

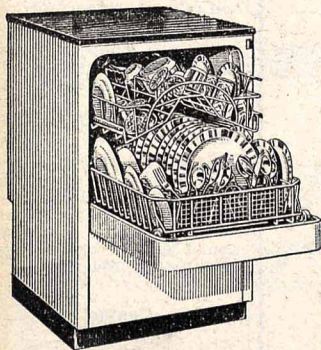
CAVERSHAM BRIDGE 6d.

December, 1967

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THINKING OF PRESENTS?



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Look at the "gifts" offered with soap powders, breakfast cereals and other products. No one believes the manufacturers are offering plastic beakers and weekends in Paris as marks of affection to their customers.

It's a trick to promote their goods, to get people to buy them. There's a catch in the giving.

Gifts, all gifts, are funny things: they're often double-edged.

But, surely, not at Christmas! Not when families are exchanging their gifts, marks of love and affection, we say, which bind families and friends together. Surely, at the season of warm sincerity and good will cynical thoughts are out of place—or are they?

Like the manufacturers of cereals we can give presents calculated to keep in or get in with someone who might be useful to us. Even a Christmas gift can be a bribe.

A lavish, probably quite unsuitable, present can be a way of demonstrating our wealth ("that

must've cost a bob or two") of making ourselves feel superior and making others feel small. Or we can give a big present to a tiresome relative to quiet our conscience for a year of neglect.

Parents may give their children extravagant gifts at Christmas—but this is no substitute for time and interest and love given to them for the next 364 days of the year. Double-edged gifts again: we give them to ourselves as much as to others.

Perhaps worst of all some gifts are given as a reward, or withheld as a punishment — "If you pass the examination we will give you a bicycle." "If you're not a good girl Santa Claus won't call at our house.

Such gifts with strings are mere rewards and scar children's minds with the idea that they will only be loved if they deserve it.

A true gift, like God's gift of Jesus to us which we remember especially at Christmas, is an offering of love freely and without strings.

If we say that we give gifts for love, then the matter cannot end with a smiling exchange of presents on Christmas Day. Our giving goes on—giving time to our family, conversation to the lonely, patience to ageing parents . . . just a few examples of the ways in which we can give ourselves.

YOU—GIVE YOURSELF this Christmas.

D/EX 1758/4/12



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**Dialogue with the
World—J. G. Davies
S.C.M. 4/6.**

Basically Professor Davies here gives us four connected essays on the Church's mission in the world. 'As long as we hold before ourselves the objective of Church extension, we are deliberately planning not to die, we are devoting our energies to ensure our own survival.'

We thus replace self giving by self aggrandisement, acceptance of the Cross by self-sufficiency. Whether you shout "Hear, hear" or "shame" to that you ought to grapple with this booklet. It's a call to go out defenceless to show God's love to men.

Sex is Dead—E. H. Brill S.C.M. Press 6/-.

The blurb suggests that Earl H. Brill takes a midpoint between St. Paul and James Thurber, and that's about right. It's very funny in parts—witty and wise.

Mr. Brill has an easy, happy-go-lucky kind of style that makes me emerald with envy. He's on the side of youth and laughter but is able to hoot with derision at the gaffs and bloopers that modern society is making in some of its current attitudes.

Only a couple of broadsides are about sex—a good

many other sacred cows come under the humane killer including the press, the theatre, secularisation and leisure.

Great stuff.

**The Humiliation of the
Church—A. H. Van den
Heuvel S.C.M. 15/-.**

The trouble with names like Van den Heuvel and HoeKendijk is that we tend to think their books are as difficult to read as their authors' names are to pronounce. Sometimes they are.

This reads easily and yet one always feels that one is listening to a prophet—a prophet of the ecumenical movement, who has been about the world, seen the

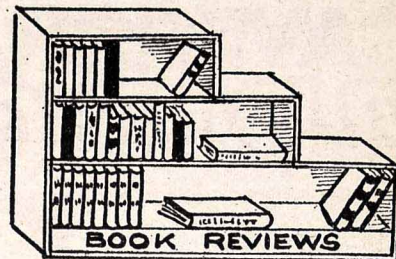
Church in many moods and feels that the real humiliation of the Church is that we refuse to be humiliated.

