

- THE CHILD DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE BURIED ALIVE.
- THE YOUNG MAN HADN'T EARNED HIS FATAL ROAD ACCIDENT.
- THE FOOTBALLER DIDN'T ASK TO BE THE ONE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.
- THE MOTHER HAD DONE NOTHING TO LEAD HER DAUGHTER OFF THE RAILS.
- SO WHY SHOULD THESE THINGS HAPPEN TO THESE PEOPLE ?

WHY ?

Why ? Why ? the age-long bitterness of anguished mankind. This is where we are banged face to face with the real heart of life.

We know we have the right to argue with God. It is part of our human dignity to stand up and fight life. When another human being causes suffering, especially innocent suffering, we want to nail him. When we think a heartless God is responsible we want to nail him too.

Bereavement

The cancer. The devastating bereavement. The heartbreak. Why does he allow it ? Why doesn't he do something ? Why ?

Maybe it means there is no God. Maybe it means there is no answer. And yet we are driven to go on asking Why ? Perhaps in our hearts we want a different world, a different existence ? A set-up where there is no suffering ? Or where only the guilty suffer ? But suffering is part of the stuff of life. Without it the best in human nature is never tested. —CERTAINLY WITHOUT SUFFERING LOVE WOULD DIE, AND THAT'S A POINT WORTH THINKING ABOUT.



A hardened crook of our time schooled himself to hate everyone. He never felt pity or sorrow. He never suffered.

A bereaved mother was told by her doctor as she tried to find a new life, "You will often get hurt, because you love so deeply."

LOVE AND SUFFERING ARE PARTNERS. AND TO BE A PARTNER WITH LOVE, SUFFERING HAS TO BE HAPHAZARD, NOT DOLED OUT TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT.

To cry "Why ?" for a different world is to cry for chaos. It is also a frantic attempt to escape from the world we're lumbered with.

Realistic

Christianity is realistic about this world and about suffering. Christianity isn't finished by suffering; it begins with it, because it begins with God really being nailed.

Jesus nailed to a cross.
God on the receiving end of life.

A SUFFERER LIKE THE REST OF US — AND INNOCENT AS WELL. SUFFERING NOT BECAUSE SUFFERING IS GOOD IN ITSELF, BUT BECAUSE SUFFERING AND LOVE ARE PARTNERS, AND NO ONE WOULD WANT A WORLD WITHOUT LOVE.

Anguish at Aberfan

LETTERS



We welcome all readers' letters at

Christian News Ltd.,
319, Gazette Buildings,
Corporation Street,
Birmingham 4.

FAMINE IN BIHAR

WE LIVE in a time when we read almost daily about some calamity—about a war, about some natural disaster, about social upheavals and tensions. Usually the problems present themselves at such a scale that we seem completely helpless. Since we see no way of doing something of real consequence we have become more or less numb if we read that thousands are killed—or that millions may starve. Indeed these are magnitudes beyond our comprehension, and yet each of us can help in some way.

One of us has just returned from India and has seen the situation at first hand. The other was reading, some months ago, an article, "Famine Closing in on the Landless in India," before sitting down to the evening meal with his wife and three children. After having had Grace and having begun to eat, it suddenly overcame him how he would feel if his family were not only hungry that night but would move towards a slow and painful death through starvation.

Would any person in India feel differently? This experience was quickly counteracted by the thought that millions of tons of foodstuffs would be necessary to help and that he obviously could do nothing. But somehow this thought did not touch the heart.

How can we who call ourselves Christians take our meal in His spirit without having stretched out our hand to help those who might have no meal today unless we give something? Jesus blessed the widow who gave a small coin because it came from her heart and because it was the best she could do—he did not ask how much suffering could be alleviated with it.

What is required in the world today is a personal concern for those in need. Let us sit down at the table with the knowledge that we have put a small coin in our brother's hand before enjoying our meal. The six months ahead will be the most critical for millions of people in Bihar. Five shillings a month will give milk to two children, one pound a month will give enough food to live on for one person in the countryside of Bihar, five pounds a month will allow a whole family of five to survive the critical months.

Can you help? If you can, send your contribution or pledge for each month to Fred Blum, c/o Christian Aid, 10, Eaton Gate, London, S.W.1, with your first cheque or money order made out to Christian Aid. Your contribution will go through Christian Aid channels to the Bihar Relief Committee in Patna. The Committee will use it for specific villages in such a way that you will know whom you are helping. We will take care of all contacts and inform you what is happening to the people who receive your help in order to establish as close a relationship as possible.

Donald Groom
Fred Blum

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 irritation? Do you suffer from swelling, tiredness, heaviness and aching pain in the legs?

Why suffer from these leg troubles? Tremol relieves pain, heals wounds and ulcers, banishes aching and irritation and inflammation, soothes inflammation, weeping, clears dry scalding and skin troubles affecting the leg.

For over fifty years Tremol has brought such relief to sufferers and earned their gratitude and praise. Their experience should be our guide.

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

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

Think of what it means to you to be free from leg trouble and to walk in comfort. You will do your housework with ease and your shopping becomes a pleasure. No embarrassing anxiety when you are at work or with your friends. Banish your leg trouble and you can take part with your friends in sports, recreations and social life. You can share the freedom and happiness of holidays. A new life is opened out to you.

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

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

Religions made by man

I READ WITH interest the "Topic of the Month" article. Before ever the knotty problems that separate Roman Catholics and other Christians can be solved, all of them must realise that no one however high, and in whatever church is infallible, only God.

When each and every individual, in each and every church bows to God, and not man-made gods, then indeed will you all be united. When each questions, and listens to his own heart which is God's voice, and acts accordingly, then will we be united as one family.

The problem is man; his inability to trust God. He must cling like a drowning man to man-made religions of this world. He must have human hands to hold. He is like Peter afraid to walk on the sea of life. He has no faith in God, and that is why we make so much of man-made pomp to hold us up like cripples in a sinking ship.

THOSE READERS who have followed our recent articles and correspondence about psychical phenomena may be interested in a recently published book*, containing selected extracts from spiritualistic literature arranged so as to endorse truths of the Nicene Creed. We print two of these extracts. The first speaks of the death and atoning work of Christ.

Psychic work endorses truth of a Creed

"Try and keep quite clearly in your mind what our Lord's atonement really was, and what it was not. The atonement was the expression through Christ of the love of the Father even unto death, for every human soul. It enables us to draw nearer to the Father than was possible before Christ died. But this is a great mystery which you cannot fully understand. By assuming the human form, Christ gave the crowning dignity to humanity and so caused an atonement between us and God. Now that this atonement is accomplished by Christ, the Holy Spirit can take complete possession of the heart, and by filling it with the Divine Presence gradually purify it from sin. It was to bring us into this soul-union that Christ lived and died.

"But Christ's death does not remove the effects of sin from any human being. Direct, deliberate sin has far-reaching consequences, stretching into eternity, and the evil must be undone and the soul make restitution itself for the evil done in the body. God loves the sinner; God forgives the sinner but as a man sows, so must he reap. Christ does not bear away the consequences of man's sin; every man must bear the result of his own sin here or hereafter."

(Extract from "Speaking Across the Border-

I wonder how many of us could walk to Jesus across the sea with complete faith, trusting in his infallibility.

Mrs. I. DiMascio,
10, Whitehouse Common Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
Warks.

Newsom and a Youth Service

I WAS RATHER disappointed to see that the "Christian News" did not live up to its normal high standard—due I

"Coming nearer to our father"

Line"—Charles Taylor.

In the second extract the Apostle John describes the disciples' experience of Jesus' risen appearance in the Upper Room.

"We shrank back now, appalled, and on our return called all the band together to consult what He would have us do. Some were incredulous, saying we were distraught by grief and had imagined all; so were we talking each to others when a hush was felt and, turning, each one saw Him in the midst.

"I fell before Him, prostrate at His feet. Gently He raised me up saying, 'John, I am here.' All came around Him then in wonder and new hope and adoration. Only one was not with us, and the story oft is told how Thomas could not believe our talk of His appearance till He came again. Calmly He gave us words of cheer and comfort; soon we were once more left alone and knew not when nor where He passed. Thus were we healed of that first black despair, gently and quietly reassured by Him that He was with us still and ever would be so."

feel to less than adequate research.

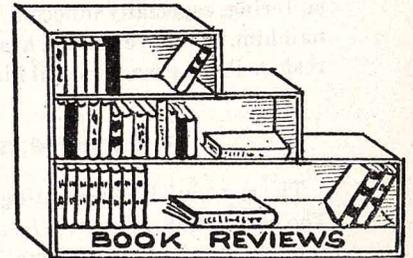
On the front page the Newsom Report is mentioned. I presume you mean the Newsom (no "E") Report—"Half Our Future." Page three contains an article on the subject of bridging the gap.

Had Newsom been studied it would have become obvious that an integral part of this preparation for the world of work is co-operation with and the assistance of the Youth Employment Service—yet nowhere is there any mention of this aspect. This does less than justice to the excellent work done by the service in this field.

A.P.
(Name and address supplied)

(Extract from "The Book of Preparation for the Coming Light" received in automatic writing by the late medium, R.M.T.—Skeffington.)

* "A Faith for the New Age" by David Vaughan, to be published by the Regency Press, London, at 25/-, in September.



The Wit of the Church—compiled by Michael Bateman and Shirley Stenning. Leslie Frewin 16s.

This is Christmas—or birthday—present material. There are some magnificent bits in it. Perhaps not enough Montgomery Campbell and two and a half pages too much of the Rev. Peter Harvey—but that's splitting a gnaw. You'll give hours of chortle to your friends when you send them this. Read it and chortle yourself before you parcel it up.

Saints in Folklore—by Christina Hole. G. Bell and Sons, 15s.

Another possible for a present. Christina Hole looks at ten saints as far apart as St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Oswald of Northumbria. Personally I reckon it's as hard to write about saints as it is to co-star with a child actor, but Miss Hole manages extremely well. She's perhaps a little uncritical of "facts" like "The right arm (of Oswald) that Aidan had blessed remained uncorrupted for a long time it was kept in a silver shrine at Bamboorough... what be-

came of it eventually is unknown" but then this is a book about folklore and folklore moulds history as much as facts do. The most formative "fact" we know about George Washington is that he could not tell a lie.

FINE MUSIC DUE AT HEREFORD

This year's Three Choirs Festival will be held in Hereford Cathedral from Sunday to Friday, September 3 to 8, when the festival conductor will be Mr. Richard Lloyd, organist of Hereford, and the associate conductors, Dr. Herbert Sumsion, retiring organist of Gloucester, and Mr. Christopher Robinson, organist of Worcester.

The guest conductor will be Sir Adrian Boult, and the major works include Haydn's "Nelson Mass," the Verdi "Requiem," the first performance of "The Annunciation," by Bernard Naylor, Honeger's "King David" and Bruckner's "Mass in F Minor." The festival will close with Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius," sung by Ronald Dowd, Roger Stalman and the international contralto, Janet Baker, who earlier in the festival will sing the Brahms "Aito Rhapsody."

