town traffic was at its height. A huge lorry drew to a halt signalling to following and oncoming traffic to do likewise. For a few moments all was at a standstill — while a small girl stepped safely into the middle of the road to retrieve her hat which had

blown there.

And there was the small boy who rescued his pal from drowning in the canal — and forgot to tell his parents what he had done.

Talking of small boys, a pair of Cubs were doing "Bob - a - job." A housewife, too busy to bother with them, signed falsely to the effect that they had swept her path, and gave them the money. Later she was surprised when the boys returned with a bunch of wild flowers. They said they were not allowed to accept the money without doing something for it.

Then we heard of a girl of 15 giving her first wage packet to her Church's Restoration Fund. And of an O.A.P. who sent ten shillings to help the bird victims of the Torrey Canyon's oil.

A 19-year-old youth was paralysed from the waist down following a road accident. His parents were told by their doctor that, with his wheel chair, a specially fitted room was necessary. But being one of a row of council houses there was no space to build. The young couple next door lived in the end house, so they offered to swap homes as an extra room could be added to the end house.

A stream of London traffic was held up by a crocodile of small schoolboys crossing the road. The impatience of the drivers turned to surprised delight when each boy in passing turned and raised his cap in acknowledgment.

A railway worker fell ill and was badly in need of a kidney machine. His workmates put their heads together and found that if they all had a

small amount deducted from their weekly wage packet over a period of time they could raise the money for a machine. Soon railway workers in other departments followed suit. Not just one kindly workmate — hundreds.

JUST A FEW ITEMS CHOSEN AT RANDOM. BUT HAVE YOU NOTICED? SEVERAL OF THE STORIES CONCERN OUR MUCH-MALIGNED YOUNG PEOPLE. SEE WHAT I MEAN ABOUT A GLEAM OF GOLD?

By Marion Holden

More than 1,000 young people arriving at the end of a 25-mile "Trek for a Tractor." This sponsored walk raised nearly £1,000 for Oxfam.



CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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MARY CLIFT

A sermon preached in Caversham Parish Church on Sunday, May 28:

"In the Lord put I my trust" (Psalm 11 v1).

Some of us may be tempted at this time to ask the wrong question—to ask, "Why did Mary Clift have to die in child birth?" But if we stop and think we shall realise that it is the wrong question, just as the disciples, when we read St. John's Gospel, Chapter 9, were found asking our Lord the wrong question about the man born blind. Jesus said that the reason was that the works of God might be displayed.

But how can we see God at work, or the glory of God in Mary's death? I must be honest and say "I don't fully know." Our trouble, particularly perhaps when we are young, is that we like snap answers to our questions. Jesus was often asked the sort of question that His questioner hoped would produce a straightforward reply, but he never gave answers of that kind. The Psalmist reminds us that for God 1,000 years are but as one day. And as we grow older and look back over the years we see a meaning in events which at the time quite baffled us. The historian learns to see a pattern and purpose in history; we, as we grow older, see it in our lives or the lives of those we love. But the Devil likes to play upon our impatience.

St. Paul tells us "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God." A hard saying but it's true. A hard saying but we must apply it to ourselves—not only to ourselves but to David Clift and Joanna. How, you may ask, can there be any good or any value in Mary's death? Even if I were to suggest any answers they would almost certainly in the course of time turn out to be the wrong answers. I will only say that one thing you could feel in Arley last Friday was the way in which the people of Arley were taking their new vicar to their heart.

Suffering is a mystery: yet remove it and mankind loses something, which, though we never choose it to happen, would rob us of the heroic. Sir Francis Chichester was no doubt spurred on to his great adventure because the medical evidence suggested that he ought to be dying of lung cancer. Some give in and go bitter as a result of suffering. But there is a nobler way, and that is the way of fighting through to something better. And never forget that if you or I had had the making of the arrangements for Good Friday we would certainly have seen to it that the one person not at the foot of the Cross was the mother of the Person on the Cross. Yet our Lord chose that His mother should be there. Think that one out. The most unhappy person in Arley Vicarage as we went back to tea there on Friday was not, it seemed, Mary's husband, who had put in the papers with the announcement of her death that sentence of the psalmist "In the Lord put I my trust."

Mary is a gay person. She does not want us to be miserable for her. We were told at the funeral service on Friday that we had come to Arley to celebrate a death and that only a Christian could do this. That is what we do every Sunday in the Eucharist which is the centre of our worship. We celebrate Christ's death. And we can celebrate a human death because like Christ's, and because of Christ's death, it is only the beginning, a necessary stage in our development to a fuller life.

Of course there is a natural sorrow. Do not let us pretend otherwise, but perhaps it is largely made up of self-pity. And of course we are not to go looking for death. But when it comes to one we love, as we all love Mary, let us thank God for the life of a Christian. To do otherwise, to feel bitter is really only to bring curses upon ourselves. Nothing is achieved by being bitter, by trying as it were to blame God—nothing except our own damnation. There is nothing positive in despair.

Mary's body had been cremated before we reached Arley. Her ashes were on a stool in front of the altar. We sang an Easter hymn (the same one with which we will end our worship this morning), and we filed outside, and there just by the east wall of the church, in a country churchyard, overlooking the banks not of the Thames but of the Severn, we left her ashes. But we did not leave Mary. She is as much with us this morning at this Eucharist as she has ever been.

David Clift said: "In the Lord put I my trust." Who among us this morning will cheat Mary by refusing to say the same—"In the Lord put I my trust."

John Grimwade

"Any man's death diminishes me"

ALL OF US, when we heard of the tragic death of Mary Clift, felt a deep sense of personal loss which seemed almost out of proportion—until one remembers how much we meant to Mary. People mattered intensely to her. Not for Mary the sweet but superficial approach to those she met; she paid us all, however casual our acquaintance, the supreme compliment of taking us seriously. She might criticise, she might condemn, she would never ignore. She taught us that love does not mean lack of criticism—it means caring. And that she did in full measure. She was so

much part of the world in which she lived that it is scarcely surprising we find it difficult to think of a world without her.

It was always a joy to spend a while in her company. Her bubbling charm overlaid a deep seriousness and sincerity. She was guaranteed to restore a sense of humour and enthusiasm for life. Those of us who worked with her on the "Bridge" have every reason to be grateful for her own enthusiasm. Her criticism was always constructive, aimed at continual improvement of the publication, a matter very close to her heart.

Most of all, she will be remembered as a wife and mother, and it is impossible to think of her without pouring out our deepest sympathy with David and Joanna. They will miss her sadly, but we hope they will never forget how much she meant to us all. As she loved us, so we loved her.

I would like to finish with the words of a friend who cared for her very much, "We have loved her, we have lost her, but all our lives have been enriched through knowing her and for that privilege we are grateful."

W.D.



Picture: Fred Walker

MARY CLIFT was both a member of the Church of England, and a curate's wife; but to say this does not adequately convey the qualities she brought to Caversham, or the place she will keep in the hearts of her friends. She had a lively and informed mind of her own; a vital and delightful personality, a great sense of humour, and an enormous sympathy with and interest in people of every sort. She held strong views on many topics, and did not hesitate to utter them when she thought it right. She made many friends, and even those who did not know her well realised the warmth of her personality.

She had the faith and open group, the playgroups courage that so many of us lack to question the validity of some long-held attitudes in the Church, and she was deeply concerned that traditional methods and beliefs should be made relevant in our secular world today. She was pleased to join in starting St. Peter's Wives as an

in Balmore Hall, the ecumenical Caversham Bridge, the Parish Family Holiday, since she felt the church's social role in the community to be vital, that its concern should be with the whole community as much as with itself, and that only through organisations such as these could it begin to serve the community as it should. In a society where it is all too easy to feel "it's nothing to do with me," and to ignore the plight of the lonely young mother, the divorced, the person on the edge of a breakdown, Mary was someone who cared, felt it to be her concern, and did what she could to help.

But she was not in the least a "churchy" person. She had wide and varied interests, concerned particularly perhaps with problems of the young wife and mother since this was what she was; and she took a keen interest in the National Childbirth Trust, the Consumer Association, the Family Planning Association; and with her intelligent, articulate and often humorous comments on the relevant issues she helped others to see their relevance too.

Her death came as an overwhelming shock and grief, and the memory of her will be with her friends always. But it was right that the service for her on June 14 was one of thanksgiving for her life, four rewarding years of which she spent amongst us.

AS ONE of a different religious persuasion I consider it a privilege, albeit an extremely sad one, to have been invited to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mary Clift.

I came to know Mary not only through our work for the "Caversham Bridge" but also as a near neighbour often to be seen with her "smashing" little daughter, Joanna. There were many attributes in her personality which appealed to me and of these her vivacity and forthrightness stand out. Mary was always full of life and bubbling over with ideas but above all to her "a spade was a spade." Whilst one could not always agree with her, one had to acknowledge and admire the courage with which she presented her case. I often suspected that she derived an impish delight as her ideas were torn apart by those of equally strong but opposing views.

I am sure that I speak for those of the Baptist Church who were privileged to know her when I say that her passing in such tragic circumstances was a severe shock. I am equally sure that they join with me in extending Christian love and sympathy to her husband and baby daughter. We pray that David will be uplifted as he grapples with his personal problems in addition to those imposed upon him by his new task.

J.P.

B.V.



Picture: Walton Adams

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

A presentation was made recently to Mr. Alan Compton in recognition of the work he has done as chairman of the Reading Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. A well-known resident of Kelmscott Close, Mr. Compton and his wife have been actively associated with this work for a number of years. Our photograph shows Mrs. Compton, Mrs. J. Mullins, and Miss Iris Thompson, who made the presentation and Mr. Compton.

GOLDEN NEEDLE LEAGUE

A bring-and-buy sale is being held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Freeborn, 55, Priest Hill at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4 in aid of the Caversham branch of the Golden Needle League. Members of the league make and knit clothes for the children of St. Benet and St. Andrew Homes of the Church of England Children's Society.

EARLY BIRD

The 3rd Reading (St. Peter's) Scout Group have just produced the first number of the Group magazine, called Early Bird. It is hoped by means of this publication to keep parents and other supporters of the group aware of the coming changes in the structure of the Scout Movement as well as supplying information about the Group itself.

"Early Bird" certainly shows that Scouting is not just

a one night in the week activity — at any rate not for St. Peter's Group. July sees the Cub Scouts having an open day at Gilwell Park and two members of the group flying to Spokane, Washington, for the World Scout Jamboree. The Troop summer camp this year is on Exmoor.

There are 36 boys in the Cub pack, and although there have been nine investitures since Christmas there is still a waiting list. Like some well-known London clubs, it seems you have to get your parent to put your name down at birth if you want to be a member of St. Peter's Scouts.

ART EXHIBITION

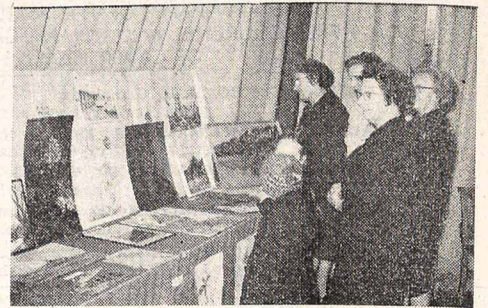
By Custos

Better results for Christian Aid

The growing support for Christian Aid Week in Reading was reflected in a more generous support in Caversham where the result of the house-to-house collection which in 1966 only produced £296 rose this year to £467. But this is still far from the figure which we ought to reach.