His concern is the renewal of the Church and he is excited by what is already happening to effect it. This is a constructive book.

**God & Sons—Dewi
Morgan—Peter Davies
30/-.**

Dewi Morgan is a journalist. You won't find anything howlingly new here but you will get a fine impression of the Christian Faith today through the eyes of a bubbling Welsh optimist who's made Fleet Street, with its tentacles in every part of the world, his home.

A book to borrow from the library.



JAPAN PLUMPS FOR

ONE HUNDRED leading Japanese business men, artists and educators, asked what book they would take on a three-month trip into space have plumped for the Bible. Nearly all of them were non-Christians. But their answer is an indication of the remarkable place the Bible is winning for itself in the life of modern Japan.

Last year over 600,000 Bibles and New Testaments were sold in Japan, in a land where the Christian community is only 800,000. Most of this huge sale was made outside the Christian community, as the Bible is now regarded as one of the most important of the world's cultural books, and therefore a compulsory acquisition for every educated Japanese home.

THE BIBLE

sition for every educated Japanese home.

The International Gideons, which exist mainly to put the Bible into hotel bedrooms, is widening its outreach in Japan by putting the Japanese-English New Testament into high schools.

In fact, the Four Gospels topped the distribution tables of any single religious book last year in Japan, and reached over 1,800,000 copies. Japan's boom in Bibles is regarded by observers as evidence of Japan's rising interest in great books and their stories rather than a deeper interest in the Christian religion.

**Won't
chat
them
up**

A VILLAGE clergyman plans to leave his church to look for a job in business or commerce.

He claims that under the present Church administration he cannot perform his duties properly.

The Rev. Brian Basted (36), Rector of Leverton, Lincs., announced his decision and said his parishioners had refused spiritual advice.

"They think the minister is there to chat people up and generally make himself amenable," he claimed. "If he tries sincerely to do the job he is meant to do he is criticised."

Mr. Basted, father of two took Holy Orders nine years ago and moved to Leverton—pop. 650—in 1965. He has an average Sunday congregation of 30 at the 13th century church of St. Helena.

Contact

He said: "A minister's job is to give spiritual help but most people do not want this."

He added that the only contact many people had with the church was at baptisms, weddings and funerals.

"The shattering thing is that we cannot refuse these services."

Mr. Basted said: "I am still definitely a Christian and I will still go to church."

LETTERS

to the

EDITOR

are always welcome

at

**319, GAZETTE BUILDINGS,
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Churches' International Department

by May James

"We cannot believe that silence before wrong is the will of God."



Christians must be involved in politics.

THAT BOLD statement came from the International Department of the British Council of Churches when the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa told it to keep out of politics. The Council had, through the Department, condemned the refusal of the Dutch Church to speak out against apartheid. It said:

"On the political, economic, and social moral implications of apartheid we believe that your silences are as great an involvement as our speech. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is under the obligation of love to condemn injustice. We may be wrong, and if so you will enlighten us, but we cannot believe that silence before wrong is the will of God."

The Department sees its job as bringing the attention of the British Council of Churches to any question on international affairs which its members think Christians here should be considering deeply. Inform-

ation is one side of the Departments work. The other side is making recommendations for action.

The idea of pressure-group politics is something that many people don't like, but it is a fact in British politics now. The Church is a pressure group by virtue of her very existence and size. And to keep quiet on some political questions is to accept wrong.

The scope of the Department's work is best seen by looking at the reports, which it produces twice a year.

POVERTY

A recent report covered firstly the "areas of conflict" — including Rhodesia; the former British Protectorates in South Africa; South-West Africa; South Africa; and Vietnam.

Next it dealt with world poverty and disarmament; then questions that particularly concern this country, such as the Common Market. And from looking at Communist and Moslem countries the report found

itself considering religious liberty throughout the world.

To deal with this huge field of work there are just four members of staff. Two are clerical assistants and two are permanent members of staff, one of whom is paid by a grant from a trust.