City Temple

A Presbyterian, the Rev. Kenneth Slack, has accepted an invitation to be minister of the City Temple—a Congregational Church in the City of London.

The Church's last minister came from the Church of Canada. Previously Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, a Methodist, occupied the pastorate.

By Peter Croft

Portrait of County Durham by Peter A. White. Robert Hale, 25s.

All the books in this series make good presents in preparation for travelling round England next year. The North East has a thin time of it when it comes to publicity, so it's good to see someone filling the gap. This is the latest addition to the "Portrait" series. It's pleasantly written and a mine of information, but who chose the illustrations?

I'm all for Billingham town centre—as well as Raby Castle—and all for Consett Iron Works as well as the waterfalls of the Tees Valley but I'm partisan enough to wonder why so many pictures give the impression that the sun never shines here. But it's a grand book. It's a grand county.

CARING

MARRIAGE TODAY

is more popular than ever, and it starts earlier. A young marriage may hope to last between 45 and 50 years or more and will often suffer strains and

stresses unknown to previous generations.

In these circumstances there may be a tendency for divorce to go on increasing.

It is therefore more urgent than ever that the work of the National Marriage Guidance Council should expand and receive more public support.

about MARRIAGE

In the beginning

The need for marriage guidance was there in rising war-time divorce figures, unhappy homes and the long trail of misery and waste that spread out from them. A handful of people started an idea to cope with all this, to prevent it and to rebuild the security of a happy home when it is threatened.

Who were they, the founders? They were doctors, clergy, social workers, psychologists and lawyers. Together they produced the movement that now helps many thousands of people every year before and after marriage by personal contact and thousands more through its publications. There are 117 Marriage Guidance Councils and over 1,000 Counsellors.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

In 1966 nearly 17,000 marriages sought the help of Marriage Guidance Councils (over 65,000 counselling interviews were given) and the future of over 24,000 children under 16 was threatened by the break-up of these marriages. The unhappiness stemming from these statistics is unimaginable.

And yet, as the Law Commission reported recently, "One of the criticisms frequently heard about divorce in this country (as opposed to criticism of particular grounds of divorce) is that a disproportionate amount of public money is spent on dissolving marriages in comparison with the small sum spent on marriage guidance and conciliation. We are impressed by the work undertaken by marriage guidance agencies in preparing young couples for marriage and hope that they will be enabled to extend the scale of their operations."

NOW

Marriage Guidance Councils offer four services:

1. Private counselling for people who have difficulties or anxieties in their marriage or in other personal relationships.
2. Discussions with small groups of young people or with engaged and young married couples.
3. Publication of non-technical, but authoritative and practical booklets on a wide variety of topics connected with marriage and family life.
4. Co-operation with professional people and social workers in related fields. Courses and conferences are organised for teachers, clergy, youth leaders and others at their request.

Team work

Counsellors are men and women, mostly in early middle-age who have been selected for their special aptitude for this delicate and responsible job. Only about half of those who volunteer are accepted at the formidable selection process. Most have had experience of some kind of social work. Some are doctors, some nurses, some teachers, some were professional social workers before their marriage. They are new to this kind of work. All of them share two things—a deep concern for human happiness and a confident belief in the supreme importance of marriage and family living.

From the start of the movement counsellors have been helped and supported by professional men and women who contribute their own professional skill where it is needed. This team-work between the volunteer and professional has immense advantages. It is extremely economical and yet it is truly responsible—and so it needs to be, considering how much is at stake.

Marriage Counsellors do not visit people, save in exceptional circumstances. They do not approach anyone at the request of a third party. All interviews are, of course, completely confidential; they are also friendly, frank and unhurried. There cannot be quick, off-the-cuff solutions to human problems—certainly not to marriage difficulties.

Discussion

Counsellors are not just concerned with marriage problems. The work which they undertake with young

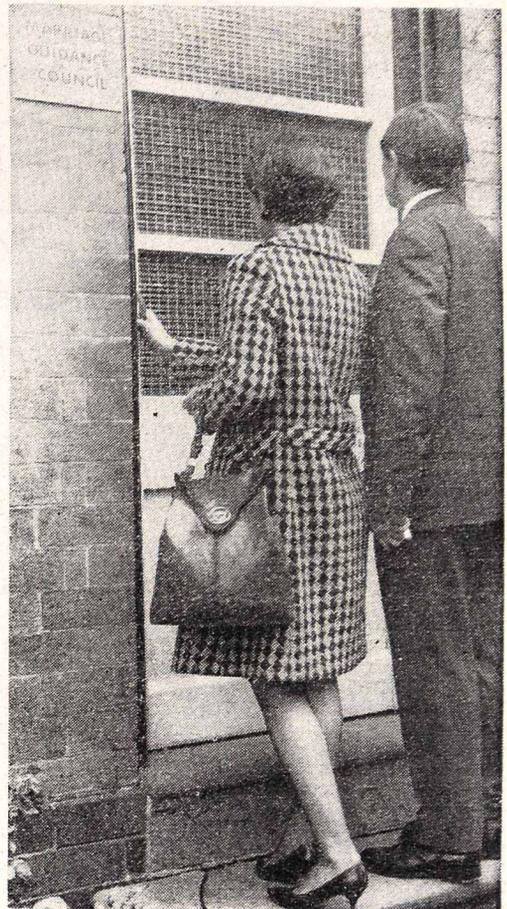


Photo by courtesy of 'Impact'

people in schools and youth clubs and with engaged couples is expanding rapidly. Their real aim is to try to help young people to understand themselves and their relationships with others by giving them the opportunity to discuss personal matters which concern them in an easy, relaxed atmosphere.

The counsellor's job is to introduce a discussion not to give a talk and to help the group feel secure enough to talk about such things as boy-girl relationships, difficulties with parents, drugs, sex, religion—in fact anything which immediately concerns or worries them.

In 1966 nearly 7,000 sessions of this kind were held in schools and colleges at the invitation of the head teacher—2,000 more than in the previous year.

Urgent need

Men and women are urgently needed to offer their services as counsellors. Anyone interested in obtaining further information about the work is asked to write to the secretary of their nearest Marriage Guidance Council (or to the National Marriage Guidance Council at 58 Queen Anne Street, London, W.1.), asking for the leaflet "Notes for Prospective Counsellors."

Volunteers are first sponsored locally. Then they attend a two-part national selection procedure and then, if accepted a basic training after which they work under supervision.

Tough going, you may think, but after all, only the best is good enough when caring for marriage.

GETTING MARRIED SOON?

A special feature for engaged couples is inside. If you're planning the date of your wedding, "Topic of the Month" on the back page will be of particular interest to you.

ROBIRCH

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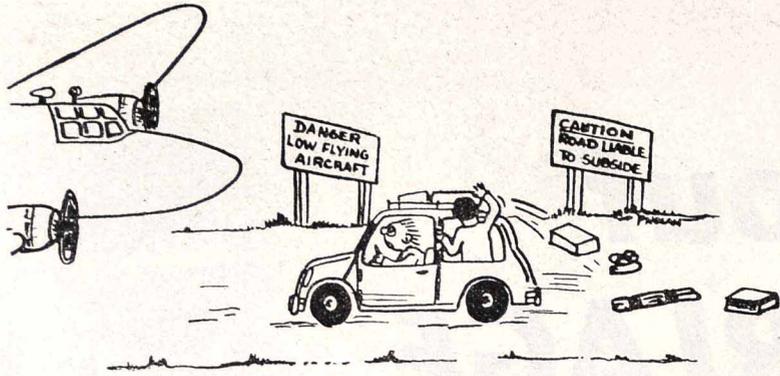
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FOLLOW THE SIGNS

If you can . . . says
Jack Watson

TRAVELLING WESTWARD-HO on a holiday Saturday is seldom a particularly quick or pleasant experience. It usually takes at least two days of one's holiday and more cream teas than is good for the waistline to get over it and recover one's good temper. The alternatives aren't particularly inviting—it's either the main road crawl or the country lane switch-back. One gambles on extra-wide loads or full-bagged cows lumbering from pastures to milking shed.

The road departments do their best, of course. And given you don't expect Sennen Cove to be indicated immediately you creep out of Plymouth, the sign posting isn't bad.

That doesn't mean you can't go wrong. Some of them get so complicated. It's the ones just before roundabouts that fool me—the ones with about ten exits. The signs look like modern-art cart-wheels, spokes at all angles.

In between missing the idiot who sneaks up on the inside and manoeuvring into what you hope is the right lane, you take a quick peek at the sign and rapidly calculate the seventh exit to be yours. As often as not you end up tooting down a blind alley behind the civic centre.

It's a local joke of course that this particular exit isn't indicated. By the time you've got on the right road again you're back behind the very same lorry you passed a mile back after hours of frustrating and smelly following.

FATALIST

One tries to keep a sense of humour. Some of the warning signs are puzzling rather than really helpful. I've never known quite what I'm supposed to do when I see "Danger Low Flying Aircraft."

One can try crouching a little lower over the wheel of course, or post aircraft

spotters at all windows. But I'm enough of a fatalist to think that such precautions will help little if a plane should choose that particular moment to hurtle off the runway at hedge-top level.

Should one edge forward at a nervous five miles an hour, ears and eyes alert, or make a dash for it at 60 m.p.h. and hope the beggar will miss? And then there's Road Liable to Subside. Apart from throwing off all the luggage to lighten the load one is at a loss for a sensible precaution.

It's probably too pedantic to worry about punctuation on road signs but I've enjoyed many an ironic grin at the warning Slow Men At Work. And one local authority with something of a youth problem, it seems, had set up the gruesome announcement "Dangerous Children Crossing." Speculation on that was good for at least 20 miles.

IN CORNWALL ITSELF I HAVE FOUND THE CELTIC GIFT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT IRRESISTIBLE. AFTER EXCRUCIATING MILES OF HAIRPIN BENDS AND STEEP LEFT-HANDERS THAT SEND PASSENGERS ROLLING FROM SIDE TO SIDE LIKE STORM BILGE IN A CABIN CRUISER, ONE COMES ACROSS A PATHETIC LITTLE SIGN POKING ITS HEAD OUT OF THE HEDGE PROCLAIMING TO THE WORLD—BEND, WHO'D HAVE GUESSED?

I've never known quite what I'm supposed to do when I see "Danger, Low Flying Aircraft."

AS A WRITER I sometimes feel quite green with envy at the literary potential enjoyed by most parish priests. To have at one's command a monthly space in which to write and publish just what one pleases without having to pass the eagle, circulation-jaundiced eye of the professional editor seems like the writer's Nirvana. Not for the parish priest the dreaded "Readers' Letters" column!

Admittedly, some parish publications may go straight from letter-box to dustbin unopened and others may prove just the right thickness to go under the short leg of the TV set, but many will be read and their message got across. And if the readers disagree with the views expressed there is nothing they can do about it.