Many thanks to Miss Ruth Redmayne who organised the collection in Caversham. It was for the first time a genuine ecumenical event in which the congregations of all the Churches played their part.

The Rev. John Crowe who joins the staff of Caversham Parish in September had a busy Christian Aid week in his present parish of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. He organised a walk in which 1,600 people took part and £2,000 was raised.



Picture: Fred Walker

WE FELT we ought to follow up the Christian Aid film we'd just seen in some way, but how? Here was a chance for Christians of three different denominations to work together, and we ought not to neglect it.

"Let's have an art exhibition," said one, half-jokingly. "Why not?" said someone else, grabbing paper and pencil. Ideas flowed, were jotted down and the whole project began to take shape. The art exhibition was "on."

But how many times between that day, just before Christmas, and May 19, did the originator of the idea wish she'd never made it? What sort of response would we get? Three? 30? or 300?

369 ENTRIES

Publicity got under way, an adjudicator was found, arrangements for collecting and exhibiting pictures were made, and May 1 came. Slowly at first, then with a great rush, the entries came in. All sizes, shapes, subjects and materials from people of all ages from three to 70. The 369 entries were judged, and then "hung."

Three o'clock on May 19 came: Helpers were ready, but the rain poured down. Nevertheless, over 200 people came to see the exhibition and £16 profit was made for Christian Aid.

THANKS

We are grateful to all those who helped: to the Caversham schools for encouraging their pupils to enter the competition; to the ladies of the Methodist Church for providing cups of tea and slices of cake, and for collecting the entrance money; to the Methodist Church for the use of their hall; to the Marian Group for providing the stewards; to Dr. Villazon, of the Reading Art Gallery, for judging the entries; to the Museum for loaning display screens; to Mr. Fuller for collecting and transporting them; to those who donated the prizes; to those who arranged the pictures for exhibition.

PRIZEWINNERS

We congratulate the following prizewinners:

Class A (under 5): 1st Prize: Barbara Toole; 2nd Prize: Elaine Kings.

Class B (5-8): 1st Prize: Joanna Forward; 2nd Prize: Carlo Ciarlegio; Commended: Wendy Davison, Teresa Kearey, David Kerr, Susan Osbourn.

Class C (8-12): 1st Prize: Mark Burgess; 2nd Prize: Kevin Carter; Commended: Rosalind Dawson, Catherine McGill, Kathryn Newak, Nicholas Sarson, Sean Wallace, Stephen Whittingham.

Class D (12-16): 1st Prize: Mary Dighton; 2nd Prize: Richard Cooper.

Class E (over 16): 1st Prize: Miss Falconer; Commended: Miss Falconer (2), Mrs. Kings, Mrs. Milne.

TOC 'H' BOYS' HOLIDAY

Some twenty fresh youthful faces will be much in evidence in the Toc "H" environment from July 27 till August this year. Boys of deprived circumstances who would not otherwise have a holiday will be converging upon Caversham from other parts of the country to spend a week's holiday as the guests of Toc H. Come they will, from the tenements of London's riverside Borough of Lambeth; from Bristol's cramped Kings-down quarter; from Cardiff's dockland, the Ports-mouth area; and not the least of the worthy cases, two young survivors of the Aberfan disaster.

The boys, who are aged between 10 and 14 years, will be housed at the Toc H Centre which is to be suitably equipped for this purpose. Members of Toc H and a number of other gallant volunteers will assist with the supervision and catering.

An exciting programme is being arranged, with excursions to the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court, London Airport, Southampton Docks, a day at the seaside and a combined ramble and river trip on the Thames. Proceeds from the annual Toc H Jumble Sale, also donations from local sources have made this project a feature of Toc H in recent years. This is the first time that the local Headquarters have been selected as the holiday centre. The venue in the past has been centred at North Wales or the Isle of Wight, and this is the fifth year the Reading and Caversham branch has played a leading role in this venture.

Toxaemia risks

Our medical correspondent writes:

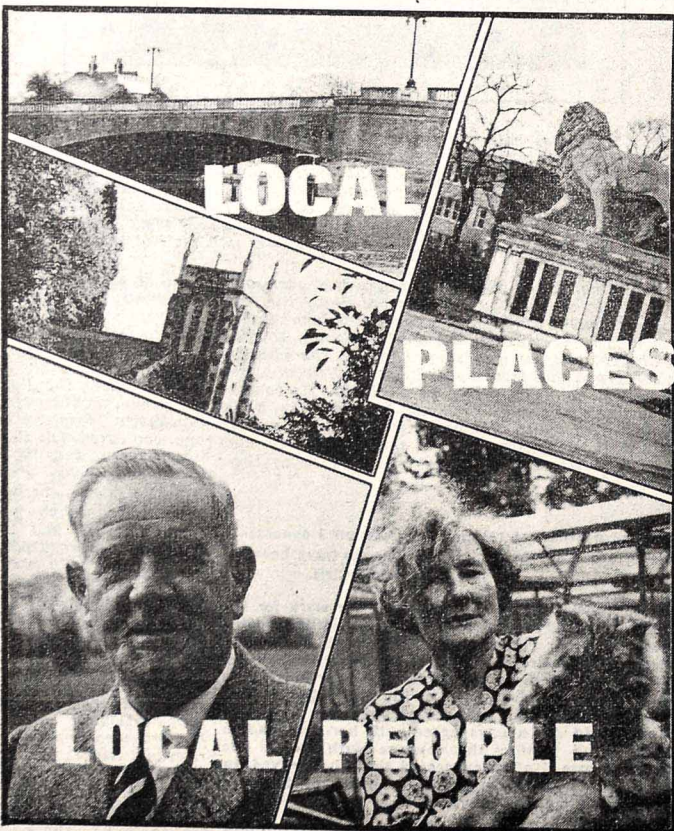
The recent death of a young mother in childbirth who was well known and loved in Caversham, came as a great shock. It is such a rare occurrence now. In 1940 the maternal mortality rate was 2.2 per THOUSAND births. In 1960 the figure was down to 0.3. Twenty per cent. of these were due to Toxaemia.

CAUSE

The cause of this illness is still not completely understood. Raised blood pressure and excessive gain in weight are two important signs which doctors look for at ante-natal examinations. The majority of cases are mild and respond to treatment. If this is not successful labour is induced, and after the birth of the baby the mother usually makes a rapid recovery. It is only in about 1 in 1,000 cases of toxaemia that a sudden exacerbation, or added complication, causes a fatality. But statistics provide little compensation for the loss of one precious life.

SUPERVISION

In the meantime it is important for expectant mothers to be under careful and regular supervision by their doctors, and we must hope that, before long, the cause of toxaemia will be discovered and that then it can be prevented.



LOCAL PAPER

order today's

EVENING POST

MICE OR MEN?

By John Stevenson

Is the average Christian congregation outstandingly creative? Does membership of the Church release unexpected creative powers in its members? Are they notable for their use of initiative, their readiness to accept responsibility in everyday life, for their pursuit of truth, their openness to new ideas? Are they known for their readiness to take an independent line, to cut across conventions? When a person joins the Church what changes, if any, can one expect to see in his life? And what is the quality of fellowship he will experience in the Christian Church? Will it be different, better or worse, than the average club? If he is an outsider, a bit of a reject from society, on account of his colour, lack of money, culture, morals, self-confidence, or nervous strains, will he fare any better in the Church? Will he find welcome or healing within the Christian fellowship?

Of course, every congregation is different, but taking England as a whole, can one honestly give anything but a pretty negative answer to these questions? All too commonly, the Church, instead of helping members to grow "to mature manhood, measured by nothing less than the full stature of Christ," keeps them in perpetual immaturity. It is

seen so often as fighting a rearguard action in defence of yesterday, against tomorrow. People who carry great responsibilities, and make full use of their initiative outside, somehow lose these qualities as soon as they step within the Church.

This is extraordinary. For we believe that to the members of the Church has been given in a unique way the Creator Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, who gave Himself for His enemies, the friend of outcasts, the healer of the broken, the breaker of conventions; we believe that the members of the Church have been given the Spirit of truth in order to lead them into all truth. It is therefore in the Church above all else one would expect to find the springs of life. If therefore, one cannot confidently answer the opening questions positively then something serious must be wrong. Either our belief is mistaken, or else the way the Church is functioning is inhibiting the Spirit in some way or another.

There is sufficient evidence in the Bible and history, at different periods, places, and in different classes of people to show what the Creator Spirit can do through men to make us look for the barriers that may be inhibiting the Spirit, and to explore ways that may remove these barriers. There appear to be three points which could be profitably explored, and are in

the reach of any congregation.

First, Christ taught that it was essential that He should withdraw His physical presence if the disciples were to enter the more mature and independent relationship with the Spirit. But we, clergy, very commonly endeavour to fill the gap He left with ourselves, making the lay people enter a dependent relationship with us, rather than a much freer relationship with the Spirit. Instead of training them in mature inter-dependence on the horizontal level, and dependence and openness to the Spirit in the vertical, we ensure their lines of communication end with us. Decisions, initiative, creative thinking and acting — that is the job of the clergy.

Second, a common situation in which people have become most aware of the inspiration of the Spirit is in working together in Christ's mission. It is in active service that they have discovered God working in and through them. But one can hardly speak of the average congregation, and the average member of the Christian Church being on active service. They are normally individualistic, inactive or active about the wrong things. Small wonder then that they have little sense of the Spirit, who was given to equip them for mission.

Thirdly, where the Spirit has been frequently experienced is in groups of people meeting together, searching for a deeper understanding of the truth. This, not as a matter of idle curiosity, but being deeply and seriously committed to the search, cost what it may, so that they may act upon it and share it with others. Here too, they have discovered the Spirit of truth leading them.

TROLLEY-BUSES & MUSIC

People have been known to collect some strange things, but surely none odder than trolley-buses — the new choir-master at St. Barnabas already has two and is planning to acquire yet another.

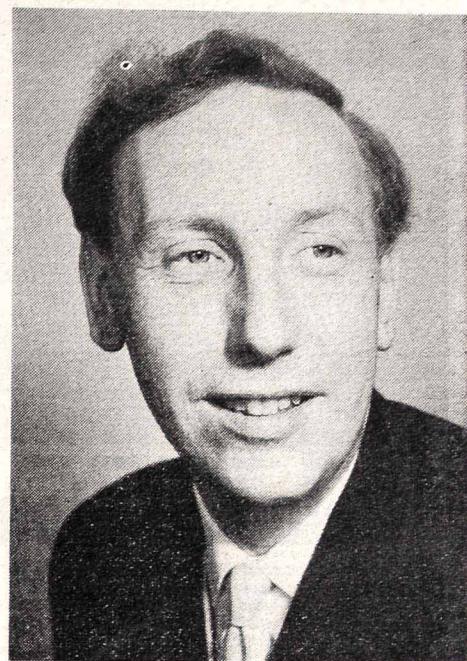
Michael Dare, deputy headmaster at Moorlands Primary School, took over as organist and choir-master at St. Barnabas early this year, after many years with the St. Peter's choir. One of the first things he did was to hold a competition to choose a head boy—Zorin Novakovic; this is a feature new to St. Barnabas, and Michael finds it of great help in welding together the members of the choir.