The reports and background information to local councils of churches are drawn up by working parties of deeply committed Christians, who happen to be experts in these matters and who are prepared to give up some of their time to do this work.

The Department has two main obstacles.

LIMITED

The main one is limited financial resources. Sometimes grants are received, but these can't be relied on for regular work. For example, personal visits abroad are valuable to the Department because they can help more than anything else to build up an accurate picture of what is going on. But personal visits have to be paid for and they are, of course, very expensive.

The second obstacle is poor support from churches at the local level. Very few ever comment on the re-

ports coming from the Department, even though some local councils of churches have set up their own committees to find out reactions and then to report back to the Department.

HERE IS A BODY DOING WHAT THE CHURCH IS OFTEN CRITICISED FOR NOT DOING — SPEAKING OUT ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS. IN THE LAST RESORT ITS VALUE AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD LIES IN THE EFFORT MADE BY EACH CHRISTIAN.

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RED CROSS MORALE BOOSTER

RECENTLY the British Red Cross ran their first beauty course for instructors in London. They trained instructors from all over the country so that they could teach volunteers to make up old people and long term patients in hospitals and homes.

The service first started six years ago with the help of Atkinson's cosmetics in a London hospital, and was so successful and such a tremendous morale booster that they extended it to other hospitals and old people's homes.

The Red Cross has branches in every county, plus over 38 overseas branches. They started the first blood donor service in this country — and still offer a live blood service for hospitals in London.

PICTURES

As well as the well-known library facilities which they operate in hospitals, they have fairly recently started a picture library. Soon patients develop an interest and begin to want to know more about the artist and his work.

The British Red Cross has built up amazing worldwide connections. A short while ago, Isabelle Hilliers, who is in charge of their Invalid Travel Section, was giving a broadcast on the B.B.C. Immediately afterwards an M.P. telephoned her and asked if she could really do as much as she claimed. A Polish man was seriously ill in hospital and wanted desperately to see his wife, who couldn't obtain a visa. Isabelle Hilliers immediately got to work, and within 36 hours the Polish woman was at her husband's bedside.

What must be one of the most helpful things for foreigners who are taken ill and have a poor knowledge of English are the language cards which the Red Cross provide. The cards are printed in approximately 50 different languages and are worked out in a question-and-answer form.

POINTS

The patient points to the appropriate question in his language, and the doctor or nurse shows him a suitable answer.

Many probably do not realise the different services offered by the Red Cross, or the extent of the organisation, which is financed completely by voluntary donations.

The backward boy goes forward

by Ronald Adkins

"OVER 90 per cent. of our boys make the grade. I have been looking through the registers and, from 151 boys who left the school in the last five years, only 14 have got into trouble and been sent to Approved Schools."

These encouraging words were said to me recently by the principal of the school for maladjusted and mentally retarded boys where I am both chap-

TRANSFORMATION IS NOT AN EASY PROCESS— BUT THERE IS HOPE

lain and teacher.

It is not an easy thing to transform a boy who comes to us completely out of control into a useful member of society.

Most of them come to us because both their schools and their parents can no longer cope with them. They are sent for a medical examination which finds them to be in need of a boarding education at a special school, that is, a school for mentally retarded and maladjusted boys.

Very glad

Their parents are not compelled to send their children to a special

school, although they are usually very glad to do so, having nearly been driven out of their minds by worry. If they did refuse to give their consent they would be faced with a problem.

The school their boy had attended would, after the doctor's verdict, automatically exclude him. The headmasters of other schools would probably contact the head of the previous school and, on finding the boy's history would refuse to accept him. The only other alternative would be a private school, but the parents may not be willing, or able, to pay the fees.

A few of our boys have been before the courts, often for stealing, and they have come to us because of a court order. They are all maladjusted, that is, out of tune with their environment. Their mental retardation is not always due to a low I.Q., although in a few cases it is. It is usually because they have not done any work at school for a long time but have spent their school days misbehaving.

Two factors

What has made these boys maladjusted?

The answer varies. Sometimes it is because of broken homes, some-

times neglect, but in my experience there are always two constant factors. One is that in every case there has been a lack of discipline. The boy has done something wrong, has not been punished, and so feels that he has got away with it; he proceeds to do more and more wrong things and very soon is completely out of control.