Well, up to now they couldn't. Some local newspapers have taken to extracting the more juicy and controversial points of parish news and disseminating them to a wider readership and at the same time providing the parishioners with the use of the "Readers' Letters" facilities of the newspaper in which to reply to their vicar.

The priest who addresses his parishioners as "Dear Friends" and then proceeds to lambast them as irreligious pleasure-loving heathen because they go out in their car on a Sunday instead of attending his church had better watch out for repercussions.

Any study of vicars' letters will soon show that they can be roughly divided into three categories. "The Homely," "The Theological" and "The Fire and Brimstone."

The Homely letter emphasises the gentle family spirit of the parish community. It thanks the ladies' sewing circle for repairing the cassocks; the men's group for cutting the churchyard hedge and is happy to record that Mrs. Smith has now quite recovered from her operation. It dwells lightly upon the dry-rot in the vestry floor and the wheezing noises from the organ but does not labour them. It generates an aura of goodwill to all men and hopes for a good atten-

My dear friends . . .

dance at the social on Saturday.

I will not linger long upon the subject of the "Theological" letter—like the rest of the parishioners I find it a little above my head. . . .

Now we come to the last category—the "Fire and Brimstone" letter. Manna to the hungry maw of the poaching Press. This priest is permanently unhappy with the status quo—here in the parish, in Vietnam or Rhodesia or any part of the world.

He tells us so often that the world is heading for disaster that the urge is not to rush to church and pray to the Glory of God but to head for the nearest lake and end it all here and now. Our youth, we learn, are corrupt, our workers are idle and pleasure seeking, the television is depraved. Our books are pornographic, our painters paint ugly pictures and as for the music . . . Well! . . .

Even the Bishops and Administrators do not escape; they are either moving forward too fast or clinging to old-fashioned ideas and customs.

One can only envy the parish priest his space in which to write unhindered by the necessity of pleasing a hard-boiled editor with a constant eye upon his circulation.

Is it too much to hope that one day a priest may find space to allow his parishioners to express THEIR views—even if they disagree with their parish priest?

ERIC KING

GOING TO COLLEGE

FRANK MILES OFFERS A POINT OF VIEW FOR NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

SEPTEMBER. For most children, for a lot of years, it means getting back to school after the long summer holiday. Then, suddenly, the pattern is broken. Lots of young people are away to work.

For others, the pattern changes in a different way. The end of school days marks the beginning of a time at college or university. Trunks are packed, clothes chosen, travelling arrangements made, books bought. It is an exciting time.

And yet it is an anxious time too. Young people can be anxious about their new environment. "Will I fit in?" "Shall I be able to manage away from home?" "Will the course be too hard for me?" And parents share the anxiety too. They have cared for their child for 18 years or so. They are naturally apprehensive—and in a way saddened—as he strikes out into life very much on his own, and away from the environment which has moulded him for so long.

their foundations shaken as they find many of their ideas and assumptions questioned and challenged by people from entirely different backgrounds and with entirely different ideas. And this shaking of the students' foundations is good. It forces him to make decisions, and mistakes, for himself, to form his own opinions.

This is growing up, learning to be men and women in their own right—and not mere echoes of the attitudes of their parents, neighbourhood and friends. The growing up, the new-found independence accounts for students' long hair and unconventional clothes and behaviour, even rudeness, for the ways and habits of their family.

STRUGGLE

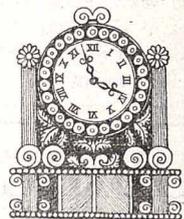
Parents can often be upset and infuriated by their student sons and daughters who seem to be irresponsible, wasting their opportunity, breaking family tradition and making exhibitions of themselves. Yet it is all part of the young person's struggle to become a person in their own right and not merely a pale reflection of Dad!

There is real cause for worry when young people show no sign of change, experiment or rebellion during their college days. They are missing out on the opportunities to begin growth into adulthood that student life can give. There's more to a student's pot, and open to discussion. Most young people will have do a job!

CONFUSING

The new student may be training to be a teacher or engineer, he may be undergoing a less specific training and taking a degree in an arts or scientific subject; but all students, regardless of their course, are venturing into a new and often confusing world. This world of new ideas, new opinions, new responsibilities, opportunities, relationships and choices provides the setting for their studies—but, more important, it provides the opportunity for their growth into adulthood.

Everything—opinions, morality, faith, politics, interests, is in the melting pot, and open to discussion. Most young people will have



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A BIT THIN

If you think your "Caversham Bridge" is a bit thin this month, you must blame the Editor for having a holiday. That, however, is only half the story. When we launched the "Caversham Bridge" we aimed at producing six pages of our own material each month. But we soon felt the need to give our readers more and we have not suffered from lack of material — so since February last year the paper has been larger than when it was launched.

But the Editorial Board were recently told that they would have to pay nearly £100 a year more for the eight outer pages of "National Christian News." We are reluctant to increase our price, which unlike many papers, has been unchanged for three years. The only alternative, therefore, is occasionally to give our readers a smaller edition. And since this number has had to be produced in a rush after returning from holiday, the Board hopes that our readers will be indulgent and not mind fewer pages for once. We shall be returning to our normal size next month.

John Grimwade

TALKING POINT

The Rev. David Cliff writes:

"No letters." This is one request I cannot easily understand. For myself, the 300 letters I have received since Mary's death have been one of my chief sources of strength and inspiration. There were many people who wrote simply to say that they could find no words to express their feelings. I understood the feeling of inadequacy. But some there were, more at home perhaps with the pen, who wrote at greater length and so distilled something of what Mary's friendship had meant to them and would always mean.

These writers were able to share their feelings with me and I was supported by this bond. Each letter, long or short, brought home to me a little more the meaning of the words, "the fellowship of suffering." Those who wrote wanted to share mine and by this means did indeed take some from me. For all the letters, for all offers of practical help, I am deeply grateful.

I was talking recently to the Health Visitor about Joanna, saying how she had been too young to grieve openly at her mother's death and how I hoped the long-term effects would not be too severe. After some discussion, she said: "And how about you? You must feel so bitter." It is a matter of the most profound thankfulness to me that during all this sad time I have never felt the slightest trace of bitterness. I have felt in full force and in confusing waves many of the other emotions that swamp the bereaved, but I have not felt bitter. I can only say, with humble acceptance that is not mere resignation, that my faith, together with the support and prayers of so many, many people, are enabling me to face the future with peace of mind and with confidence. The workings of the divine economy are painfully strange and bewildering, but I do not doubt the truth or the wisdom of God.

I have been worried about the effect Mary's death might have on the faith of some people. I know of one person who lost her faith after hearing the news; she has since won back to it again, perhaps to a different sort of faith now. I have hoped that the public words of Donald Tytler, Nicolas Stacey, John Grimwade and Frank Mussel (Mary's father) would help others as they did me to think positively about this death in the way that Christians should.

It is not right to spend much time brooding on the past and on disappointed hopes. There is no better antidote to such an attitude than an active two-year-old. Joanna is a constant source of delight and inspiration. It has made things easier too that we are in new surroundings, with a house to make into a home and a garden to improve and that I have a new and exciting job to do.

To friends in Caversham I would like to say this: please write if you feel like it and if you ever have the opportunity, please come and see us at Arley.

FAREWELL DOREEN

We are very sorry to be losing one of our favourite shopkeepers. Miss Richardson, or Doreen as she is known to her customers, has given the people of Caversham very good service for several years. Always anxious to please, she would reserve wool as long as required, exchange unused ounces and—like so many Caversham shopkeepers—was ever ready with advice. It was no unusual thing to see her demonstrating a particular stitch to a prospective customer; needless to say, there was very little she didn't know about the goods she sold.

We shall, of course, welcome the dry-cleaning service and the extension of the launderette which will replace her shop. But Caversham will not be quite the same without Doreen and her shop. She is going to live in Pangbourne but says she hopes to be in Caversham from time to time and is looking forward to seeing her old customers whenever she is here. Our very best wishes go with her on her retirement, and our thanks for the excellent service she has given us.

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ECUMENICAL ELM

The severe storm on Sunday afternoon, June 25, brought a large branch down from the big elm tree in the corner of St. Peter's Churchyard. The Warren Road was blocked for a short time.

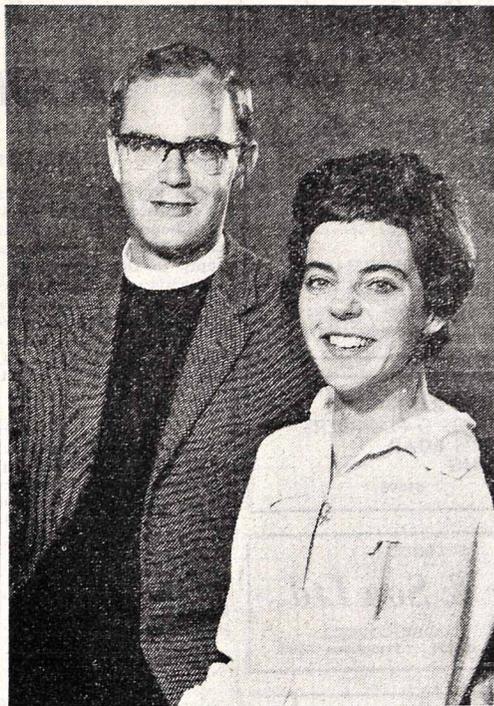
The tree was later found to be unsafe and was cut down. Miss Norah Allden, a member of St. Peter's congregation, who lives close by, is a physical education officer in Reading schools.

On hearing that the tree was unsafe she contacted the Rector and, with his approval and the ready co-operation of the Borough Surveyor's staff, the trunk was taken to the playing fields of the English Martyrs School, where it will be a source of pleasure and exercise to many children as they clamber over it.

TOXAEMIA RESEARCH FUND

£185
has now been subscribed
to this fund in memory of
Mary Clift.

SEPTEMBER ARRIVALS



As announced earlier, the Rev. John Crowe arrives in Caversham during September in succession to the Rev. David Cliff as a member of the staff of Caversham Parish. But he will not be a bachelor curate for long, as he recently announced his engagement to Miss Una McCloskey, whose home is at Wolverhampton. They hope to be married shortly after Christmas.

Mr. Crowe will have a special responsibility for youth work and in particular hopes to develop on an ecumenical basis the youth stewardship work initiated by the Rev. David Cliff. He will also be helping with the production of the "Caversham Bridge." He will be working in all parts of the parish of Caversham and moves into the Rectory Flat on September 6. His fiancée has worked with him in Wolverhampton for Christian Aid Week.

ST. JOHN'S SCOUT CAMP

For their summer camp this year eight Scouts and two Scouters travelled by car to a small farm or Craig - Cfn - Parc, near Swansea. The journey down was in brilliant sunshine and after erecting the camp we made for the Gower coast for a swim, full of anticipation of a fine sunny holiday.