TRANSPORT

His other interest is, of course, transport, so it is not surprising that it was Michael who, in 1961, founded the Reading Transport Society, which now numbers 200 members. Apart from actually purchasing, stripping down and refitting trolleybuses, Michael has also bought a disused Methodist Chapel in Belton Yorks., to be used as a museum. It is here that his latest acquisition, No. 172 will find a home in September, when it will be put on permanent display.

TOURS

There are several similar transport societies through-



Picture: Fred Walker

out the country, and it is hoped eventually to buy a large piece of ground and fit overhead wires, so that all the organisations may use it. In the meantime, 'Bridge' readers may be interested to know that membership costs only £1 a year for adults and 7s. 6d. for schoolchildren and those over 60. It is not necessary to own a trolley-bus, because rides can be taken at greatly reduced rates on tours organised by the Reading Society. All members receive a monthly magazine with full details

INVOLVED

Michael's mother will be well-known to many people in Caversham as the owner of the Heights Nursery School, which she has been running since 1945. But it is not surprising that both his parents find themselves very much involved in his hobby. Highly involved too are his pupils at Moorlands where he finds his hobby of great interest in teaching his pupils the geography of the country. At the moment they are busy trying to compose a game, similar to snakes and ladders but concerning the activities of trolleybuses.

BUS DRIVER

At week-ends, Michael drives for the Chiltern Queens Bus Service, so one way and another, he is becoming very well-known in the district. We wish him well, both in his career and his hobbies and look forward to hearing more of his activities in the future.

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

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MARY CLIFT

Dear Sir,

There must be many people in Caversham who wish to pay some tribute to Mary Clift but I should be grateful if you could find space for some mention of her work for the National Childbirth Trust of which few could have been aware.

In an informal way she gave us valuable advice about publicity from her expert knowledge and it seems fitting that this movement, dedicated as it is to the well-being of expectant mothers, should acknowledge its debt to her.

In addition to this we should like to offer our tenderest sympathy to David and Joanna.

Mary will always be remembered for her gaiety, keen intelligence and her loving and self-giving nature.

Speaking purely personally, it seems that though her life was short in human terms it had a Christian completeness.

In spite of the overwhelming grief one felt at her death there remains an inspiration which we shall never forget.

Doreen Hollingum,

Chairman Reading and District Branch of the National Childbirth Trust,
35, Oakley Road,
Caversham.

CAVERSHAM COURT

Dear Sir,

I was most interested in your article concerning the gazebo in Caversham Court and the photograph brought back to me many happy memories of my younger days. During the years of the First World War, and I believe a little earlier, Caversham Court was occupied by Lady Moseley. Lady Moseley used the two cottages at Buck Side as a convalescent home and I spent several periods at this home. There was a walk from these cottages into the grounds of Caversham Court and the "gazebo" was at the further end and had the appearance of a little house standing on a bridge and through which one could walk. On the first floor was the room which Lady Moseley (being a spiritualist) called her "sanctuary" and in which she spent a quiet time every day. The "sanctuary" was then in a splendid condition and a thing of beauty. I have no doubt it would be well worth restoring, even if only to serve as a reminder of the previous beauties of Caversham Court and its grounds.

(Mrs.) G. Dauncey
20, Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green.
(The Editor regrets that the article on the gazebo did not state that it was written by Miss I. V. M. Williams).

CAVERSHAM

Dear Sir,

Your editorial comment in

POSTBAG

June's "Caversham Bridge" is illustrative of a widely held idea in Caversham and probably accounts for the opinion expressed in the Caversham survey in favour of development of the central Caversham shopping area. The feeling is that it would be very convenient to have here in Caversham a W. H. Smith's, Boots, Woolworth's, etc., and it is then concluded that this is what the proposed shopping precinct will be.

Unless these multiple firms change their policy they do not open new shops in an area under a mile from a main shopping area. That is why it is no good comparing Caversham to Cowley or even Tilehurst.

What the editor prefers to call the "centre" of Caversham is not in fact, geographically the centre, but right on the southern edge, so perhaps when we refer to the "village" it is more a matter of convenience than advancing years, as is calling Reading shopping centre "the town."

There is no doubt that the "centre" of Caversham does require development but not with 20 lock-up shops with the attendant traffic congestion. We are very well supplied with daily need shops there as it is, five more are being built and there are a number of empty ones. One can think of various developments that would increase the community sense which if not strong, is more apparent than in most

suburbs. A welfare clinic, adult centre meeting place, boating centre, spring to the mind, and if the "freeze" means we must wait for these, then we should have waited instead of selling off land to a development company only interested in immediate profits.

The Residents' Association, of which I am a member, wants to hear people's views not only on this particular development but on all matters important to residents in this area, whether it be the colour of St. Barnabas' Hall roof, the wiring up of footpaths in the nearby beech woods, the future of the gazebo, traffic problems, the provision of primary schools or any of the other matters of importance to all or some of Caversham's residents.

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

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Welcome Home . . .

By the time you read this, the inhabitants of the almshouses in Westfield Road will, we hope, be back home again. But what a difference — it hardly seems possible, and the builders are to be congratulated on what seemed the almost impossible task of making the building not only habitable, but comfortable.

Gone are the old oil lamps and gas burners, gone are the outside toilets, the dangerous steps, shaky banisters, the cold taps which froze regularly every winter and leaked most of the summer. Now the apartments are beautifully fitted with baths, hot water tanks, overhead electric fires and pleasing tiled fireplaces.

Each of the four central flats will consist of a bedsitting room, bathroom and kitchen, while the two outside double apartments will contain both a sitting room and a bedroom. Coalbunkers are situated outside on a pleasant terrace, and what stairs there are have nice firm banisters.

It is hoped to appoint a welfare officer who will be responsible for routine visits to ensure that all is well, that housework and shopping is being attended to, and to discover any new needs. All the same, we hope people will continue to visit the old ladies as they have in the past. It will be far easier now; visitors will no longer have to fumble their way along corridors with the aid of a torch or sit in cold damp rooms or cope, in times of illness, with appalling conditions.

We would like to extend a very sincere 'welcome home' to the old inhabitants, and a message of good wishes to the newcomers, and to assure them that the readers of the 'Bridge' have their interests at heart as much as ever.

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CAVERSHAM PEOPLE DIG FOR HISTORY

Among the people excavating on Langdon Hill, near Ashton Upthorpe on the Downs were several from Caversham. What is more, these Cavershamites found something.

As the site is on isolated private shooting land, atop a steep hill, it was only recently discovered and soon after bulldozed. No other similar site exists on the Downs, so P. H. Cramton, local author of "The Pre-historic Ridgeway. A Journey" and of "Stonehenge and the Kings" resolved to excavate, and this has been done during the last few week-ends.

Within an hour of the first spade work tiny sherds turned up and five hours later we reached the chalk bedrock. During the next three weeks we found more sherds, fragments of black pot, a sheep's(?) skull and various other animal bones, a piece of iron ore, a piece of sarsen, two post holes and two ditches which formed a funnel shaped opening leading to an enclosure behind.

While excavating one trench, we disturbed a mole's nest, but fortunately the adults removed the young and burrowed into the side of our trench.

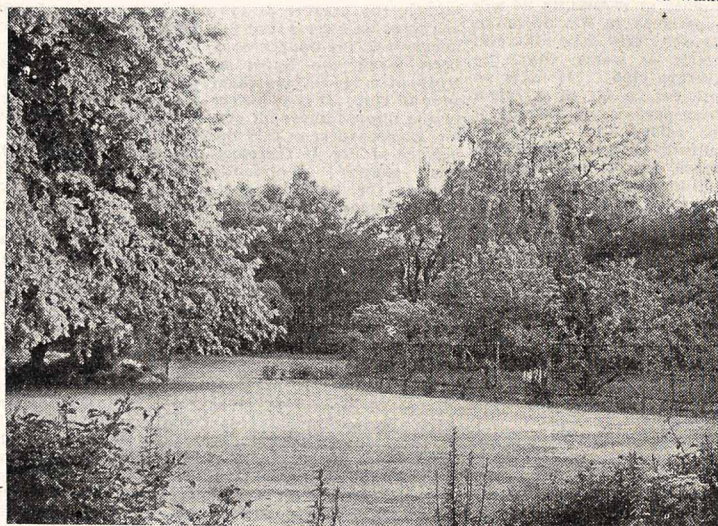
The evidence suggests that this was an "Iron Age C" cattle enclosure—date about 50 B.C. or later. All the finds are now at Reading Museum and the "dig" will be reported in the Berkshire Archaeological Journal.

G. K. THOMAS

WHERE IS THIS GARDEN?

How many of our readers have seen this beautiful garden in Caversham? It was open to the public on June 4 in aid of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. If you want to know where it is, turn to page 7

Pictures: Fred Walker



Baptism — a parent's view

MORAL WELFARE WORK GROWING

The work of the Reading and Bradfield Moral Welfare Association continues to grow. Miss Lambert, the full time case worker died in 1966 with 265 old and new cases, and it has now been necessary to appoint Mrs. Bradfield, a member of St. Peter's congregation, as a part-time assistant.

There are many practical ways in which Caversham Bridge readers can help this work; if you feel able to assist in any of the ways mentioned below contact Miss L. Lambert at 48, Bath Road or Mrs. J. Bradfield at 6, Berrylands Road:

- (i) Homes are needed for girls either before confinement or with their babies. Often a girl longs to keep her baby but has nowhere to live.
- (ii) Foster mothers are urgently needed who will take in a very young baby for six or eight weeks or so until it can be adopted.
- (iii) Gifts of babies clothing, nappies and maternity clothing are welcome.
- (iv) Carrycots and prams are frequently needed, either for foster mothers or for girls trying to keep their babies.
- (v) Transport is needed — a lift perhaps for a foster mother having to take a baby to hospital, or some emergency journey for baby or mother.

How many parents stop to think what a baptism really means? The biggest majority of parents think, after the baptism, that's the end of that; but it isn't, is it? It's the beginning.

After our first child was born, I approached our Vicar and said I would like our son baptised and he quite rightly said "It is not as simple as that; do you realise the full meaning of the word?" Well, I will be perfectly frank, I didn't, so to help us understand it fully so that we could answer our son's questions when he grows up, my husband and I decided to have confirmation classes once a week. My sister, who was to be his godmother, also thought it would be a good idea. After six months of preparation, we felt we really had achieved a feeling of great satisfaction because our Vicar had explained so fully all our questions, and we didn't have any doubts whatsoever that we were giving our son the full benefit of God's love and giving him into the Church, knowing full well that God would receive him, throughout childhood and throughout the rest of his life. We three were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford in March and what a feeling of joy and peace of mind we had; only those who have been confirmed can explain the feeling of actually being in God's presence. We had our son baptised on Easter Sunday when he was received into the Church. I know he was accepted by the feeling of great joy and happiness that we experienced.

I am sure if more parents were to do as my husband and I have done, and be confirmed before they have their children baptised, they will see how baptism is the beginning of life with God, something that goes on for ever and not just while the service of holy baptism takes place. It is the right of every parent to give their child the full privilege of experiencing this from the time they are baptised throughout the years until they can also take communion with God.

Mrs. C. A. Fillingham (Mapledurham).