From towns

The second factor is that we have not had any boys in the school from country villages where they would help on farms after school. They all come from towns where they do not seem to have anything to occupy their time.

This explains the need for the boys to be at a boarding school.

We are not content with 90 per cent success, but we can at least thank God that the backward boy is going forward.

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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153, Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham. Tel.: 72542.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

WHAT makes the inhabitants of a particular area into a community? This is the all-important question which lies behind our principal feature this month. Can a community be consciously created or is it something that grows slowly over the years?

The traditional English village is often held up as an example of a real community. It consisted of people of all ages and of all kinds of educational and social backgrounds, living in houses of very varied kinds. The population was static, many families having lived there for centuries, and the parish church was in a real sense the centre of the community life.

But today these conditions exist in very few places. Modern methods of transport means that even in what until quite recently were remote areas, villages are inhabited by many who commute daily to some big centre for their work, the older children are taken by coach to school away from the village, and the population is no longer static.

New areas, such as Caversham Park, nearly always are built with a limited variety of housing so that the population tends to be unrepresentative of the country as a whole, and there are always likely to be in such areas a high proportion of fairly recently married couples with young children. And new residents in any such area naturally need some association so that they can collectively make their needs known to local authorities and others who are responsible for helping them with essential services. But once the initial struggles have been successfully overcome organisations can often lose the impetus that brought them into existence.

The residents of Caversham Park are greatly indebted to those of their number who are working so hard as leaders of the Residents' Association to sort out many of the problems that face them. The development of the area not from the eventual centre, but from the extremities, has made their work harder. It is only natural that those who live on the doorstep of Emmer Green should turn to Emmer Green for many amenities. But Emmer Green is itself not a close knit community: Emmer Green is part of Caversham and Caversham is part of Reading, and the whole pattern of living today is such that many people do not necessarily want to tie themselves to too many commitments among their immediate geographical neighbours. What community sense exists in Caversham exists among the older section of the population who in many cases have moved from one part of Caversham to another. But I have also been delighted at hearing from many new arrivals in Caversham that they have so soon felt at home among us, and felt quickly a sense of belonging to a community. Such people have been Church members, and for them at least the Church is seen as playing a very real part in creating a sense of Christian fellowship and community.

"No man is an island," James Barrie has taught us. Life today is such that the residents of a particular area cannot expect to become a close knit community, yet they need help and encouragement in overcoming many practical problems. And the Church has still to decide how best it can help them in their particular situation. The Parochial Church Council of Caversham welcomes the link with the Residents' Association that has been established through the appointment of one of its members to the Council of the Residents' Association. How best the Christian Church can help in forming the corporate life of this new area has still to be determined. Gone are the days when the building of 1,500 new houses meant that any one Christian body would erect a large and expensive plant. Both economics and ecumenism have had their bearing on ecclesiastical policy. The debate has to continue, and the columns of this paper can usefully be a forum for it so that residents of the whole area can jointly come to a better understanding of each other's needs.

John Grimwade



Fred Walker

Where do mallards—wild ducks—nest? Usually in reeds, sometimes in pol-larded willows on the banks of the Thames, but one this year chose a garden on the north side of Church Road, Caversham, near the junction of St. Anne's Hill.

No one knows when the nest was built. Mrs. Lewis, who lives there, saw no duck in the garden and only discovered the nest after it had been deserted, but this is not unusual. Dr. Bruce Campbell, who has often broadcast about birds, has written, "Charles St. John, the 19th century naturalist who had them (mallards) breeding in the flower beds of his Scottish garden, said he was never able to see the duck return to the nest."

V.I.P. treatment

Occasionally they nest on high buildings in London, and Mrs. Mallard and her brood get their photographs in the papers when being given a right of way by London policemen across

Mallards

the busy streets on their way to the Serpentine or the Thames. I am sure this family could have counted on similar V.I.P. treatment from Reading police—if only they had known!

Some mallards are indeed wild ducks. Those we usually see near Caversham Bridge are half-tame and many of our domestic ducks are partly bred from mallards, but mallards are undoubtedly the commonest ducks over most of Britain.