This was not to be; on Monday it started to rain and continued with a few short interruptions until Thursday and again on Saturday. We listened to the weather forecasts telling of fine weather in the south east whilst we sheltered in a barn to avoid being drenched or, more often, whilst drying out after the last soaking.

We were very fortunate in being able to use the barn for cooking and eating inasmuch this made life far easier — even rain looks better on a full stomach.

In the scattered dry spells we managed to visit several of the beaches in the Gower and Mumbles area, and on one very wet day we visited the Swansea Valley caves near Abercrave. We also visited Ferryside, which we were advised was a very good cockle area — after digging for nearly half an hour in driving rain, we returned to the cars with our catch — one solitary cockle.

We got up on Sunday amidst mist and drizzle for the return journey and as we crossed the Severn bridge the sun shone brilliantly — some might say mockingly!

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NEWS FROM THE ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

MICHAELMAS ORDINATION

The Rev Colin Scott-Dempster will be ordained priest in Oxford Cathedral on Sunday, September 24, at 10 a.m. It is hoped that many members of the parish will be able to be present. Anyone wishing to have a ticket should apply to the Rector not later than 9 a.m. on Monday, September 4. He will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time at 8.15 p.m. on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels. Please support him by your prayers, and presence if possible on these two occasions. It is good to record that Mr. James Swift has been accepted for ordination and has started his training at Ripon Hall.

DEDICATION FESTIVAL

The usual Dedication Festival Evensong was not observed last year as on that night the Parish Stewardship service was held in the Town Hall. This year we revert to the practice of our combined Evensong in St. Peter's on Sunday, October 1, at 6.30 p.m. The preacher will be the Rev. Cleverley Ford well-known for his pioneer work with the College of Preachers. And it will be the occasion when all throughout the parish who are helping with Key Fortnight can come together to commend this undertaking to God, and make a common act of dedication to Him of this undertaking.

LONG CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

A hot July night saw one of the longest meetings of the Church Council for some time. The council accepted the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the parish should inform the diocese that it would be unable to pay in full the diocesan quota of £4,729. It was agreed to pay instead £3,750, which is more than double the sum paid last year. Mr. Hansford reported on the steady growth in population on Caversham Park, and the Finance Committee was asked to look into this matter at their next meeting and make some recommendation about the purchase of a house. It was also agreed that the revised service of Holy Communion, now approved by Church Assembly, should be brought into use on Advent Sunday but the Rector was asked to meet with each district committee to consider the details, and the matter will be further discussed at the next meeting on October 25.

SEPTEMBER SATURDAYS

The first two Saturday afternoons in September are given over as usual to the fete at St. Benet's (September 2) and the parish cricket match at Queen Anne's (September 9). Both events begin at 2.30 p.m.

St. Peter's News

Festival of Light

The second special invitation evening in connection with Key Fortnight takes place on Sunday, September 24 at 6.30 p.m. when Mrs. Duckworth will be producing the Festival of Light. The Key Group will be inviting people to this in the same way as they did for the St. George's Day Festival which met with such a wonderful response. At the Harvest

Supper on Friday, October 6

we shall be welcoming Fr. Gibbard at the start of his fortnight's stay with us—please book this date now: details regarding tickets will be published next month.

New Flag

On the Dedication Festival, October 1, we shall be flying for the first time the beautiful new St. George's flag with the arms of the diocese upon it. This has been given to St. Peter's in memory of the late John Dean: we also have in memory of him the three window boxes that will greatly help the decorators at festivals. The steep slope of the window sills has made it difficult to decorate them in the past.

Sanctuary cushions re-covered

The cushions on the sanctuary window seats have been re-covered with velvet to match the sanctuary carpet. The clergy and servers who sit on them much appreciate the care that has been taken.

St. Peter's Wives

A member of St. John Ambulance Brigade will give a demonstration and talk in Church House on Tuesday, September 19 at 8 p.m. New members are welcome: for further information ring Mrs. B. Lightowler, 74420.

Playgroups

Term starts again at Balmore Hall on September 11. The waiting list for places has grown so long that we are glad to run the playgroup on a third morning, filling an obvious need for children in the area between the ages of three and five. Qualified teachers are in charge. Mrs. Christine Freeborn on Mondays, Mrs. Joanna Brooks on Tuesdays, and Mrs. Kathleen Hardy on Thursdays. The charge is 1s. per morning; further information available from Mrs. Freeborn, 55, Priest 1401 Caversham, Telephone 72277.

St. Andrew's News

Drug Addiction

Nearly 100 young people attended the open meeting on drug addiction in St. Andrew's Hall on Sunday, July 23. The speakers, Mr. Chris Reynolds of the "Evening Post," Dr. Williams, a general practitioner from Tilehurst and Mr. Donald Hills from a Drug Addiction Unit in Southall, were introduced by the chairman, Richard Buckley.

After dealing with various aspects of the subject, all three speakers answered a good variety of questions from the floor. Throughout the meeting discussion was frank and open. Congratulations to the Teen Action Group for organising this. We hope that there will be further meetings of this nature in the future.

Key Fortnight

At the first invitation service in May we took "faith" as our theme. The second service, on Sunday September 24 at 6.30 p.m. will take a similar pattern. This time the theme will be evangelism.

In connection with the Key Fortnight itself a special card has been printed giving the times and titles of Fr. Campbell's addresses. We hope that these cards will be given as wide a circulation as possible. Members of the Key Group and of the congregation in general will be asked to help in this. For their guidance a list has been drawn up of about 200 people (excluding regular worshippers) who have some connection with St. Andrew's.

Two further points. First, we will be very pleased if members of the congregation would invite Fr. Campbell to lunch during the fortnight. There will be a list for this in church nearer the time. Second, please remember that Fr. Campbell will be available for interviews and discussion groups. Especially in the case of the latter, it is desirable to fix a time with the Priest-in-Charge beforehand.

Caversham Drama

"The Lady's Not For Burning" by Christopher Fry — the first production by the Caversham Drama Group — will be presented in St. Andrew's Hall at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 14, 15 and 16. Tickets will cost 3s. 6d. with reduced prices for child-

ren, and may be obtained from Mr. and Mrs. Debenham, 71, Priest Hill (Tel. 73433) or from members of the cast. A great deal of time and energy has gone into this production and we hope that it will be well supported.

Miss K. Jeffery

After two and a half months in the Greenlands Nursing Home, Kay Jeffery died on July 30. She was a regular worshipper at St. Andrew's and we shall miss her spiritual strength and cheerful personality. She will also be sadly missed in the Reading Hospitals where for some years she was a nursing sister. We extend our sympathy to Father Jeffery and his family.

Methodist News

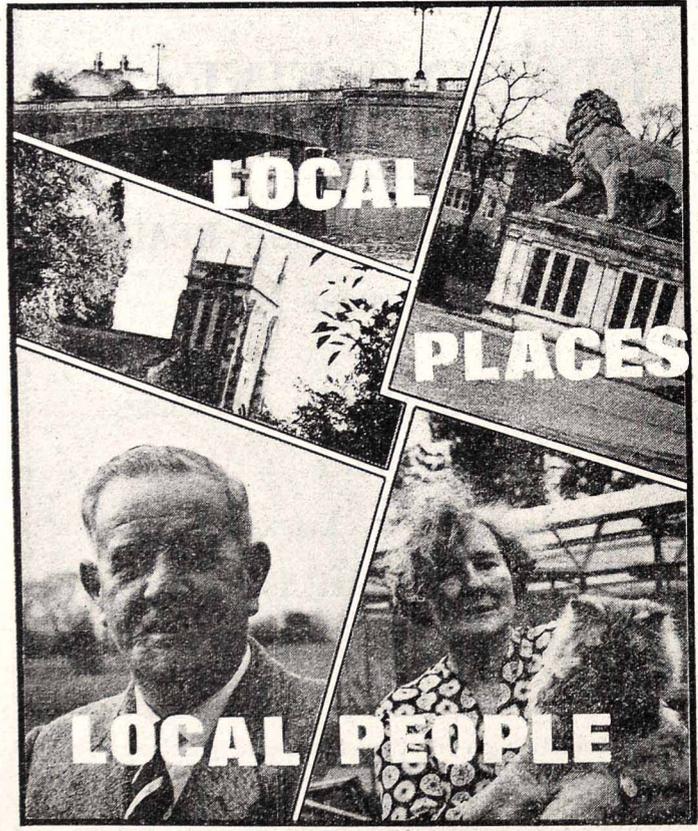
The Youth Group's new Coffee Lounge is nearly complete and is due to be opened during September.

Two gifts to the Methodist Church at Gosbrook Road have been received and dedicated during recent weeks. The first was a Revised Standard Version of the Bible for use on the recently dedicated lectern. This Bible was presented by Mrs. West in memory of her husband, the late Mr. James West, for many years a devoted servant at Gosbrook Road, and inspiration of its Boys' Brigade Company.

The second gift was an organ indicator, presented by the family of the late Mrs. L. M. Alderman. Mrs. Alderman worshipped for many years at Gosbrook Road and her family are still closely connected with its fellowship.

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CAVERSHAM CHURCHES

St. John's News

Key Fortnight

Now only a few weeks away. By the end of September in St. John's alone over 70 adults will have taken part in House Groups in preparation for this. Some have described these as "the best thing I have ever done." By now they and many others will have booked the important dates in their diaries.

September 24, 6.30 p.m. HARVEST FESTIVAL, a special invitation service in preparation for Key Fortnight. The speaker the Rev. John Shand, S.S.J.E., is one of the Key Fortnight team. Come and take part in this act of worship, and hear what he has to say about the Fortnight.

September 25. HARVEST SUPPER and AUCTION of harvest goods—to judge from the past this will be a highly-entertaining evening, tickets for this will be available nearer the time. The Supper will be attended by other members of the Key Fortnight team.

October 8 to 17 are the important evenings of KEY FORTNIGHT book them firmly in your diary now, if you have not already done so. Undoubtedly you will get by far the most benefit from coming to all of them, but don't stay away even if this is impossible. "It sounds a lot? That depends how good it turns out to be. Come to the first three and then make your own mind up."

It will considerably help our arrangements to have your name in good time beforehand, if you intend to take part, though this is not necessary. But it would help to have as many as possible before the end of September.

Other dates and other matters. Thursday, August 24: St. Bartholomew, Holy Communion, 10 a.m. September 13: The Mothers' Union make a return visit to St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, whose branch of the M.U. visited St. John's a few months ago.

Sunday, September 17: We start our programme of special Sunday evening Services, 6 p.m. Evening Prayer, 6.30. The special service centred on the film "Tibetan Story."

Sunday, September 24: Harvest Festival (see above). Children's Gift Service at 3 p.m. Harvest gifts and gifts for the elderly will be welcome during the week before.