Blueprint for reform

With the much heralded publication of a report "Partners in ministry" proposing sweeping changes in the deployment of the clergy of the Church of England, one more subject for reform now comes up for discussion. Churchgoers can well be forgiven if they feel at times somewhat confused by the variety of matters which they are told are before the elected representatives of the Church for consideration. Although these matters are primarily for the concern of the Church of England, Christians of other denominations are watching with interest the efforts of the Church of England in these matters, as in many cases the decisions will have a direct effect on inter-church relations.

The "CAVERSHAM BRIDGE" therefore summarises this month the six principal topics facing its Anglican readers in the way of Church re-organisation.

- 1. **PRAYER BOOK REVISION** The revised text of a number of services has now been published. The most important is the new order of Holy Communion. This has been approved by the Bishops and clergy in Convocation but awaits approval from the lay members of Church Assembly. After widespread study in the parish during Lent it became apparent that there was a great wish to see this service brought into use as soon as it was authorised by the Church. The new forms of Baptism and Confirmation have recently been issued and it is hoped by many that these can come into use during 1968. Other services will follow shortly.
- 2. **DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE.** A Commission set up to consider the creation of new dioceses in South-East England has finished its work. It is expected to issue its report very shortly, and it is anticipated that it will recommend the division of the diocese of Oxford. The Bishop has publicly stated that he hopes when he retires, in about six years time, that he will hand over a smaller diocese of Oxford to his successor. Caversham Parochial Church Council submitted evidence to the Commission.
- 3. **SYNODICAL GOVERNMENT.** The present system of Church Government through the centuries old Convocations of Canterbury and York, divided into upper and lower houses (Bishops and clergy) together with the machinery of Church Assembly which comprises the members of the four Convocations with the addition of elected laity, is slow moving and complex. A plan for a national synod has been produced and this will aim also at establishing a synod in each diocese and rural deanery. These synods would be much smaller bodies than the present diocesan and rural deanery conferences. Little opposition is expected to the proposals and it is possible that by 1970 this new system will be in operation.
- 4. **CHURCH AND STATE.** While few supporters can be found to contend for the dis-establishment of the Church of England there is a widespread feeling that some modification of the existing system is called for, especially in relation to the appointment of bishops. Many look with envy on the relationship with the State that is enjoyed by the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. A Commission appointed to consider this subject has yet to report. Its recommendations will most likely require parliamentary sanction.
- 5. **THE PAYMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE CLERGY.** In 1960 a motion in the Church Assembly called for an enquiry into the system of paying and deploying the clergy. This resulted in Mr. Paul producing his famous report in 1964 and now there have recently been published proposals for implementing much of what he suggested. The most controversial proposals include the suggestion that private patronage (i.e. the right to appoint a man as rector or vicar of a parish) should be ended, all appointments being made by a diocesan committee, and the "parson's freehold" abolished. By the freehold is meant the existing right of an incumbent to stay in a parish as long as he wishes to do so. Both these rights stretch back centuries into English history. Reform is expected to take many years to achieve because of the complex nature of the legislation that would be involved.
- 6. **ECUMENICAL MATTERS.** The most concrete development here is the proposal for Anglican and Methodist re-union, which it is suggested should be achieved in two stages. Proposals were published in 1963 and have been given general approval by the two churches, but a number of difficulties have still to be resolved. The Commission has recently published an interim report and hopes to make a final report next year. Anglicans are also engaged in official conversations with Roman Catholics and Presbyterians and conversations will also begin shortly with the Orthodox Church.

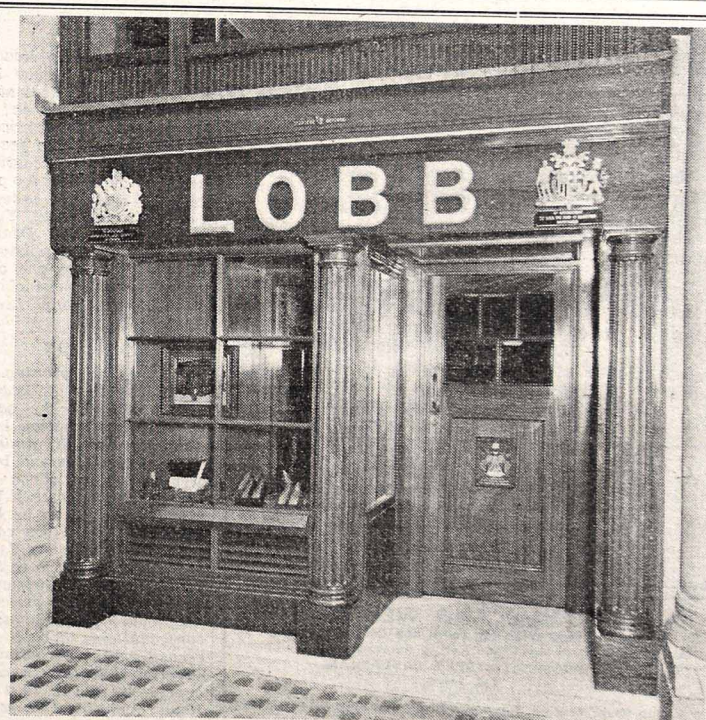
With these six major pieces of business in hand no-one can accuse the Church of England of trying to maintain the status quo. The danger may perhaps lie in attempting too much at once, for all the time the day to day work of the Church has to be carried on, and the population steadily increases. But it is just this day to day work which is hampered through the present inefficient machinery as well as by the divided state of Christendom. These reforms are not just for the sake of reform, but in order to make God's Church better fitted for her task of winning the people of England back to an acceptance of Christianity.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE: JULY, 1967—FIVE



1897 DIAMOND JUBILEE

Prompted by the account of Queen Victoria's Jubilee which we published in last month's Caversham Bridge, Mr. W. A. Hole of Wincroft Road has sent us a photograph of the pupils of St. John's school taken at the time of the Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Top left is Miss A. Woodley one of the teachers, who is a resident of Blenheim Road and member of St. Andrew's congregation. The other teacher, (right hand end of top row), Miss E. Little died last year. Mr. Hole is standing in front of her. Mr. Hole also still possesses the medal presented to the school children on that occasion



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News from the Churches

St. Peter's News

Comings and Goings

Hardly a week passes without the composition of the congregation changing. At the end of June we lose Mrs. Eadon, better known to us as Frances Coggan who moves to Chesterfield after her recent marriage. But we may still expect to see Peter Coggan in Caversham from time to time. We shall have to say Good-bye to all the Rogers family who in their year here have become so very much a part of the family of St. Peter's. Mr. Rogers goes to teach at Monkton Combe School near Bath. But back in the house where the Rogers have been will be the Hardy's after their year in Canada: as soon as one geography lecturer returns another departs for a year and we shall not see the Fenwick family again until August 1969. It is good to know that the threatened move of the Lightowler family is off and we may expect to have them here for at least another two years, and, we hope, possibly much longer than that. Mrs. Watts and her daughters are already well known to many of the congregation but it is good to have them actually living in the parish now, and they seem to be getting to know many of their neighbours in St. Peter's Avenue.

St. Peter's Wives.

Members are invited to bring their children to a play morning in the Rectory Garden on Wednesday, July 5th (10.30 — 11.45 a.m.). If wet it will be in Toc H. The July evening meeting on Tuesday, July 18th is in Church House at 8 p.m. Subject "Children in care."

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

News from the Price family.

The many friends of Road, Subiaco, Perth. On Ted and Olive Price, lately of Kelmscott Close, who with their three children emigrated to Australia earlier this year will be glad to have some news of them. Both the girls went down with measles within a few days of their reaching Perth, and Peter got bad cuts on his feet through following the local custom of playing games bare-footed. After ten weeks in a flat they moved into their present house at 137, Hammersley

Food prices they find and carrots nearly 6/- a high—eggs 5/8d. a dozen; lb. because of the lack of cauliflowers 4/6d. each; rain.

Whitsun no holiday.

The separation of Whitsunday from the Bank holiday week-end made little difference to the size of the congregations but it altered the content considerably. The occasional Churchgoer did not seem to realise that May 14th was a great Christian festival while the regular worshippers were not on holiday, and in particular we were not denuded of choir mem-

bers as has often been the case. In fact there seems to be a great deal to be said for separating the holiday week-end from the Christian festival, but next year they will coincide again.

New arrival.

For the Rev. Richard and Ann Brown, a son, Peter Jonathan, born on May 9th—weight 8lbs. 4 ozs.

St. John's News

A QUIET WEEK-END!

How often we all have longed for one — and how all too often it has never materialised. The opportunity was given to the congregation of St. John's to spend such a week-end in Oxford at the mission house of the "Cowley Fathers" and eight of us made up a small party. Together with our fears and apprehensions we arrived on Friday evening,

May 12, around 8.15 p.m. We were greeted by Father Jonathan Young and by the jolliest and friendliest Brother — Cyril by name — who was most concerned to make sure we had all eaten before arriving. He told us that one "rule" of the Community was "Thou shalt not starve" — and one of us, who must remain anonymous, smiled broadly and afterwards admitted that for him

at least, one "fear" was lost straight away.

Father Jonathan was our guide and friend during our stay. His programme was obviously "tailored" to what he knew we could take and it really was a simple and enjoyable agenda that he gave.

In every respect it was a quiet two days, with periods of silence and how quickly and easily we accepted them. What a delight they were. For most of us, this was the first time in years we had been able to spend with ourselves, each with his or her private thoughts, prayers and silent meditation. These times were just right; never too long for us to become restless. It was during these periods that we could, if we so desired, make use of the excellent library.

Each evening we ended our day's work and leisure with

THE POST-CONFIRMATION GROUP

Since the group started in early Spring, it has attended a service at a Baptist Church, had a talk on the Russian Orthodox Church, taken part in the invitation service and had two talks from John Beasley on "pop" and folk music. Some discussions have been led by different members of the group, in order that everyone has an opportunity to express their ideas.

The group hopes to continue the varied programme, with the help of the congregation, under the guidance of Mr. Fowler.

A MIGRATION!

Last month we reported that our treasurer, Frank and his wife were leaving to go and live in Woodcote, this month we have to report that Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Newbery, who, amongst many other things, have decorated and cleaned St.

St. Andrew's News

KEY FORTNIGHT

The Invitation Service on May 7 met with an encouraging response. We were pleased to see so many of our young people taking an active part in the life of the District. We are also grateful to Mr. Butler, Marian Griffiths and Miss Whitehill for their readings. In particular a number of people have commented on the passage read by Miss Whitehill. Those who are interested may like to know that it was taken from "The Shaking of the Foundations" (A Pelican Paperback) by Paul Tillich. The relevant chapter is called "The Depth of Existence." The second service will take

place on Sunday, September 24, at 6.30 p.m. Please book this date now and tell your friends about it.

YOUNG WIVES' FESTIVAL

On June 1 the Reading Deanery Young Wives' held their Annual Festival at St. Andrew's. The church was almost full for the service, of which a memorable feature was vigorous congregational singing. The Bishop of Reading was the preacher and a number of Young Wives' from the Deanery were formally commissioned as Group Leaders and other Representatives, including our own Group Leader, Barbara Dennis.

CONFIRMATION

On Thursday evening July 13, the Bishop of Reading will administer the sacrament of confirmation in St. Andrew's. For St. Andrew's congregation this will be an occasion of privilege and responsibility. It will be a privilege for us to be hosts not only to our own candidates and their parents and godparents but also to those from the other districts of the parish and a few from neighbouring parishes. By confirmation those concerned will be committing themselves to the Church in general as well as to a particular congregation within it. It is therefore our responsibility — even though we may be neither parents nor godparents — to support the confirmands by our prayers and our presence at the service.