Peter Scott writes that they breed in Europe and Asia from the Arctic Circle south to the Mediterranean, Persia, Tibet, Central China and Northern Japan as well as northern and Central North America. Some are resident in this country but a large number visit us in winter from overseas—for example a bird ringed in Holland in February, 1949 was recovered near Abingdon in September 1950, another ringed at Sunninghill in February, 1950 was found in Denmark in October, 1951.

Mallards can be distinguished by a bright blue wing patch margined by two white bars, but whereas the duck is a mottled light brown colour the drake (except about the moulting season) has a glossy bottle green-purple head, a narrow white collar and brown breast—a very beautiful bird, particularly in the breeding season.

He is perhaps an example of the dictum, that handsome husbands make bad mothers—certainly the drakes show no interest in their ducks when brooding, or their offspring. It is of course true of many species of birds that if the males share the duties of incubating they have similar inconspicuous plumage to the females. An exception are male and female kingfishers who have exactly similar plumage, but as they nest in holes in river banks they are out of sight when brooding, so they can safely wear their brilliant colours.

Perhaps the mallard mums rejoice in their handsome husbands—even if they do go off on the razzle and leave mum to look after the kids—sorry—ducklings!—K.A.B.

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Fred Walker

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In her spare time, she is devoted to animals and is often found teaching her pet budgerigar to talk.

We would like to congratulate her on her 25th anniversary and to express the hope that she will be able to continue in the job for a long time to come.

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T.W.G. NEWS

Caversham Afternoon

At the October meeting members observed a minute's silence in memory of Mrs. M. Allison, a committee member who died recently. The chairman, Miss E. Baker, congratulated the members who entered the competitions for Townswomen's Guilds at the Women's Institute County Produce Show and were successful in winning the Margaret Latham Cup for the Guild which obtained the highest number of points in the various sections.

The Michaelmas Fayre was most successful and an amount of approximately £60 was raised. All the members who visited Southampton on October 10 and went over the "Queen Mary" had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Mr. Bernard Moss gave a talk illustrated with coloured slides on his journey "Round the World in 140 days," which was most interesting and entertaining.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 2.15 p.m. at Church House, Caversham. New members will be welcomed and should contact the Secretary, Mrs. B. Stratford, 35, Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading. T.N. 73550.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Guild held a successful 15th Birthday Party on October 17. The theme was the British Isles giving interesting variations to the menu. Entertainment was provided by Progress Players reading poetry and our President, Miss P. Bone, once again delighting us with her singing. Founder members were presented with a T.G. spoon to commemorate 15 years membership of the Guild. At the last Guild meeting Miss Sheila Reed spoke on the "Changing

Sounds and Uses of English."

On October 18, Social Studies had as their speaker Dr. V. Klein, whose talk was entitled "Take-over Bid." A report on the Southampton Residential School on "communications" was given by Mrs. Allen, Group Chairman.

The next Guild meeting will be on December 12 when a talk will be given on "TV Behind the Scenes." The December competition will be "Flowerless Beauty."

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at the Emmer Green Primary School, Grove Road. - New members welcome.

Berks and Northants Federation

The October meeting took the form of a Musical Evening arranged by Mrs. Gant, music chairman.

Mrs. Haydon, chairman, thanked all the artistes for making it such a delightful evening for members, and Mrs. Gant for her work in arranging such an interesting programme.

International

A party visited the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington, on October 4. Mr. Wright talked to the group during October about China.

Social Studies

The speaker for the meeting on October 3 was Mr. Rolls from Reading University who spoke on teacher-training.

Arts and Crafts

Cake Icing classes began on November 10. Please contact Mrs. Dawes, Reading 71352, if interested.

POSTBAG

Drugs

Dear Sir,

Although I feel we were perhaps somewhat swamped by the number of column inches devoted to the drug problem in the November issue of the "Caversham Bridge," there are one or two points arising out of the two articles which I think need to be made.