A Debt to be paid

Earlier this year Miss Pounds was forced to retire from Sunday school teaching after over 50 years at St. John's. The number of people who either themselves or their children or both who must have been members of the Sunday school during that time must be quite vast. Both they and the other members of St. John's owe her a very great debt of gratitude for giving so generously of her love, her time and her abilities over so many years, and many of us wish to express our gratitude to her in so tangible a way, so a presentation is to be made to her after the Family Eucharist and before Sunday School on Sunday, September 17, at 10.40 in Caversham Hall. If you wish to contribute to your share, please put it in an envelope with your name and address on the outside, and hand it to one of the District Wardens, Sidesmen, Sunday School teachers or the Priest-in-charge, by Sunday, September 10.

Re-open

Sunday School, Junior Church, the Toddlers' Creche and refreshments after the 9.15, and refreshments after the Family Eucharist, start again on Sunday, September 10.

St. Barnabas' News

One is sometimes made to wonder just how effective a means of communication is the weekly church notice sheet. It is not that the notices are not distributed, for everyone who comes to Church is given a copy and they are left in Church throughout the week for others to help themselves. It is not that people do not read them either, because they do. No, it seems that because this is a little impersonal as a means of disseminating information many people assume that what is written is not for them. To give an example: the idea was conceived of running a coach trip from St. Barnabas to Embley Park on Sunday, August 13. The Priest-in-charge sounded out several people personally before placing a firm booking for the coach. Almost everyone who was approached in this way went on the outing. However, only three people came forward and asked for a seat because they had read about it in the weekly notices, despite the fact that it was included for six weeks!

Does this happen in other cases? One wonders why it should be.

Competition—Prize: £1 Is.
A competition is being held to decide the colour scheme for the exterior of the Church Hall, which we hope to repaint using voluntary labour before too long. The painting of the roof has been completed but the windows, walls, doors and other woodwork remain to be done. If you have some good ideas about what the colour scheme should be, please submit a sketch of the south (road-side) elevation in colour to Mr. Cooper as soon as possible. The scheme which the District committee adopts, after the entries have been placed on display for general comment, will win the prize.

The Altar Silver
Mrs. Parfit has quietly served St. Barnabas' Church for a long time by cleaning the Altar Silver every Saturday morning; a task which she has done loyally and unobtrusively. We thank her for this service now that she has relinquished it. Misses C. and M. Stevenson have accepted this responsibility in her stead.

Mr. and Mrs. Pilgrim
Barry and Gill may have ensured that they could have a very quiet wedding by being married on a Tuesday morning, but, so that they should not go "scot free," we are all delighted

Presbyterian News

Members of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church were glad to welcome the Rev. John and Mrs. Martin back again when they opened the Garden Party held in the church grounds on Saturday, July 8. The weather was fine but not too hot. The stalls and the side-shows, the tea and the entertainment reached a high standard, and the organisers are to be congratulated on a successful afternoon which brought in £85 for the church funds.

August is the month when ministers, like other people, have their holiday. The Rev. George and Mrs. Shearer will be visiting Italy for the meetings of the Reformed and Presbyterian Alliance in Torre Pellice. Mrs. Shearer is European area secretary (Women's Work) of the Alliance. This year is the 450th anniversary of the Reformation, and the Reformed Churches, which look back to John Calvin (1509—1564), the architect of Presbyterian Church Government, are drawing appreciably closer to the Lutheran Churches, which stem from the great German patriot (Martin Luther 1483—1546). It will be a great move forward if these two streams can unite to form a larger unity.

A modern Roman Catholic thinker wrote recently: "Modern Lutheran thinkers... have frequently pointed out that Luther envisaged the Reformation as a corrective movement within the Catholic Church. A reformed Church he wanted indeed, but not a separate Church. The only Church which he willed to reform was the one Holy Catholic Church founded by Christ Himself. If all this is true, we must conclude that Luther's Reformation is still an ongoing thing. So long as there are two separate Christianities, Protestant and Catholic, his objective remains but half achieved."

Alongside of this quotation I put another: "Roman Catholics have agreed that the Reformation was tragic, but few of them have seen that it was necessary. Protestants now agree that the Reformation was necessary, but few have felt with deep and lasting pain its tragedy... Protestants now see that the Reformation was a tragedy, though it was

to have this opportunity of offering them our best wishes for a long and happy married life together. Worshippers at St. Barnabas need not think that they will see Barry in the choir no more, because he and Gill have made their home in Caversham.

Key Fortnight
You have heard of Key Fortnight, October 8—17, but have you heard of what is happening at St. Barnabas' Church on September 24 at 7.30 p.m.? In preparation for Key Fortnight we shall present a simple pageant entitled "Spotlight." This is a spotlight on faith presented in music, drama and symbol, and offers something for everyone. All are welcome. Many people in our church are personally inviting some of their friends to this occasion. However, those of us who are already part of the life of St. Barnabas' Church will receive our programme through the letter box. (A little impersonal perhaps but it will be meant for you).

necessary; and Roman Catholics see that it was necessary, though it was tragic." Both quotations are well worth pondering. They indicate that there is common ground on which ultimately Church union may be based.

Baptist News

The Scout Troop has now restarted. There are still some vacancies and any boys who are interested should get in touch with the Scoutmaster, Mr. P. Batley, of 18, Hemdean Hill. The Guides have joined with neighbouring Companies for a very successful camp in Devon.

The annual Home and Overseas Missions Garden Party was held at the Manse on July 21 and was well supported, a total of nearly £40 being raised.

We have welcomed into the Fellowship Mr. and Mrs. D. Ellis and their family who have moved to Emmer Green, and Mrs. K. Fidler on her marriage to Mr. E. V. Warwick. It is with regret that we have said goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. W. Robertson, Fiona and Gillian, who have lived in Suley Row for the past four years, and have now moved to Shenfield.

The Holiday Special, early in August, attracted an average of 80 children to the West Memorial Hall for three mornings. "Our Town and the People Who Serve Us" was the theme, and amongst the many attractions was a visit from a fireman.

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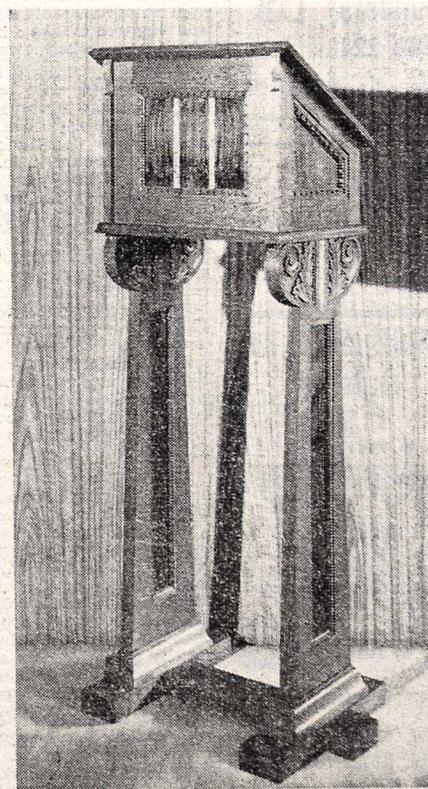
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The Methodist Conference in July

AND HAS RECORDED THESE IMPRESSIONS OF IT FOR THE "BRIDGE."

As Middlesbrough Town Hall clock chimed three on Friday afternoon of July 7, 1967, the president of the Conference announced Hymn 709 and Conference rose to sing the traditional "And are we yet alive to see each other's face."

The first act of the Conference is to induct the new president and it was a moving moment when the Rev. Dr. Irvonwy Morgan was given the charge and received John Wesley's Bible. After the president had delivered his address Conference settled down to an agenda of 601 pages, covering over 100 subjects which would take a week to finish.

I think my over all impression was one of "restructuring" not only of administrative machinery but also of ways and means to further the whole mission of the Church to our modern secular society. The debates were alive with questioning the relevance of the Church's work and witness to the world around us. One word which stood out was "Involvement." Gone are the days of cosy church societies which are little better than religious clubs. The Church must become involved in the lives of those it seeks to reach out to but this sort of involvement is costly in time, effort, and emotional stress to those who serve.

Following this theme one expects the reports of those departments which deal with the big social problems of our society, such as Christian Citizenship, Home Missions, Overseas Missions, etc., to produce the highlights and on the whole this was true. On the other hand amid the mass of business dealing with the more mundane matters of routine business, Conference can suddenly produce some unexpected moment of high tension on a matter of principle or some humorous sally which reduces Conference to laughter.

Conference was in a buoyant mood as it received the lively report of the Youth Department whose work throughout the connexion shows that the sad story of decreases in numbers of young folk in our Sunday Schools and Youth Clubs, has at last been stemmed. Our Youth work has turned the corner and the new approaches to education and teaching are bearing fruit. The Methodist Association of Youth Clubs had a proud record of work amongst teenage youngsters.

The following day brought a debate on Team Ministries and again there was a real mood of reconstruction and looking forward. The previous narrow concept of a few ministers working together to meet a particular situation was gloriously opened wide out to mean "mission" with ministers and laymen linked together at district, circuit, and local church level.

A report which produced keen debate was that of the Working Party set up by the 1965 Conference to consider the whole organisation of the Church. It was a long report. Some of it we liked, to some of it we took objection, but no doubt it will eventually come down to Synods and Quarterly Meetings as "provisional legislation" and we can then air our views. It did, however, show that the Church was prepared to take a hard look at itself in an endeavour to be a more efficient vessel of God's grace.

We came inevitably to Methodist/Anglican conversations. Although there were some 60 memorials to Conference from Quarterly Meetings throughout the country expressing very deep felt convictions that the present recommendations were not the way forward, Conference rather brusquely declined them. The Rev. Reg. Bedford seemed to sum up for those who had tried unsuccessfully to state their case when in a moving speech he pleaded for a little charity towards those who conscientiously cannot go this way.

The Overseas Missions report deserves a mention for this could have been one of complete gloom with a tale of international strife and closed doors. There was, however, a bright side to the story. The increased giving by the home Church was proof of an awareness that there is urgent need for the spreading of the Christian gospel. This was echoed by representatives from the overseas districts and the autonomous churches in their plea for teachers both young and old to play their part in the education of the emergent nations. Professor Pawson made a particular plea for agriculturists to take their part in the fight against famine.

Returning home Conference turned its mind to the problems which beset us in our own land. The Christian Citizenship Department covers a wide range of topics but the ones which produced some really down to earth thinking were those concerned with the big social problems of our day. The breakdown in moral standards, gambling, drug addiction, and alcohol. The Rev. William Gowland of the Industrial Mission Training Centre stressed that although the danger of increasing drug addiction was receiving tremendous publicity, the drinking of alcohol, because it was socially acceptable, was still the major problem as shown by the mounting numbers of alcoholics, and the increase in crime which stemmed from this cause.

By Thursday most of the major reports had been dealt with and one felt that perhaps there was little left except rather mundane routine matters but amidst these stood out a report on the work of the National Children's Home who will be celebrating their centenary in 1969.

So Conference drew to its close and the final act is the presentation of the "Journal" and its acceptance by Conference. The president, vice-president and secretary sign on our behalf and all the business of Conference of the past few days has now become legal fact.

ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS T.W.G.

The Guild met on July 20 in St. Andrew's Hall when the vice-chairman, Mrs. V. Birtwhistle, welcomed Arthur Negus, native of Reading and TV personality. The hall was full to capacity and the meeting was extremely happy and successful. The warm personality of Arthur Negus came over well. He gave a comprehensive talk, covering the basic principles of recognising genuine antiques and included many amusing stories.

Television viewers in Reading have watched his programme "Going for a Song" with special interest knowing his close connections with the town. His father's antique shop in Minster Street was well known for many years, and it was here that he worked his apprenticeship as a cabinet maker after completing his education at Reading School.

A display of members' antiques made an interesting collection and Arthur Negus completed his talk by selecting several of these and talking about each one specifically and answering members' questions.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON T.W.G.

At the July meeting, the chairman, Miss E. Baker, announced that as a result of the Garden Party held on July 12 a sum of over £30 would be sent to the Dr. Clark Memorial Fund. She thanked all the members who had helped to make it such a success.

There was an exhibition of 45 children's garments made by the Chiltern Group and these will eventually be presented to the Chiltern Children's Home.

Mr. R. A. Attrill, Governor of H.M. Borstal at Huntercombe, gave an interesting talk on the work of H.M. Borstals.

NEW W.E.A. COURSE ON RELIGION

The subject for this coming session is "Religious Images and Symbols" and the course will start on Thursday, September 28, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at the Caversham Adult Centre in School Lane.

It will consist of a series of 24 illustrated talks and discussions amounting to an examination, through the media of the fine arts (literature, painting, music, etc.) as well as the Bible and the Liturgy, of some traditional religious symbols, in an attempt to understand their function, to develop responsiveness towards them, and to determine their relevance TODAY.

No particular knowledge, training or experience is necessary on the part of students and everyone is welcome. If you are interested apply, without any obligation to attend the course, to either of the following and you will be sent a syllabus, together with any other information you may require.

Sponsor: Mr. N. Kent, 42, Highmoor Road, Caversham. Tel. Reading 75472.

Tutor: Mrs. S. Gregor, B.A., 52, South View Avenue, Caversham. Tel. Reading 72676.

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G. AGER

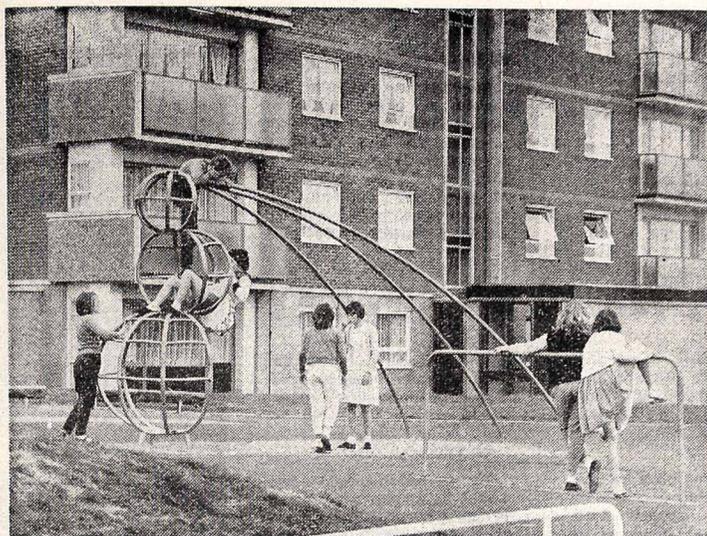


Photo by courtesy of 'Enterprise'

Play and adventure for all ages

ONE of the features of our modern flat-land scene is the variety of play shapes provided for the children.

We know these bring along their own problems, such as how to keep the logs and tubes and lumps free from interfering and destructive vandals or how to make sure that they are used by the flat-children rather than other

locals who have their own gardens and yards to play in.

Apart from these problems, though, this new-style play-material is an asset to any block of flats.

It shows every sign of the latest child psychology. The shape shown in our picture gives endless opportunities for play and adventure for children of most ages. Even more up-to-date examples provide

concrete shapes of elephants and tigers for pretend riding, or perhaps three walls of a log cabin for the real outdoor adventurer.

All this will surely help our children to grow up less stunted and hemmed-in by our forest of flats than they might otherwise be.

NUNS NURSING

SPEAKING recently at a hospital prizegiving in East London, Cardinal Heenan said, "The nuns know very well that

I am anxious for more and more of them to go into the public hospitals rather than into private nursing homes of their own. I would be quite happy to sacrifice these nursing homes if our nuns can serve the people in big hospitals where the poor are served."

Putting women into dog-collars

The Free Churches have had them for a long time. The Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches have never seriously considered them. The Church of England is in the middle of a great deal of heart-searching about them.

The "them" in question are, of course, women ordained to the full-time Ministry of the Church.

Two main questions have to be considered in connection with the ordination of women:

- IS THERE ANY THEOLOGICAL OBJECTION?
- IS THERE ANY REAL PRACTICAL OBJECTION?

It's obvious that the Free Churches have been able with clear consciences to answer "no." It is equally obvious that up until now other Christians have not found it so easy. Perhaps the Church of England is soon going to change its mind.

Without wishing in any way to accuse those engaged in the argument of insincerity, the point must be made that it is very easy to fall into the trap of making up one's mind according to one's own likes and dislikes, and then find the relevant arguments to fit.

Theology is not an exact science. The Word of God and the beliefs of Christians are not always able to be confined to a precise interpretation. If they were then Christians would all belong to the same political party, all share the same views about the H-bomb, all be pacifists, or all agree that in certain circumstances war is justified.

CONSCIENCE

On the issue of the ordination of women Chris-

tians find it difficult to agree for precisely the same reasons. In the end the Bible or Christian teaching and tradition will only give the answer that fits the individual conscience. Most of us will make up our minds on other grounds.

WHAT WE'RE REALLY CONCERNED WITH IS THE PRACTICAL SIDE. IS THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN GOOD FOR THE CHURCH? CAN IT WORK?

Some say that with a shortage of men candidates for the Ministry and with the ability of women proved in other careers, the obvious thing is to open the Ministry to women candidates. The Church would thus benefit from the increased numbers and the particular gifts and insights that women would be able to bring.

Others argue that psychologically women are not suited to the full-time pastoral ministry, that motherhood would make it impossible for them to carry out their duties satisfactorily, that very few women—and most of them the least desirable candidates—really want ordination.

Both sides are able to put a good case. Those who have heard Professor Lampe arguing for a female Ministry would be hard-put to better him, unless, of course, they felt that nearly 2,000 years of tradition is the best argument of all. Sooner or later the balance is going to have to come down on one side or the other, and most of us who care about the Church will have to make up our minds.

By Geoffrey Brown

The issue can't be dodged because it's of vital importance. If the Church of England says "no" to the ordination of women, then this puts another major difficulty in the way of re-union between the Church of England and the Free Churches. If, on the other hand, Anglicans say "yes," then yet another barrier is set up between them and the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. This obviously means that Roman Catholics and Orthodox will also have to re-examine this whole question, and so the ripples of the debate will spread wider and wider.

FEW OF THEM

Since the debate is likely to be decided on practical grounds, many people will need to have the following questions answered satisfactorily before they are able to support the ordination of women:

- (1) Since women ministers have been allowed for some time in the Free Churches why are there still so few of them?
- (2) Do people really want to be ministered to by women? It is argued that in the Baptist Church even those candidates who are trained for the ministry are faced with the difficulty of finding a congregation that will appoint them as ministers.
- (3) Is ordination the best full-time use of women in the Church?

RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIANS HAVE A DUTY TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS.

Candid Comment . . .

I DON'T KNOW what daily and Sunday papers you read, but I wonder if you have noticed one up-and-coming trend in journalism which gets my goat. There seems a conspiracy about to cater mainly for the female upper crust. You just keep an eye open and see how often the fashions described and recommended are the arty, country-house-weekend

type. Count up how often the prices of clothes, kitchen gadgets, vases and knick-knacks, and even toys begin where your hubby's pay packet ends.

It's about time the ordinary, down-to-earth, run-of-the-mill housewife and mother had a square deal from the world of journalism.

Joyce Briggs

- ANSWERS TO QUIZ
1. Casanova
 2. Sir Billy Butlin
 3. Charles and John Wesley.
 4. David Attenborough.
 5. Charles Dickens.
 6. Sir Gordon Richards.

CHRISTIAN AID in a land of famine

Early last year India faced her worst famine in a century.

It was estimated that the death-roll would equal the total population of Australia.

This terrifying prospect has not been realised although it might have been but for massive international help.

Voluntary aid was spearheaded by the Churches, represented in Britain by Christian Aid.

HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

First, of course, came immediate distribution of food in the famine areas. (In the State of Bihar alone, food for 300,000 is still being provided at this very moment.)

But Christian Aid is more far-seeing, more positive, more practical than that. It believes in helping people to build a better future for themselves.

So Christian Aid means high-speed drilling rigs to

produce water for the crops of tomorrow. It means aerial surveys and ground surveys to discover the most suitable sites for the wells. It means rock drills, hoist trucks, compressor units, mobile workshops. It means seeds, fertilisers, sprays . . .

5,000 WELLS THIS YEAR

Your Church—through Christian Aid—is helping to create over 5,000 wells in India this year, and there is also a fertiliser programme to assist 12,000 farmers.

More help—your help—is desperately needed to carry on the good work. Christian Aid, remember, is the Churches' own organisation—your organisation—for practical relief wherever and whenever it's needed.

Do please get in touch with your church or local Christian Aid committee . . . and please offer all the help you can.



Christian Aid,
The British Council of Churches,
10 Eaton Gate, London S.W.1.

Personality of the month —

IN AN AGE of increasing standardisation and uniformity it is refreshing, if not always comforting, to know that characters like Nicolas Stacey still exist. They can be brash and superficial. They can be unwise and unfair. They can infuriate and incense—but they never fail to stimulate.

His career is as colourful as his personality.

After entering the Royal Navy, and picking up the King's Dirk at Dartmouth on the way, he viewed with horror the chaos of Hiroshima. The results of that first atomic attack had a profound effect upon him, and certainly played a part in his being led to offer himself for ordination.

In 1949 he went up to Oxford, where he distinguished himself on the run-

ning track. Typically he took up sprinting as almost a new interest, and three years later represented his country at the 1952 Olympic Games at Helsinki.

After Oxford and two years at Cuddesdon Theological College he went to be a curate at Portsmouth.

While there he founded and edited "The North End Review," which was one of the first parish newspapers in the country, and when he came to be chaplain to the Bishop of Birmingham in the mid-1950s he started the "Birmingham Christian News," which has since grown into this national newspaper with a circulation of 80,000.

During his time in Birmingham, Nick Stacey began to show his talent for brushing away cobwebs and drop-

ping bricks. It is alleged that he once told the Bishop of Birmingham that he could run his diocese while shaving!