SAINTS' DAYS

Saturday, July 22, is St. Mary Magdalene's Day. There will be Holy Communion at 7 a.m. The following Tuesday is St. James' Day — Holy Communion at 7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.



Miss Pounds

Compline, simply, yet so very right; in peace we went to bed and arose next morning to begin the day with Holy Communion in the beautiful Community Church. On Sunday morning we took part in the Sung Mass with a splendid, yet simple, easy-to-follow ritual. Each afternoon was free from after lunch until 4 p.m.; a very wise piece of planning. We went into Oxford and did our talking then.

All our talks and discussions were informal; questions were asked and answered and we enjoyed these times immensely. Sunday evening came all too soon. We were just nicely settled in to the rhythm and routine, then we had to leave. All of us were agreed that we wished it had been possible for our stay to have been twice as long. We made our way homewards feeling greatly refreshed spiritually, mentally and physically and humbly grateful to our hosts who had so lovingly accepted us into their house.

We would like to organise another week-end later in the year, if this is possible. Do come and join us. Marston Street can accommodate about 30 people. It is much too valuable and good an experience to keep to ourselves.

John's so willingly, have moved to Worthing. Soon Rob and Doreen Cooper are leaving for Cheshire. Doreen has done so many different things in the two or three years here that there isn't room to start listing them.

It is sad to lose so many friends and workers, all at the same time. We will miss most of all their friendship and this no one can replace — it was unique to each of them. We are envious of their new churches and neighbours and hope they will be very happy in their new homes.

AN END OF AN EPOCH

A year or two ago, Miss Pounds celebrated the 50th anniversary of the day she first became a teenage Sunday School teacher at St. John's. We little thought then that her retirement would follow so soon afterwards, but she has been finding it increasingly hard and painful to get to St. John's each Sunday and so, very reluctantly, she has decided to retire from being Superintendent of the Infant Sunday School.

She is one of a band of people who have faithfully served at St. John's for many

PATRONAL FESTIVALS

St. Peter's Day

at ST. PETER'S

Thursday,
June 29

7.30 p.m.

PARISH
COMMUNION

PREACHER:

The Rev. David Jenkins

Fellow of the Queen's College, Oxford

Holy Communion also at 7 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.

St. Margaret's Day

at ST. MARGARET'S

Thursday,
July 20

8 p.m.

PARISH
COMMUNION

PREACHER:

The Bishop of Oxford

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Picture: Fred Walker
years, year in and year out. Their faithfulness through periods of great difficulty and in face of much discouragement is an example and encouragement to those of us who inherit their work. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them.

THE WORK GOES ON
Mr. Don Jackson, of 20, South View Avenue, has kindly agreed to accept the appointment as treasurer, Mrs. Yvonne Milne, 267, Gosbrook Road, as Christian Aid representative, Mr. Richard Milne as organiser of the Servers and Mrs. Jo Stevenson, 9, South View Avenue, as Superintendent of the Infant Sunday School.

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Methodist News

Caversham Sunday Schools did well in the Reading and District Sunday School Union Scripture Examination. Of the four people in the Reading district who gained full marks, two were from Caversham—Jane Hissey, of Caversham Heights, and Judy Alderman, of Gosbrook Road, both aged 11. They, and Susan Watret (aged eight), of Caversham Heights, who came top in her age group, have had their papers sent for consideration for national prizes.

Seven other scholars from Caversham Heights gained honours in the examination: Jane Watret, Jane Windsor, Rosamond Ward, David Leckie, Anderson Springer, Andrew Bell and Colin Simpson. From Gosbrook Road, Jane Woodbridge also gained honours.

Other certificates for Caversham Heights people were: First Class: John Hollingham, Jennifer Tee, David Wright. Second Class: Valerie Taylor, Eric Springer. Third Class: Alan Buckley.

A garden party in the grounds of the Gosbrook Road church on June 3 brought out the sunshine on the stalls and sideshows. It brought sunshine too to the smile of Gift Day secretary Mrs. J. Hackman when the income of £39 5s. was announced—the highest for some years.

Mrs. Agnes Masterman of the Heights was elected as a representative to the Methodist Conference this year from the Southampton District Synod.

DRUGS AND THEIR DANGERS

An important meeting for young people of all denominations has been arranged for Sunday, July 23, at 7.45 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall. The speaker will be the Rev. John McNicol, a Scottish Baptist minister who has charge now of a church in Wimbledon.

Mr. McNicol is the founder-secretary of the National Association on Drug Addiction. He has just returned from a visit to Canada and the United States where he has been studying work among delinquent youngsters.

TOXAEMIA RESEARCH

The collection at the Mary Clift Thanksgiving Service amounted to £55.

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Baptist News

BRISK BUSINESS

NO, the absence of news from the Baptist Church should not be construed as a sign of dormancy. On the contrary, business has been brisk. In addition to the continuing faithful spiritual leadership of the Rev. and Mrs. L. S. Lewis much has been done during the past months within the Church's auxiliary organisations.

The resuscitated Cub Pack is flourishing under the leadership of Dr. and Mrs. J. Rothwell and at a recent meeting a number of boys were duly and solemnly invested. It is anticipated that the Scout Troop will shortly be re-starting. A Men's Meeting was started last autumn and throughout the winter months meetings have been held at members' homes. These gatherings have covered a diversity of subjects from trade union negotiations to freight handling by British Rail—nothing whatsoever to do with things spiritual but nevertheless good exercise in Christian Fellowship.

The Sunday School has been preparing for and celebrating its 101st anniversary—not quite such a grand affair as last year but another milestone on the long road of Christian witness among the children of the district. Preparations are going ahead to repeat last year's venture of a "Holiday Special" during August.

The theme will be "Our Town—Reading" and here the Church, through its Sunday School, is meeting, in part, the need for play leadership during the holidays—one of the cardinal points to emerge from the Community Survey conducted under the auspices of the "Caversham Bridge."

The Young People have held a social evening for older folk and a jumble sale to raise funds for their "bigger and better coffee bar." All sorts of "bodies" have joined forces to spring clean the church—jolly hard work but good Christian fun. Two of the men have assumed the role of amateur plumbers and re-hoisted the church toilet—a Gift Day has been held—new organ curtains have been provided in memory of the late Mr. George Sawyer and a new carpet fitted to the rostrum.

No, we have not been asleep—just busy about Our Lord's business.

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham News

The Bishop of Oxford is coming to Mapledurham on Thursday, July 20, to celebrate and preach at the St. Margaret's Day Parish Communion at 8 p.m. After the Bishop's sermon, there will be a simple ceremony at which he will commission members of St. Margaret's who will serve at the Key Group in Mapledurham. This group will work in conjunction with the Key Groups at St. Andrew's and St. Peter's in taking invitations to the Key Fortnight to people who live in Mapledurham parish. A warm welcome to this service, and to refreshments afterwards, is extended to members of the Caversham churches.

CHRISTIAN CITIZEN OF DISTINCTION



JACQUELINE CASE, 14, of 79, Blenheim Road, is a Christian citizen of distinction. She has been awarded first prize in the annual essay competition organised jointly by the Methodist Youth Department and Christian Citizenship Department. To win the prize she had to write two essays, one last autumn and one in the spring. Jacqueline's first essay dealt with the question *How would you answer a friend who thinks it is pointless to help refugees overseas when there are so many needy people in this country?* and it won first place. Her second essay, which was placed fourth, was on another thought-provoking theme—*Jesus said 'Love your enemies.' Who are your enemies and in what ways can you show love for them?* The two essays together gained Jacqueline first prize in the whole competition. Jacqueline puts her citizenship ideals into practice as a missionary collector and in helping an old lady each week through the Kendrick School social service scheme.

Presbyterian News

MAY is the month when Presbyterians and others go on — preparing for a new Church, we might say. Anyhow if you ever go to Manchester to take an umbrella with you. They come in useful! Reading, like a great many other towns, has taken the Christian Aid week seriously as attendance at the United Service at Trinity Congregational Church and the offerings showed. It is well that we should have some part in this because it is a practical expression of our Christian brotherhood with our poorer neighbours. A great many people will benefit by our offering.

Life in St. Paul's, Reading goes on steadily but we are now without our Church organ which is undergoing an extensive renovation. We miss the weight that it gives to Congregational praise. A piano never quite makes up for it. But we carry on and it makes us see how much we benefit from music in the Church. Life without music would be unbearable. Of course we do not all like the same sort of music. What I like, for instance, is to some other people cacophony. But part of the interest of life is that we are all given the gift of choosing what seems to us best. This is a privilege worth guarding when so many seem to be pushing their ideas on us regardless of our own.

Of course there were many other things we decided and discussed at the Manchester Assembly. We are publishing a new hymn book, and also a new Church Service Book so there is a good deal of

An INTERDENOMINATIONAL DAY FOR PARENTS

on TUESDAY, JULY 11
at 10.45 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
in THE LONG GALLERY, ENGLEFIELD HOUSE,
NR. READING
Chaplain: The Rev. MICHAEL THOMAS (Vicar of Shedfield, Portsmouth Diocese)
10.45 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
MOTHER SIMON, Lecturer on Infant Teaching at the Digby Stuart College of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton.
12.30 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Lunchbreak — Please bring sandwiches and thermos.
1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.
MOTHER SIMON, Free Church Mother and the Rev. MICHAEL THOMAS will form a Forum to answer your questions. There will be a Creche run by fully qualified nursery nurse and her team. Babies and Children most welcome.
Please let Mrs. Benyon, Englefield House, know numbers of mothers and children by July 4.

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The garden depicted on Page 2 is at 71, Peppard Road, the home of Professor and Mrs. E. A. Guggenheim. It is about 3½ acres in extent, with many fine trees, and in early summer has a magnificent display of rhododendrons.

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— LOCAL CLUBS —

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Mrs. Haydon presided at the meeting on May 18 when the speaker was Detective W. H. Thompson who for 19 years was Sir Winston Churchill's bodyguard. The theme for a floral art competition was "an arrangement to depict something musical." Mrs. Maine, a new member, was the winner with an arrangement of lilac in a silver saxophone entitled "We'll gather lilac." The competition was judged by Mrs. Watts, Federation Chairman, Arts and Crafts.

International. The subject for the meeting on May 10 was "Holland" and the speaker was Mr. John Dronkas, verger of St. Mary's Church.

Social studies. The group met on May 2 when Dr. Moreton-Gore spoke about her work as a psychiatrist.

Six cake icing classes are being arranged for the autumn. Will anyone interested in joining please contact Group Chairman, Mrs. M. Dawes. Telephone: 71352.

At the May Meeting of the CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD the President welcomed one new member.

MR. G. HENDERSON of Beecham Toiletry Division gave an entertaining and informative talk on "Hair and Beauty." The competition for an Ascot Hat produced

several very charming creations and the winner was MRS. J. GRAY.

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, Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading, Tel.: 75350.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the last Guild meeting we were pleased to welcome, for the third time, Mr. J. Driscoll, B.A., who gave a very amusing and informative talk on "The Times" and The Battle of Trafalgar. Motions to go before National Council were discussed and voted upon.