I quite agree that we may perhaps be being hypocritical about the use of marijuana and the so-called soft drugs, but I think the emphasis should be on the word "may." There is still far too little knowledge to justify a rush towards a permissive attitude yet. Fairly recently I attended a lecture by Dr. Caruana, Deputy Medical Director of the Central Council of Health Education. In the course of this lecture, Dr. Caruana said that so far as cannabis was concerned, not enough was known about it; there was no proof that it led to hard drug addiction though it was a bridge or ladder, and it was found that hard drug addicts had used cannabis.

Dr. Caruana felt that those on the so-called soft drugs required the attention of the Education Authorities from the health education point of view, but we should also take more interest in our children, adopt a more understanding attitude, try to see what their problems were and make THEM see that they could turn to us for help.

In the relatively short time since I became a magistrate, the incident

that shocked me most was the case of an immature young man of 21 who was up for "driving under the influence of drink or drugs." On investigation this proved to be something called a "black bomber" or amphetamine type drug. What, however, was shocking to me was not that this boy had taken this, but the attitude of his father who seemed to have no knowledge of his son's friends or activities and, although the boy was living at home, seemed, because he was 21, to have washed his hands of him; he just didn't seem to want to know or care about what his son was up to so long as he was "a good boy at home." It may be awfully wearing being an understanding parent, but don't let us give up or let our memories of our own youth rust so much that we cannot bridge the gap and communicate with our own young people.

In a recent article in the "Guardian" it was stated that the biggest rise in drug addiction was amongst the under twenties. In the statistics published of addicts known to the Home Office there was a 54.2 per cent. increase in 1966 compared with the previous year. Although the total number involved is small, this is an alarmingly high growth rate. While there may be no need for hysteria, it would in my view, be wrong to encourage complacency.

Yours faithfully,

Justine Mair
Hill House,
Surley Row, Caversham.

Caversham Court

Dear Sir,

I read Thames Ward voter's comments in your October issue on the use of Caversham Court for the civic reception to an international conference and thoroughly agreed with it apart from thinking it wouldn't have made a ha'pennyworth of difference if we'd all voted a different way last May.

I then read the Rev. G. Shearer's letter in November's issue and found myself agreeing with him. Schizophrenic? No, I think they both have a lot of right on their side. Rate-payers should not be restricted in their use of a public park for a long period during the part of the year they are able to use and enjoy it most. Here may I say that "public park" seems an inadequate description for Caversham Court. It is much more like a private garden to which the public is allowed access. It is equally right that Reading should offer a fitting welcome to its distinguished visitors and Caversham Court made a gracious setting for this.

It all indicates the need for the best possible use to

be made of riverside sites. It looks as if we have already sacrificed one to commercial development. Many people have said that the site between Church Street and the river could have been used for an attractively laid out open space with a hall that could be used for conferences or the excellent amateur drama companies we have in the town.

Someone can be heard murmuring "pipe dream" and asking whether I know there is a "freeze" on. Yes, of course, but freezes don't last for ever. Would it not have been better to reserve this land for such a purpose than sterilise it for an indefinite time ahead? If it is now too late to do anything about this, it may be possible to use View Island, attractively situated near Caversham Lock, close to the town centre, yet with parking facilities, but at present lying neglected and forgotten. There need be no conflict between citizens who want to enjoy their open spaces and those who wish to see Reading make the best of its possibilities as a conference centre.

ANOTHER THAMES VOTER

MORE THOUGHTS OF A ROVING REPORTER

I see we have a new crossing attendant in Prospect Street. It is not the easiest of jobs — personally I'd be scared stiff to step out into that road armed with nothing more than a piece of board. Our very best wishes to the gentleman who has taken on the difficult task. But what a pity arrangements cannot be made to cover those times when, though local council schools are on holiday, St. Anne's pupils still have to go back and forth. Why can't all local schools have the same holidays?

How nice the churches looked when floodlit during Key Fortnight. St. Peter's particularly lends itself to this treatment. I wonder if we could do this more often.

Harvest Festival is a long way behind us now, but this is our first opportunity to pass on the thanks of the ladies in the Westfield Road Almshouses to all those res-

ponsible for supplying and delivering those delightful baskets of fruit and provisions. The residents there are settling down to a really comfortable winter in their new apartments. But don't forget they still like to have visitors.