It was natural that in time he should move to the Diocese of Southwark, where so much of the new thinking in the Church of Eng-

of his closest friends wince.

Perhaps the truth of the matter is that he is by nature more journalist than priest. To him, being a bore is the greatest crime of all. To him the dull tones of grey are not half as attractive as a full-blooded black or white, and so, time

REV. NICOLAS STACEY

land was being done, and when he left Birmingham he became Rector of Woolwich, and later on election by the local clergy, rural dean.

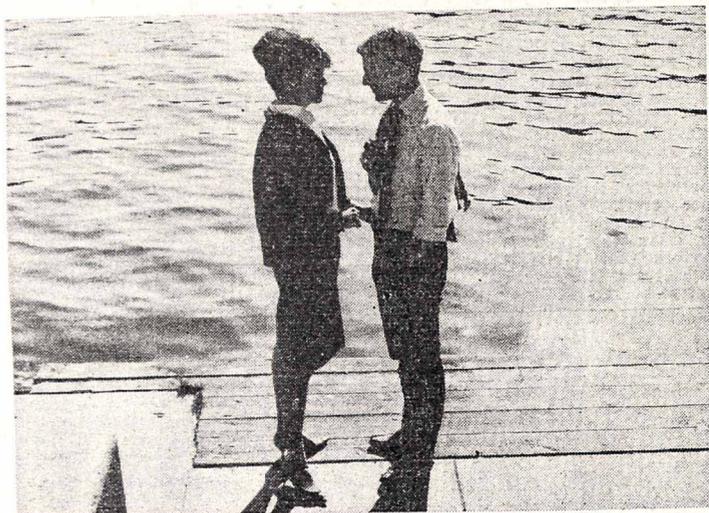
While at Woolwich he has, to the frustrated anger of those who disagree with him, exercised once again his great talent as a journalist. His famous article in "The Observer" made some

and again, he falls into the trap of overstating his case. One gets the feeling that he would rather be a 100 per cent. failure than an 80 per cent. success.

Too many Nicolas Staceys would be an embarrassment to the Church. For some, even one is too much. But he still has some things to say that the Church needs to hear.



Photo by permission of The B'ham Post and Mail



Taking the matrimonial plunge

THERE WAS A TIME when very few people talked about money—it wasn't done. There was also a time even more recently when the word "sex" was taboo. Thank goodness all that has been changed and engaged couples can discuss well ahead of marriage absolutely everything to do with it. Marriage Guidance Councils have helped a great deal.

For many years now they have been running coffee groups for engaged or newly married couples and the demand for them increases as the world gets round about how helpful they are.

The groups usually meet at the house of a married couple who are experienced in helping people to discuss openly and frankly any aspect of marriage. There is so much to talk about that quite often four or five meetings are necessary. There have been many tributes paid

by couples who have joined these groups.

"We found it most interesting, stimulating and helpful, and are both very sorry that the discussions had to come to an end," wrote one couple; and another, "We want you to know how much we enjoyed talking so freely in such a relaxed atmosphere."

Common

However well they know each other, there are usually some

It is the most widely circulated emergency appeal that the World Council of Churches has ever made.

An appeal for help for victims of the war has also been made by the Roman Catholic organisation International Caritas with whom the World Council of Churches is maintaining liaison. On behalf of churches in Great Britain, Christian Aid has immediately sent an initial contribution of £20,000.

★ ★ ★ SHELTER'S PROGRESS

MONEY raised in the first three months of Shelter's national campaign for the homeless will provide 750 people with homes before Christmas. More than 80 large houses have been bought or are in process of purchase in Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham and London, and the work of improvement and conversion is going ahead. Further allocations of money, to be made shortly, will enable this number of houses to be doubled. In five months Shelter passed the half-way mark to its 1967 target of £250,000.

★ ★ ★ NO TO MARRIAGE

A SURVEY carried out amongst Roman Catholic priests in the archdiocese of Portland, U.S.A., shows that 65 per cent. of them are in favour of diocesan priests being given the freedom to marry. Of the 109 priests who answered the question, "If a married priesthood were permitted in the Roman rite, do you think that you would marry?" seven said yes, unquestionably; seven, very likely would; 19, probably would; 22, probably would not; 20, very likely not; and 34, definitely not.

unanswered questions at the back of young couples' minds. Perhaps these are some of them:

How about the in-laws?

What can we really afford?

Why "family planning"?

Who wears the trousers.

Why budget?

Should we do everything together?

How much is "his" and "hers"?

These and lots of other questions arise naturally in the course of coffee group discussions, and if there is something that they wish to discuss privately with a counsellor this is easily arranged. It's quite surprising how a problem which has worried someone secretly becomes almost unimportant once that person discovers that it is shared with others and is really quite common.

WHAT TO READ

If couples cannot find a convenient Marriage Guidance Council in their area then you will still find plenty of help in the booklets published by the National Marriage Guidance Council. These are really practical and give accurate and detailed information about "The Honeymoon and After," "Young Parents," and "Sex in Marriage." Then also there is that wonderful little best-seller "All About Your Wedding" which contains full details of all wedding procedure.

The booklets listed above are obtainable from any Marriage Guidance Council or bookseller price 3s. 6d., or 4s. each—including postage—from the Book Shop, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1. A full list of recommended books and booklets is also obtainable from this address and includes books for parents, teachers, engaged couples and young people.

FROM HERE AND THERE

WORKING PRIESTS

THERE ARE now 51 Roman Catholic priests working full-time in factories in France. Half are secular priests and half are members of Religious Orders, including five Jesuits and two Dominicans. They completed a four-week training course last year and similar courses are planned for 1967-68 when it is hoped to deploy a further 50 priests on this form of ministry.

WAR APPEAL

THE WORLD COUNCIL of Churches has appealed for an initial £650,000 to aid war victims throughout the Near East and to restart compassionate work among the distressed of all nationalities and religions in every country affected by the conflict.

The appeal is being sent out to member churches in all parts of the world, including those in Eastern Europe.

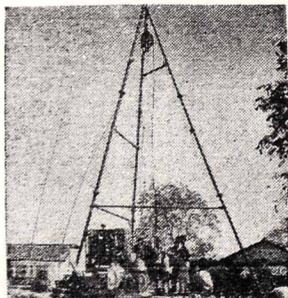
QUIZ TIME

Famous men of our time

- 1 Who was the 18th century Italian adventurer and spy whose memoirs are largely concerned with his love affairs?
- 2 Who was the pioneer of holiday camps in Britain for the general public?
- 3 Name the brothers who started the evangelical movement called Methodism.
- 4 His zoo quests in Gullana and elsewhere and his broadcasts have made him well-known. Who is he?
- 5 Which Victorian novelist attracted large audiences in America to hear him give readings from his novels?
- 6 Which jockey was knighted in 1953 for his achievements in horse-racing?

(Answers on Page 5)

£6,000 PLEASE



Famine is killing thousands and causing untold suffering in Bihar.

Below the rock lie vast reserves of water. Powerful drilling rigs could reach that water — it could save crops and lives NOW.

The threat of famine in a vast and populous area could be ended forever.

The cost of one rig is £1,500.

We need four at once.

CAN YOU GIVE US THE COST OF ONE?

THERE IS NO TIME TO SPARE while hundreds die daily for lack of water.

When you turn on your tap, please think of those who die for lack of water and send your donation.

If every reader responded today, rigs could be on their way in a few days.

WAR ON WANT

9, MADELEY ROAD, LONDON, W.5

Children's Corner by Brenda Holloway

Looking at trees

THIS IS THE MONTH TO WATCH TREES. THE LEAVES WILL SOON BE CHANGING COLOUR.

SOMETHING TO DO

There's almost sure to be a large tree somewhere near where you live, either in your garden or your street or in a park. On a large sheet of paper make a pencil drawing of the tree, but don't put any colour in yet, and don't choose a tree too far away, because you'll have to go and look at it quite often! As the leaves begin to change colour on the tree, paint or crayon these colours on your drawing, adding more colour as the leaves turn into yellow, red and brown, until you have got a picture of the tree just before the leaves begin to fall.

WHAT USE IS A TREE?

Here is another thing to do. Before you read any further make a list of the ways trees are useful. Then check your answers with the list at the end of this column.

MORE ABOUT ANSWER NO. 4

Do you know this poem about trees?

With OAK the old-time ships were laid,
The round-backed chairs of ASH were made.
Of BIRCH were brooms to sweep the floor,
The furniture was SYCAMORE.
Clogs were of ALDER, bows of YEW,
And fishing rods of bright BAMBOO.
WILLOW was used for cricket bats,
And OAK again for tubs and vats.
Of PINE the roof beams and the floor,
Or for the window frames and door.
ELM made a wagon or a cart,
And MAPLE was for carver's art.
BEECH was for bowls; pipes were of BRIAR,
And many woods would make a fire.
But in the cottage or the hall,
ASH made the brightest fire of all.

Why not take this poem to the park and see how many of these trees you can find? When you have found a tree of the right kind, underline it in the poem. The park keeper would probably help you, and you could borrow a book about trees from the library, which would be another help.

AND MORE ABOUT ANSWER NO. 5

If there had been newspapers in New Testament days, this is what the people of Jericho might have read one morning in "The Jericho News."

TAX COLLECTOR CLIMBS TREE! (Refunds for taxpayers)

IT SEEMED as if all Jericho crowded into the main street yesterday to catch a glimpse of Jesus of Nazareth, who is paying a visit to the town.

Zacchaeus, the tax collector, known to most of our readers as the shortest man in town, found himself at the back of the crowd and unable to see what was going on. So he climbed a nearby tree and got a grandstand view.

Cheers broke out as Jesus and his friends pushed their way through the crowds. Jesus, spotting the tax collector in the tree, called to Zacchaeus and asked him if he could put him up for the night.

ANSWER TO WAYS TREES ARE USEFUL: 1. They give shade in summer 2. They provide a home for birds. 3. Their roots help to drain the earth. 4. We use their wood to make things. 5. They are fun to climb. 6. They give us fruit and nuts. 7. Their flowers provide nectar for the bees to make honey. 8. Their fallen leaves improve the soil.

Zacchaeus slid down the tree and ran ahead to his house to prepare for his visitor. Later Zacchaeus said that for several years he had been deliberately overcharging taxpayers and putting the extra money into his own pocket, but he would now be refunding to taxpayers the money he had overcharged them.

In answer to a question from our reporter, Zacchaeus said that Jesus had not instructed him to make the repayments. He had made the decision himself. "Jesus is such an honest, straightforward kind of a man that I suddenly felt an utter rogue and thoroughly ashamed of my trickery. I knew that I just had to pay the money back."

You'll soon have to be keeping up with the colour Joneses

Television, by Harold Jeffries

I WONDER if you can remember when television first came out?