On May 16 an enjoyable evening was spent when the Music and Drama Groups provided entertainment and a round table discussion on next year's programme took place.

Next meeting July 4 when Mr. G. Yannopoulos of Reading University will speak on the "Common Market."

ROSEHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The May meeting was held at the Caversham Hill Chapel Hall, Mrs. Sizer presided at the meeting. A film was shown of the Saharan Venture, and a talk given by Mr. F. Davey of the Southern Gas Board. Mrs. Chisholm spoke about her visit to Denman College.

THE CLERGY AND MINISTERS OF CAVERSHAM ANGLICAN

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The Rev. John Grimwade
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Assistant Clergy:

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, 25, Ikley Road. Tel. 72070. 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

PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. George E. Shearer, 41, Highmoon Road, Caversham
Tel. 77490

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The Rev. W. O'Malley (Parish Priest)
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IN OTHER PLACES

The Caversham Bridge hopes to report from time to time information about ecumenical progress in other areas. We re-print this month an account of Christmas worship at Empangeni, in Zululand.

Our Christmas services in Empangeni this year, had a special ecumenical significance, the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve being open to all denominations, and the main Christmas service being held in the Roman Catholic Church.

The first part of the Midnight Mass was held in the Anglican Hall and commenced with the usual ministry of the Word, as far as the reading of the Gospel. The Anglican priest opened with the Collect for Purity, etc., whilst the Methodist minister read the Gospel.

This was followed by a Cantata, "Night of Miracles," sung by a completely interdenominational choir consisting of Methodists, Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Lutherans. All then stood up to say the Creed together, after which a loaf of bread, a flagon of wine and the monetary offerings were brought up to the altar in procession.

The Methodist minister then said the prayers for the whole state of Christ's Church, and with a short explanation, broke the

bread and poured the wine into a chalice and goblets, symbolising the truth that all Christians are indeed one Church in Christ—the one Body of Christ—and are able to share the one loaf: but that we are a broken body who are not able to communicate together. To have communicated together, even on this wonderful day in the Christian year, when we celebrate the coming of our Lord to live as a man amongst men, would have been to pretend that we had already arrived at a point where perfect unity is possible, whereas we still have a long road to travel.

In silence, to emphasise the drama of the occasion, the servers and clergy of the

Anglican Church processed out of the hall into the church building, carrying half of the loaf and the chalice of wine, followed by 186 communicant members of the Anglican Church.

Members of the other denominations remained behind in the hall where the Methodist minister conducted the rest of the Communion Service, using the Anglican Missal. The sacrifice offered by the Anglicans, as a denomination, was for the unity of all Christendom.

On the following morning, 218 Anglicans celebrated the Communion together, as Anglicans, in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, using the Roman Catholic altar.

METHODIST CHURCHES JULY PREACHING APPOINTMENTS Caversham

July
2 Rev. W. A. A. Tutt.
Rev. E. B. Wright (2).
9 Mr. L. E. Scott.
Rev. E. B. Wright.
16 Rev. E. B. Wright.
Mr. W. G. Sampson.
23 Miss K. E. Goldsmith.
Rev. E. B. Wright.
30 Rev. E. B. Wright (2).
Mr. J. Ogden.

Caversham Heights

July
2 11.00 a.m. Rev. E. B. Wright (1)
6.30 p.m. Mr. B. Bosier.
9 11.00 a.m. Rev. E. B. Wright (2)
6.30 p.m. Miss K. E. Goldsmith
16 11.00 a.m. Rev. F. Hunter
6.30 p.m. Rev. E. B. Wright
23 11.00 a.m. Rev. E. B. Wright
6.30 p.m. Rev. W. A. A. Tutt
30 11.00 a.m. Mr. J. Hollingum
6.30 p.m. Rev. E. B. Wright (2)

Notes: (1) Cradle Roll Service.
(2) Holy Communion.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH JULY PREACHERS

2 Rev. Colin Furze — Evening Communion.
9 Mr. R. F. G. Burnish.
16 Rev. L. S. Lewis — Morning Communion.
23 Rev. L. S. Lewis.
30 Rev. L. S. Lewis.

July 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)
6.30 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
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 1st Sunday).

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 (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist
9.15 a.m. Sunday School (Church Hall)
6.30 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
8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.

BAPTIST Caversham

11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship
Communion after Evening Service 1st Sunday after Morning Service 3rd Sunday.

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 6.30 p.m. Worship.
10.15 a.m. Sunday School.
11.00 a.m. Sunday School. Junior and Primary Dept.

Goshbrook Road

11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship.
11.00 a.m. Sunday School.

SALVATION ARMY Prospect Street

3.00 p.m. Young People.
6.30 p.m. Adults.

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May
7 Penelope Bowles
Philip Davy
Hazel King
Anne Robison
Gary Ross
June
4 Deborah Buckle
Sharon Hicks
Andrew Jones
Karen Talbot
St. Andrew's
May
21 Simon Wisbey
Victoria Tidman
St. Barnabas'
May
7 David Bird

Vincent Bird
Ian Cooper
Caversham Heights Methodist
April
9 Glyn Davies
Caversham Methodist
April
16 Craig Sandow
25 Catherine Hackman
May
7 Anthony Wilson
21 Nicola Dunham
MARRIED
St. Peter's
May
12 Timothy Brickhill and Cynthia Kendall
20 Peter Bayman and Penelope Turner.
Brian Sims and Valerie

Sherman.
27 Sydney Eadon and Frances Coggan
June
3 Geoffrey Weller and Lauretta Barnett
MARRIED
St. Peter's
May
25 Beatrice Johnson
St. John's
May
3 William Road
Caversham Methodist
March
26 Sarah-Evans
Caversham Heights Methodist
April
5 George Horler

vestments and vessels, something which would have been impossible ten years ago.

In all these ways, Christians in Empangeni are trying to live out their desire for Christian unity, a desire which is shared, and at present being expressed by Christians of all denominations throughout the world, by the work of the World Council of Churches and the high level talks between Roman Catholics and Anglicans and the Orthodox Churches. Praise be to God.

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Known as Marje literally to millions of readers, Marjorie Proops is today at the top of the journalistic tree. She got there by possessing a colourful command of the English language and a head full of sound common sense, both of which have helped her over the years to give wise advice to the thousands who have asked her opinion on all sorts of problems.

Our Marje is no "Dear Worried Blue-Eyes" sentimentalist. If she needs to be tough, she'll be tough, but always out of kindness. She is a great exponent of the Christian virtue of speaking the truth in love, even if it hurts.

But Marjorie Proops is not a Christian. She is a non-practising Jewess who says: "If it's possible to put a firm label on someone who truly doesn't know what she believes, I suppose you could call me

an agnostic." But she adds: "I have a genuine envy of those whose beliefs are powerful, and often wish I had their faith."

★ ★ ★

She started her career in journalism as a fashion artist for the "Daily Mirror" just before the war, and during the early

from general reporting to book reviewing, and she ended up as Woman Editor.

It was at this time that she first became deeply interested in readers' problems, and took over a column running in the "Daily Herald" called "Mary Marshall." A

ticularly in the problems of counselling, and particularly in marriage guidance of adolescence.

In 1954 she returned to the "Daily Mirror" as a columnist where she still writes on every type of subject, and began a column called "Dear Marje" for "Woman's Mirror," which has now been transferred to "Woman." It is, perhaps, this page most of all which displays her very best qualities.

★ ★ ★

Mr. Proops is a building contractor, and he and Marje have a son married to an ex-member of the Royal Ballet Company, who is described by her mother-in-law as "entrancing."

We don't know what her daughter-in-law calls Marje, but if it's not "entrancing," we think it ought to be something pretty complimentary. For Marjorie Proops is a remarkable woman.



Marjorie Proops

forties began to do a bit of writing "largely to earn a little extra money, and not because of any burning ambition to be a journalist." In 1945, however, she was asked to join the "Daily Herald" as a fashion correspondent, and this led to all sorts of jobs

psychiatrist friend gave her a crash course and an enormous number of books to read for homework. She still reckons that she has read more books on sex psychology than the average woman has read cookery books! Today she is very in-

DOUBLE, DOUBLE, TOIL AND TROUBLE

Parenthood in
God's world
pattern

By Jane Shepherd

"IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR MOTHER LIVES NEAR YOU"
WERE THEIR PARTING WORDS AS I LEFT THE HOSPITAL
CLUTCHING MY TWO IDENTICAL BUNDLES.

I couldn't understand the point of all their well-meant sympathy. What was there to sympathise about? The worst was over. No more pain, no more being stuck in bed, no more strict hospital routine, no more white-aproned, rubber-gloved nurses to boss you around. All I had to look forward to was the welcoming cosiness of my own home and the proud appreciation of a loving father.

JUST HOW WRONG CAN
YOU BE?

At home nothing seemed to be as easy as it was in the sheltered security of the hos-

pital. How many scoops-full did they say? Was it Alison on four-hourly and Frances on three? Or the other way round? Very quickly my self-confident determination to show that unruffled organisation and patient understanding would solve every problem, dissolved into a chaotic struggle for mere survival.

The feeds

There seemed to be a singular lack of co-ordination and understanding between the three of us. I was unpractised, they were unco-operative, and the whole of life was dominated by the interval between feeds. Sometimes I had to look at the calendar to see what day it was. Not that it mattered. Nothing mattered as long as there was three (or was it four?) hours between each bottle for each baby.

Of course one soon realised the need to scrap theory and look facts in the face. Either they fed together or their parents died of fatigue. Bang went the three-hourly, and we thought things would be better. I suppose they were, but it still took my husband and I about an hour-and-a-half to do the last feed and pack all the equipment necessary for the nightly endurance test on to trays and hump it all up to the bedroom which sheltered the four of us.

Strewn

The bedroom was fast beginning to look like an emergency field hospital after some great natural disaster. Strewn about the place were nappies (mountains of them), bottles, disinfectant, dummies, cloths, buckets, gripe-water, pins, powder, in fact anything that we thought might do as ammunition in the battle to come.

Conversation was strained and consisted entirely of

BUT IT COULD
HAVE BEEN
TRIPLETS
I SUPPOSE!

examining the possibilities of
a few hours unbroken sleep.

We had one cot on each side of the bed and the rules of the game, like Russian roulette, were simple but unpleasant. Whichever twin demanded attention, the person sleeping on that side of the bed did the necessary. Choosing the infant to sleep on your side was rather like tossing for ends in a hockey match. If it was your choice you considered the form of the previous night and made your decision. Whichever one my husband had always turned out the worse of the two — or so he always said.

Yelling

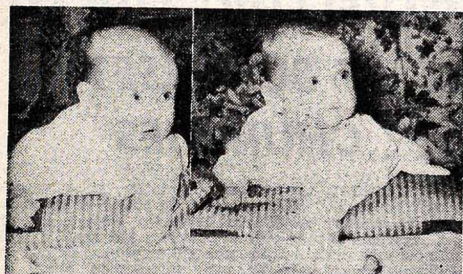
You'd think that twins would act together, but not a bit of it. It always seemed that after one woke yelling and screaming for nourishment and a nappy change, the other waited until all was over and quiet had at last descended upon the bedroom before she in turn filled her lungs and let rip.