Christmas will soon be here. It is amazing what can be found in the local shops as gifts. All the chemists, for instance, stock an endless supply of lovely gifts. Our hardware shops are full of things to give those difficult-to-please handymen husbands. And a line I particularly like are the matching sets of table mats, serviettes, glass mats, etc., and candles to match, all in the most delightful "with-it" colours.

Talking of shops, I expect everyone will have noticed the welcome change at the local Post Office. Mr. Humphreys

hopes that there will now be more room for the Post Office customers and enable him to display his other goods to better advantage. I notice several shops have been altering their shopping space recently. What a help this will be when the last minute rush starts.

Caversham Adult Centre has taken on a new lease of life this term. The building has been enlarged and decorated and new ventures are taking place under the capable management of Mr. Charles Welfare. Afternoon classes are now being held, there is a flourishing drama group which visits local theatres, a literature class and another on religious symbolism. Caversham Community Group held their official opening there recently, in their newly decorated rooms.

At least one group of local doctors have started a "smear" clinic. I do hope local women will take advantage of this. My own

doctor tells me that when tests do prove positive the operation involved is a very minor one and can save a great deal of heartache and pain. Do ask your doctor for details about these tests.

Even in Caversham. Christmas is going to be very lonely for some. If you don't feel able to invite that funny old soul down the road for Christmas lunch, how about popping in some time during the day with an unexpected gift?

At Christmas time perhaps each family could bear in mind the campaign to relieve world hunger was launched at the Lord Mayor of London's banquet. Companies, clubs, societies and other organisations holding lunches or dinners are being asked to lay an extra place, for the Absent Guest, and to give the cost of this theoretical extra meal to a campaign to fight starvation.

CAVERSHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A property development company is seeking permission to build houses along "Bug's Bottom" or Hemdean Rise, to give it its orthodox name. This news was given by Coun. C. Buck to a public meeting called by the Caversham and District Residents' Association when some 60 people came to hear the Association give an account of its past activities and to invite suggestions for future ones. The Town Council's Planning Committee had refused permission because this was one of the few remaining pieces of rural land left in the borough and formed part of the attractive skyline which the Council was anxious to preserve. However, the company had

appealed to the Minister of Housing and Local Government and there were grounds for believing that he may give his consent. The meeting was unanimous in asking the Association to support the Town Council in their opposition to this. An additional reason given was that facilities, particularly in the primary schools, would be grossly overstrained by any further population increase in Caversham.

TRAFFIC
The chairman, Mr. J. Mair, reviewing the Association's work, said that much of it had been concerned with traffic in Caversham. The acting Chief Constable had agreed to do all in his power to stop indiscriminate parking in the "village" which was the cause of some of the worst congestion. The Association was having consultation with the Transport Management about the feasibility of an east to west bus service and were also pressing the need for steps to be taken to reduce delays during the morning rush hour at the Gosbrook Road—George Street junction.

There were several complaints about the smell from the crisp factory, where peanuts are now being fried till midnight on several nights a week. As one speaker said, the previous smell of frying crisps was as Worth perfume compared with this new one. Coun. Bristow was already making representations to see what could be done about this and the Association agreed to support him and the other Caversham and Thames councillors in their efforts to get this nuisance stopped.

GROVE HILL
The scheme for widening Grove Hill was also the cause of much concern, doubt being expressed as to whether, with Grove Hill being closed to through traffic, the need was sufficient to warrant the expense. It was also felt that the "improvement" would look extremely ugly. After a vote was taken, the Association was asked to lodge an objection to the order in the hope that some modification to the scheme could be achieved.

The shopping precinct still caused the greatest reaction. It is clear that there is still a vast amount of opposition to it and even though the battle must now be in its final stages, it was agreed that we should fight on to the very end.

Coun. Robinson's request to the Council that plans of major developments should be exhibited in the areas concerned had resulted in the plans for Freebody's site being displayed in the public library and later in the Central library. Residents are asked to look at them carefully as although the plans have been approved in principle, there is still time for any amendments to be suggested.