Before the war it was the expensive novelty that only a few could afford. It was very much the status symbol. Most people were content with the wireless, not only because it was the common source of home entertainment, but because no one really wanted anything else. Children came home from school, and instead of switching on to view "Blue Peter" or "How," they listened to Uncle Mac and "Children's Hour." Later in the evening they asked to stay up to listen to "Monday Night at Eight," or "Band Waggon" with the same eagerness that is now reserved for "The Avengers."

But then the war ended, and television started coming into its own. More and more sets were being bought many of them with nine inch screens covered by magnifiers—remember? Soon you were the odd one out if your roof wasn't sprouting an aerial—TV had arrived and radio was old hat.

At first it was a great and marvellous novelty. Viewers watched everything going with enjoyment. It was a wonderful improvement on sound alone.

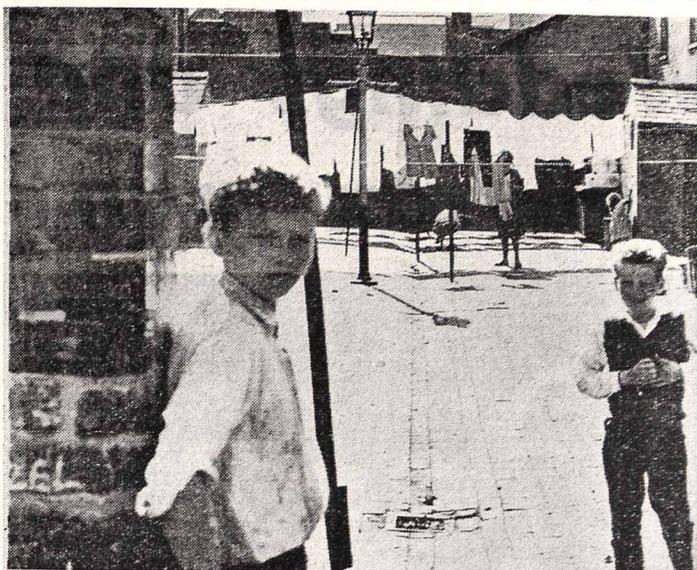
Time went by, however, and like all novelties, television became taken for granted. It was an accepted part of the furniture. There, very often, to be ignored—switched on, but ignored.

Today, television is as widely accepted as the normal thing to have in the home as a wireless used to be, but up until now it has been in black and white, and the fact that colour TV is almost on our doorstep means that we're going to have to face the whole familiar pattern once again.

ENVIUS

First of all will come the few who can afford £300 for a colour set, or the 35s. a week it will take to rent one. We shall all rush round to see it installed in someone else's house and feel secretly envious. Then bit by bit the price will come down, and bit by bit our desire to be in the fashion will make us kid ourselves that we can afford it, and before many years have gone by colour will be accepted as normal. Perhaps a few years after that we shall be bored with it and something else will come on the market—colour TV with smell perhaps—and the whole cycle will start all over again.

We call all of this progress. I suppose it is. But the French have a saying: "Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose" . . . the more change you have, the more you end up with the same thing. Still, I must confess I really would like to have one of those colour sets . . .



KIDS AIN'T WOT THEY USED TO BE

By Percy Burnell

I SAT behind them in the bus, hence, I heard every word. "There never were such badly behaved children!" lamented one woman to the other. "Don't know what the children of today are coming to! Cheek! Cheek's not in it. Why only the other day . . ."

"Hooligans!—that's what they are!" asserted the other, with some emphasis. "Can't tell 'em anything. What they teach 'em at school—I don't know." Then almost simultaneously—and I was prepared for this—"When we were children . . ."

What those ladies were like when they were children, I don't know—models of obedience, perhaps, examples of exemplary manners. Perhaps they were—but I am old enough to understand, perfectly, what they meant. Each generation of children has been accused of being bigger sinners than the one that went before it.

If there is a difference in the children of today say, from 40 to 50 years ago—and many people think there is—in what does the difference consist? Is there a difference in the children themselves, or is it something to do with that which is exterior to them, and their difference is in their RESPONSE—their REACTION—to that "something?"

CHANGED

There is, of course, in these days, a changed attitude of parents to children, and children to parents; there is a good deal of emphasis, in education, on self-expression (resulting sometimes in self-assertion and over-confidence); our waking hours are filled with a conglomeration of noises, and SPEED is king; more money is at the disposal of more and more people; there is a widespread disregard of values to be found in our Christian Religion; our attitude to many of the

common courtesies has swept these courtesies away.

In my own life time, our world has undergone a change in patterns of behaviour and in attitudes to moral issues for which the word REVOLUTION is not too strong.

"FATHER"

Father, for instance, used to be the undisputed head of the family and parents had due honour paid to them. Adults were really superior beings. They lived in a world of their own, a world which was not invaded by children, and you came into it when you had left childhood behind, and it wasn't any easy process even then. Sunday was more strictly observed in many homes, the family went to church—more so than now—and quite often Sunday games were out. You were brought up to be polite. You raised your cap to parsons and teachers—and many other folks as well.

The point is, THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE BROUGHT UP IN A WORLD THAT ADOPTED THESE STANDARDS YOU GREW UP IN A CERTAIN WAY.

No doubt some of us feel that compared with what we were like, some of the children of today—perhaps a good many of them—appear to be badly-mannered. But let us not blame them for not measuring up to standards which, generally speaking, no longer exist.

Let us face it, there is a lot of rudeness in the world today, vulgarity, lack of reverence for sacred things, and common courtesies, which help to make life sweet, have almost vanished. There's a good deal more lying than there used to be and a man's word, so often, is no longer his bond. We seem to be pre-occupied with sex wherever we turn.

STANDARDS

In fairness to our children we must refrain from expecting them to measure up to standards of behaviour which USED TO BE but which no longer exist in OUR world—or theirs.

There are those who are most eloquent in blaming the schools for what they term the BAD BEHAVIOUR of our children, but, let me remind you, that the standards of conduct accepted by the community are formulated, not in the schools—they have their part to play—but in the HOMES OF THE PEOPLE.

Their are those of us who believe that the best behaviour must grow out of Christian teaching and Christian example, hence, it is only logical, then, that our standards should have deteriorated in a world where the place of religion has been taken, in many homes, by all sorts of cheap substitutes.

"Train up a child in the way he should go . . ." said the old writer—and he knew what he was talking about.

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Weddings and the tax man



WHAT is the biggest factor in the choice of a wedding day? It's not the weather, it's not the date that the house is going to be ready, it's not the most convenient time in which to go on a honeymoon—it's which day gives the newlyweds the best deal as far as Income Tax is concerned.

There are two peaks in the Wedding Calendar, one on the Saturdays before April 5, and the other during late September and early October. Most people know that this has got something to do with Income Tax. Not so many know the exact reasons, and for those who may be thinking about getting married and are a bit muddled about it all, here's the information in a nutshell.

As a general rule, if the bride to be is not working, or will give up working after the wedding, then a Spring wedding before April 5, is best. If she is working and is going to carry on with her job after she's married, then the early Autumn is the date for her.

Here are the reasons.

Married people get a greater degree of tax relief

than single people. The married man has a £340 allowance. If he marries before April 5, and as close to it as possible he is counted as a married man for the whole of that tax year. If he marries after

ANOTHER FACTOR

If, however, the bride has a job which she is going to keep there is another factor to consider. A working girl can get a 7/9ths allowance on her income up to £220. So it will pay her to have worked long enough in the tax year she gets married to absorb that relief. On the other hand, she wants to absorb the allowances she had as a single girl. So her best course of action is to get married at that time in the year when she not only uses up all the single girl allowance, but has also earned enough to use up all the 7/9ths maximum. This is half way through the tax year, and points to early October.

So the thing to do is to weigh the pros and cons in the light of these facts, and then choose the date.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

April 5, he has to wait the whole tax year before he gets any money back, and he won't have gained anything back in any of the months he wasn't married. If his bride to be isn't work

TOPIQUOTES

There are no significant differences in opinion between church-attending and non-church-attending adults on major issues involving moral questions such as capital punishment, American military involvement in Vietnam, open housing, and school integration. —Gallup poll—America.

In the early days of the Church, Christians managed without hordes of ecclesiastical buildings.

The Church should close buildings and concentrate on developing a few well equipped and well run centres of worship and research as a base for its operations.

Not only would this reduce running expenses, but it would release the energies of Church people for serving the community.

—Rev. Nicolas Stacey (see page 6).

I was a Band of Hope child and I effectively never tasted wine till I was 18 and left home. As a result, for years I drank like a fool. I have done what little I can to spare my descendants my wretched record; I have laid down some claret for my grandchildren with the instruction that their parents shall start them on it at the age of 14. What would we think of a mother who sent her daughter out into the world with no instructions or advice about sex? Yet we no longer teach our young how to carry their wine.

—Raymond Postgate.

Pataudi appreciated by all — even loud mouthed Albert

By Ernest Adkins

ALBERT is a permanent resident at the county ground, Edgbaston. At least, whenever I pay a visit to the ground he is always there.

It would perhaps be more precise to say that Albert is a regular visitor to the public bar during licensed hours. His cricket watching is actually something of an afterthought or at least a preliminary for the real business of the day.

Edgbaston's most vociferous heckler, Albert's memory exceeds his age by about 50 years. He has, so he avers, a clear recollection of the cricketers who in point of fact were buried by the time Albert made the cradle.

EMOTION

Nonetheless, whenever he compares the modern cricketer with his predecessor, and this is among his favourite occupations, the comparison is always sufficient emotional motivation to get him back to the bar.

According to Albert all present day bowling is rubbish (the last fast bowler worthy of that title being F. Larwood). Contemporary batsmen, he swears would not have been allowed in the same dressing room as Jack Hobbs.

Perhaps Albert is right. Indeed, the game today is very much at the cross-

roads, and the only word that can be used properly to describe much county cricket play in the season now closing is mediocre.

As predicted in this

the outmoded qualifying registration rule.

The game's legislators need to take a good hard look at these facts and act accordingly.

SATISFIED

It was during the last test match against the Indian touring team that I met a man who was more than satisfied with cricket just as it is.

Born in Bombay, he was by no means perturbed by the rapid passage of Indian batsmen to and from the wicket. In fact each departure was greeted with a genuine "well bowled, sir." (I wonder when Ray Illingworth was last addressed as "sir"?).

My Indian friend loved every minute of the game. To him the sight of the Nawab of Pataudi leaning on his bat between overs was the very epitome of a real cricketer—every inch a Corinthian.

REMARKABLE

I do believe even Albert appreciated the Nawab, as certainly did the West Indians present.

What a remarkable game this is, that men with such different cultural backgrounds find common expression and understanding on the cricket field. Surely the people of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. could find two teams between them!



FARCICAL

column, and elsewhere, the increase in points to be gained for first innings lead reduced many games to a farcical level, with entertainment rating at nil.

An exception to this were the Rothman sponsored Cavalier games played on the basis of a limited number of overs on Sunday afternoons.

Crowds flocked to these games, not only to see the distinct possibility of a result, but to see colourful cricket played in the main by men prevented from playing county cricket by



37/6

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