Fatigue produced its own problems; even delusions. I remember once leaping up to save Alison from falling off the bed, only to find her sleeping peacefully in her cot. The peace was short-lived. My panic-stricken jump woke her — she cried . . . and off we went again.

Each day, leaden-limbed and bleary-eyed I attacked the mountain of dirty-washing, empty feeding bottles, and wet sheets, while two lusty-lunged infants yelled for my undivided attention.

I longed for the toddler tantrums, the childish ailments, the teenage moods, anything rather than this. If this was the joy of motherhood well . . .

But now they're three, and they've just sung "Sing a Song of Sixpence" for me in their very sweetest way, and I know that it was worth it. My only worry is that next time it might be triplets.



THE BISHOP'S RING

AFTER the recent Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI issued plain rings to each of the Bishops which we now see most of them wearing instead of heavy ones with a precious stone, which were usually associated with Catholic Bishops.

★ ★ ★

There is an interesting story about one of these original large rings. The little boy Beppi Sarto, son of the local postman in his Italian home-town, pleased and surprised his family by winning a place to a High School. This being during the end of the 19th century, educational chances were few. The boy, one of a large family, worked hard, and came out top in his exams, winning another free place, and going on to college at Padua—to become a priest.

But before his studies were finished, Beppi's father died—so Beppi packed his bags and went home to help his widowed mother.

"You can turn round and go back, Beppi," she said "we



will manage—I gave my son to God—I'm not going to ask for him back."

★ ★ ★

So the lad returned, and was ordained a priest, and loved his work. Then one day, to his astonishment, he received news that he had been chosen to

become a Bishop. Although he protested that he wouldn't make a very good one, his superiors thought otherwise, and he was duly consecrated. His mother was there, and she had a short time alone with her son afterwards. He sat talking, and then held out his hand with the amethyst ring to her.

★ ★ ★

"Did you ever think, Mother," he asked her "that a son of yours would one day wear a Bishop's ring?"

★ ★ ★

But his mother held out her own rough and reddened hands, and pointed to the plain wedding ring on her finger.

★ ★ ★

"You would never have worn that ring, my son," she answered, "if I had not first worn this."

★ ★ ★

Later Bishop Sarto, as Pope Pius X, often told this little tale to illustrate to children and to grown-ups, the importance that parenthood holds in the pattern of God's World. MARCO

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Fred Taylor, 65, and recently retired, has accepted nomination as a Labour candidate for his local Borough Council. To fit himself for this he is taking a course in Local Government at Fircroft College and in a small way making up for having had to give up a scholarship when a boy, because of family financial difficulties.

Fircroft College was founded by George Cadbury over 50 years ago to give mature working-class students an opportunity for advanced education, that had been denied them in earlier years and to offer them a course in liberal studies to fit them for community service.

Memories of fifty years ago

When a simple country holiday was a wonder

The signpost read . . . "West Deeping" two miles. I stopped the car, and my memory took me back 50 years when as a boy of 11 living in Marylebone, I spent my first week's holidays along with my brother, in this small Lincolnshire village.

I needed no waking on the day of departure. Marylebone Station had hardly opened its doors when I arrived at the Booking Office, clutching my fare. My mother saw us off. I waved "Good-bye," and as we passed through the London suburbs into the open country, my eyes never left the window.

Mrs. Roden, a frail old country lady, welcomed us. Plenty of good food; a comfortable bed. We enjoyed the smell of the countryside, the rippling stream down the lane, the chickens in the garden, and the cattle in the fields, until then only a picture on the schoolroom wall.

Normal

Today children accept a flight to the Costa Brava, a tour in the car through the Scottish Highlands, a luxury holiday camp on the coast, as normal in an affluent society. But they could never provide greater pleasure than my first holiday.

Those childhood days before the First World War provide many contrasts with the comparative security of 1967. I recall the early morning job, before school, at the "Big House," where in return for cleaning the long flight of stone steps up to the front door I was assured of a cooked breakfast. With an after school and Saturday job at the local shoemakers, I was able to supplement the inadequate family income.

Pot'erbs

Many economies were necessary. The baker was usually prepared to sell off his stale bread at "cut price;" the butcher would find some meat pieces; and a pennyworth of "poterbs"

By Fred Taylor

from the greengrocer provided the basis of a nourishing stew. A visit to the local street market late on Saturday nights (shops remained open until 10 p.m.) enabled us to look forward to our Sunday "feast." Providing new clothing was always a problem, but as the youngest of the family I knew that any outgrown clothes discarded by my elder brothers were always available.

My father, like most unskilled workers, had long periods of unemployment. But some alleviation of our troubles was provided by my mother, who whilst perpetually performing the miracle of the "loaves and fishes," went out "charing" in some of the larger resi-

dences in nearby Hampstead.

Less vicious

Despite our lack of material things, we were less vicious and selfish than some of our present day young people. We indulged in mischief of many kinds . . . scrumping fruit over the garden walls, breaking windows in our sporting activities, cheeking the local shopkeepers and the policeman (who usually dealt with us himself, without any court procedure).

Fist fights were frequent; but the lethal weapons used by young thugs today were not usually carried. The vandal of the telephone box, the railway track and the street corner were unknown in that era.



WIDER STILL AND WIDER . . .

By Raymond Efemey

I can honestly say that I have supported Britain's entry into the Common Market from the earliest days; from the time, in fact, that we were actually being INVITED to join. And what fools we were to have missed the opportunity to mould and influence from the start! Where would De Gaulle be now? Isolationism always has to pay a price.

My reasons, then and now, were not, in the first place, that we could the better shield ourselves against a cold world, (and Russia and America in particular), in a European Customs Union than we could by ourselves. Little Europeans are worse, (since more dangerous), than Little Englanders.

I have always seen the Common Market as an

expanding force, both politically and economically, and perhaps the delay of our conversion will have benefits as well as disadvantages. For in the meantime we have found other friends, and most of those are applying for Common Market membership with us. If we can get in our "comet tail" will be more than sufficient to upset the isolationist tendencies now appearing within the Six.

This less publicised fact comes for me before the economic benefits we should collect EVENTUALLY, (I do not balk the fact that there may be short term disadvantages).

And think—if we go in it will be not only with E.F.T.A. countries but also with the Irish Republic, and THAT would mean curtains for the Irish Problem and the Ulster Farce. Could there be a price too high to pay for the redemption of our past sins across the Irish Sea? Wider still, and wider, must our bounds be set.

Mayor's "thank-you" to local clergy

Last May, Mr. Eric White, chairman of Market Harborough Urban Council, retired from his office, and to show his personal appreciation to the members of the local clergy for all they had done for the town during the past 12 months, he arranged a special get-together in the council chamber.

"It was also my way of saying 'thank-you' to the clergy, on behalf of the town," Mr. White stated afterwards. Our picture shows Mr. White and Mrs. White (extreme left) with their guests.

TRAVELLING SINGERS AT SOMERSET CHURCHES

IT IS UNUSUAL to hear organist is Mr. R. A. Waddle. Evensong sung in country churches on summer evenings with a repertoire usually only found in our cathedrals, but the Rural Church Singers have, for the last ten years, made this possible in West Somerset.

The singers were formed by the then organist of Milverton Church, Mr. P. R. Coffee, and they rehearse every week during the winter, and throughout the summer travel to large and small churches, making no charge for their services: if a collection is taken it goes to a fund chosen by the incumbent.

The singers are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. Their director of music is Mr. Douglas Shepherd, the

organist is Mr. R. A. Waddle. who is in charge of the music at Selworthy Church, and the secretary is Mr. D. H. Luxton, who will be pleased to give any more information about the singers (Wiveliscombe 604).

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

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Holy "Refs" from Kelham

The Society of the Sacred Mission, commonly known as "Kelham," is an Anglican Religious Order concerned with training priests and with missionary work.

Kelham's magazine, S.S.M., states that from the earliest days Kelham football has been characterised by a hearty enthusiasm and complete disregard for skill and personal safety. So it was largely to prevent the inauguration of a student mortality rate exceeding the rate of intake that various members of the House began to take refereeing seriously, and subsequently passed the Football Association's gruelling referees' examination.

These holy refs now serve villages and towns round about in quite a large radius—a pleasant form of involvement.

A column just for the children

Television

I WATCHED the Wednesday play, and that started me thinking. It was well-written, well-acted, well-produced and entertaining, but it left me wondering whether it really said anything worthwhile about the world most of us live in.

This is a problem which is common to a great deal of television drama. Too often it deals with the lives of the kind of people you and I never meet, whose standards are not our standards, and whose backgrounds are not our backgrounds.

BOREDOM

I'm not, of course, talking about the soap operas such as "The Newcomers" or "Crossroads," which are ordinary to the point of boredom, and which are not really dramas at all. I'm talking about the serious plays that are trying to say something about human experience, and the forces and pressures that make people act as they do.

The point I'm trying to make is that far too many of the characters in these plays are drawn from the fringe rather than from the centre of everyday life. Too often we come across the rebel, the rogue, the intellectual, the ignorant, the unfaithful, the unbalanced, and too seldom Mr. Everyman.

We look and are entertained, but because the people are not of our world, we cannot identify ourselves with them, and therefore we cannot become involved. But GOOD drama demands that we become involved and here's the heart of the problem.

All of us can recognise the world of "Crossroads," and identify with the characters, but the script has nothing of importance to say. On the other hand there are scripts trying to

by
Harold Jeffries

say something important out of the mouths of unreal people.

WON'T WASH

Of course it can be argued that our TV playwrights are in good company. Shakespeare himself used characters drawn very often from an unreal world as vehicles of his deepest thoughts about life and people.

But the argument won't wash. In, say, "King Lear," Shakespeare gives us a person who is beyond any real character that we might meet. He never tries to make him anything else.

But our TV dramatist gives us characters that are true to a very limited sector of life. Perhaps that sector of life in which the dramatist himself lives, and it is this that I'm complaining about.

LONG TO SEE A SERIOUS PLAY ABOUT ORDINARY PEOPLE. SURELY IT'S NOT TOO TALL AN ORDER?

QUIZ TIME

HOW WELL DO YOU SCORE ON MOUNTAINS?

- 1 Name the only peak on the Isle of Man.
- 2 On which mountain did Noah's Ark come to rest after the flood?
- 3 Which mountain lies within France, Switzerland and Italy?
- 4 Where is Mount Killmanjaro?
- 5 Give the name of the highest peak in the Lake District.
- 6 Name the two largest passes through the Austrian Alps.

Answers on Page 6

THERE are all kinds of news. Good news, bad news, exciting news.

This month the "Christian News" has some special news for boys and girls.

There is going to be a new section in this newspaper with articles, puzzles and things to do. Each month we would like you to write and tell us any ideas you have on anything you read in this newspaper, and we will print short extracts from the most interesting letters.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Less than 400 years ago there were no newspapers at all, and the first newspapers were very different from the newspapers we have today. This is how they began.

NEWS!

In the time of Charles II artists and writers and famous and fashionable people in London used to meet in coffee houses to gossip and exchange news and ideas while they drank coffee. Then someone had the idea of visiting the coffee houses to collect the gossip and news and print it on a single sheet of paper, which later was sold to people who could read. Not everyone could read in those days.

SPREADING THE NEWS

It is difficult to imagine the world before there were any newspapers, or radio, or television, or the telephone. People then had to rely on travellers to bring them news from distant parts of the world. Local news in a town was given out by the Town Crier. He wore a special uniform and carried a large bell. First he clanged the bell to attract people's attention. Then he shouted OYEZ, OYEZ, OYEZ, at the top of his voice. This was an old French word ordering people to stop talking and listen. Then the crier shouted out the news of the day. News of important visitors in the town, the names of people who had died, details about articles and animals that had been lost or found.

SOME GOOD NEWS

Did you know that the word GOSPEL means Good News? Jesus brought good news about God. For thousands of years men had thought of God as being just and good. Jesus brought the good news that God is more than that. He is like a good father who loves and wants to help his children.

THINGS TO DO

Newspapers help us to know more about people and places. Make a list of the places mentioned in this newspaper and underline the places you have been to.

Old and sick and lonely people long for news. A visit would cheer them up, or if they live too far away, make a news letter with all the news you can think of, and send it to one of them.

Don't forget to send to the "Christian News" any ideas you have about this newspaper or the news in it. Send your letter to the Editor (his address is at the bottom of the back page), and give your own name, address and age.

Brenda Holloway.

COULD YOU DO THIS VITAL JOB WELL?

HAVE you ever thought of training to be a secretary? The first essentials are good shorthand and typing speeds. You can study either full-time or at evening classes and some firms now offer training courses to young applicants. The Pitman shorthand system is the most common in this country. Your English grammar and spelling should be good and you should be able to do simple arithmetic. G.C.E. "O" levels—especially in English language, mathematics and a language—are of course, useful assets.

Use your first job, probably as a shorthand typist, learning general office procedure and as much as possible about the work. Experience of insurance, banking, accountancy or legal work is invaluable. You will find your typing speed improves enormously with practice, while your shorthand will deteriorate. You can overcome this by attending shorthand speed classes.

Accounts

Besides taking down letters in shorthand and typing them back, you may be asked to make notes for meetings, type forms, documents and accounts, type from a dictating machine, do the filing, use the telex, duplicating and photographing machines, answer the telephone and deal with visitors.

A secretarial career
by
Susan Barker

If you are asked to take on the secretarialship of your favourite club, do so if you have time. It will be good practice to write your own correspondence and take minutes at meetings.

Two or three jobs within five or six years in different professional, commercial and industrial offices should make you a really useful employee. A fully experienced secretary to a managing director in industry, for example, should be a quick and accurate shorthand typist, logical and up-to-date in her filing system and have a knowledge of legal, tax, insurance and banking matters. She should be pleasant and efficient on the telephone and at intercepting callers, so that the boss is not interrupted unnecessarily.

Strain

She should be able and willing to take on any task or responsibility and remain calm, no matter how busy she is. This sort of secretary takes the strain out of the boss's work by reminding him of meetings, appointments and things to be done and by always knowing where everything is and where to acquire any information he may need.

The scope for a secretary is limitless in this country. Europe or the Americas. Holidays, hours and working conditions are usually good and salaries, even in Britain, can be excellent. The knowledge that you are doing a vital job well (and that the boss privately thinks you are indispensable) is highly satisfying.



Photo by courtesy of "Impact"

... Able and willing to take on any task and remain calm, no matter how busy ...

CONTINENTAL

HOLLAND. Inexpensive holiday: Teachers exchange or let their homes in holidays. Some take guests. R. Hinloopen, English Master, 35 Stetweg, Castricum, Holland.

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TOPIQUOTES

The Christian Church is neither a society of mystics, a burial club, nor a social doctrine. It is that boldest of gambles, a historical religion.

—Quintin Hogg, M.P., "Spectator."

★ ★ ★

People used to go out to enjoy themselves. Now they go out to criticise.

—Ted Ray speaking of the modern audience in "Whicker's World."

★ ★ ★

This might strike you as funny or it might not, but I can say in all sincerity that I am far more concerned about the future of the Football League than I am about the political future of the country.

—Jimmy Hill, Manager of Coventry City. At a celebration Banquet for the Club's Promotion to the First Division.

★ ★ ★

B.B.C.-1's Top of the Pops has become like a ritual performed by a tribe who have forgotten its original meaning. The dancers jerk dispiritedly. The compere, Pete Murray on this occasion, makes "great" and "fabulous" sound like "boring" and "mediocre." The artistes go through the motions like obedient zombies.

—George Melly — the "Observer."

★ ★ ★

There is even a religious broadcasting advisory body, but there is nothing about religion on television at any point, least of all at Meeting Point.

—Malcolm Muggeridge, speaking to the Viewers' and Listeners' Association.

★ ★ ★

Father Griffiths heard confessions. He doesn't speak Kuanjama, and the Ovambos don't speak English, so to surmount the language barrier, the back of the Prayer Book contains a list of 140 sins—in both languages. The penitent calls out the numbers, the priest looks them up in English, gives a penance, then pronounces absolution.

—Cape to Zambezi, quoted in "New Christian."

OBITUARY

Christian News has with deep regret to report the recent death of Mrs. Mary Clift. She was in her early thirties.

Mrs. Clift was for a short time editor of this newspaper, succeeding the Rev. Nicolas Stacey. She had recently moved to Arley, in Worcestershire, where her husband, the Rev. David Clift, had become Vicar and Industrial Chaplain in Kidderminster.

Liberty, equality, and fraternity

WE don't go much on July 14 in this country. Perhaps because we don't like to think that something that happened in 1789—and in France of all places—has a great deal to do with us.

Yet Bastille Day stands for the revolution all over Europe which has led to what we like to call "our democratic way of life."

Anyone can understand how this goes for France, where, even in de Gaulle's day, July 14 is the great public holiday. After all, when the city mob swarmed into the prison fortress of the Bastille in Paris, it was a mighty show of strength on the part of citizens till then completely under the thumb of their ruling classes. It helped to spark off the French Revolution.

Not only France was affected by it, though. Bastille Day is a world-wide symbol. It stands for Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. It stands for

the Statue of Liberty, that was given by the people of France to the United States to symbolise their sharing of freedom. It stands for "Down with privilege" and "Give us the vote." It stands for Democracy.

PROUD

We pride ourselves on our democracy. In Britain its beginnings are way back beyond Bastille Day, and since 1789 it has grown more and more into our whole system of government and way of life. We are

proud that no one can push us around. We know we can have our say in the way our society is run. If you see the fall of the Bastille as a symbol of all this, alongside the Magna Carta, suffragettes and Anthony Wedgewood-Benn, then you will be a democrat, my son.

It's odd, though—they do say that the Communists get more people voting at their elections than we do. And that the most active brothers of the Trade Unions aren't always the most democratic ones.

DEMOCRACY IS A TENDER PLANT, IT NEEDS CULTIVATING OR IT DIES. WE CAN'T TAKE OUR HERITAGE FOR GRANTED.

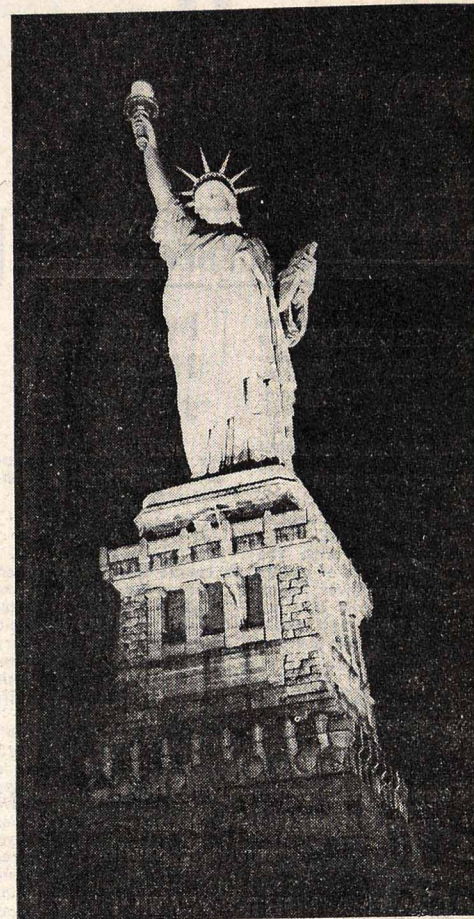


Photo by courtesy of the American Embassy

Topic of the month,
by Michael Dodd

Where do fly halves go in summer?

BY ROGER BISHOP

E. F. Adkins is indisposed

WHAT happens to our nation's league of winter sportsmen during the short, uncertain, summer months? No longer are they seen boarding coaches from hostelry car parks intent on victory.

Summer, to a sportsman, is a self-made excuse to do in excess all the things which are not conducive to a high degree of athletic achievement. Out come the cigarettes and for the first time for many months intrepid front-row forwards clutch pint pots instead of halves. A sportsman's summer memoirs can be both bitter and mild.

REFEREE?

But what does this word "sportsman" really mean? My dictionary says: "A person engaged in and addicted to sport. A chivalrous, fair-minded person who is willing to incur risks

and prepared to suffer defeat in fair competition without complaining."

There can be very few "real" sportsmen; nobody enjoys defeat and it is only a man with extraordinary qualities who can hide his disappointment in defeat and avoid laying blame elsewhere—on a referee perhaps. Similarly most men who play a winter sport look forward to the three or four-month summer break with an acute feeling of relief.

SUPPLEMENTED

As a rugby player I can vouch for the honesty of this statement when applied to certain groups of sports. Anyone who has volunteered for, or more likely has been appointed to the unenviable task of trying to round up 15 men near the end of the season will say the same. Endless telephone calls usually result in half the required number of

players and a headful of make-shift excuses. Naturally one or two players are genuinely on holiday or injured.

The usual result of "end of season blues" is that the A and B teams are heavily supplemented by the playing strength of the C and D teams, whose games are promptly cancelled.

Then there is the "joke" which arrives through the letter boxes of thousands of rugby players mid-way through August. Signed by the Club Captain, it is likely to say: "As you are no doubt aware the 1967/68 season will be under way in two or three weeks' time. To ensure another successful season and the retention of our hard-won trophy I would ask you to turn out for training on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting next week." Probably he is adding sotto voce: "I won't be there myself this week and I know most of you won't be either."

I am told that the members of most amateur football clubs have similar attitudes to their egg-shaped friends although I would concede that they are probably a little more conscientious about keeping in trim during the summer.

IMPULSE

During the summer a good proportion of footballers, rugby and hockey players turn to another sport. The most popular is cricket with tennis and swimming well in the running. But the outstanding factor common to most of these sportsmen is that they take no game really seriously during the summer. Training for cricket is, except for those who prefer the game to a winter sport, unheard of.

A rugby player on the cricket pitch is the man who appoints himself at long-stop, alternating with deep-very-fine-leg, and spends the fielding sessions resting against the sight screen casually smoking a

cigarette until roused by a fast approaching ball.

Tennis is a pastime which most winter sportsmen indulge in only on an impulse. No elaborate preparations are made, to find a player of equal ability (one might actually be forced to run) and certainly no competitions are entered for.

Swimming is usually confined to an undignified struggle along the length of pool to the sunbathing area and thus a picnic case and a much needed thirst-slaking, but fattening, beer.

Lastly there is the annoyingly common breed of summer sportsmen who mentally exhaust themselves every Saturday afternoon by memorising every last detail of athletics meetings, Wimbledon, golf tournament and cricket match shown on the television and then bore us real sportsmen to tears by repeating them to you between mouthfuls of chicken at a summer barbecue.