The chairman concluded by saying that the treasurer, Mr. R. Lightowler, 100, Blenheim Road, would be glad to receive new subscriptions (5/- per family or individual and 10/- per organisation).

M.C.
Footnote: The secretary, Mrs. S. Clifton, 52, St. Anne's Road, would be glad to have the names of anyone opposed to the building-up of Hemdean Bottom.

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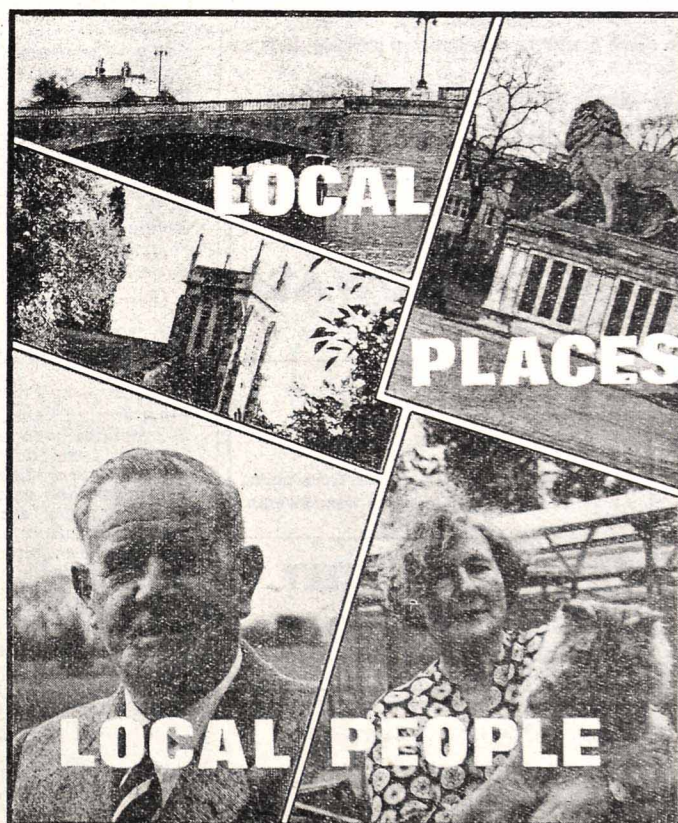
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CAVERSHAM PARK VILLAGE

Nine months ago the Caversham Community Survey was published. Its main conclusion was that Caversham is not a community in any meaningful sense of the word. It is a collection of districts which are in most respects as much a part of Reading as part of Caversham.

The Survey found out something about the behaviour, opinions and needs of the people who live in the geographical area whose postal address is Caversham. It highlighted the lack of amenities. What chance is there of improving them? Unfortunately the position is not helped by the fact that Caversham is partly in Oxfordshire. There seems to be no liaison between the local authorities to build up the community. For example, Caversham Park Village should clearly be in the Borough of Reading. It will have to wait several years before changes take place. Meanwhile, it relies on a remote authority, and the necessary extension of amenities from Reading is delayed. It is interesting to know that as far back as 1912, when the Reading Corporation introduced their Extension Act, there was the chance that Reading would include the whole of Caversham Park. The powerful traditionalist Crawshay family was able to exclude Caversham Park from that Act. Sixty

Community

years seems a very long time to wait before reversing that mistaken decision!

It is all very well to mention in this paper the need for buses from East to Central Caversham, the need for more shops in the outlying districts, and the need for a restaurant in the centre—but what chance is there of any action? Do people persistently approach the councillors they have elected? Do people feel so strongly that they are prepared to let their views be known in the local Press?

WHERE WE CAN ACT

A follow-up in the whole matter of local voluntary service is underway. Before this can be effective—we shall have to know what is already being done. All the churches have been circularised to find out what is being done by their different organisations. The "Bridge Scheme" does provide us with a framework for real co-ordination. There is the further need to find out what secular organisations are doing in Caversham. The Survey has shown the need for further research, and for joint

action on the facts which are revealed.

MOBILITY

It would have been interesting to know what percentage of the people interviewed for the Survey were born in Caversham. The contrast between "locals" and "cosmopolitans" is becoming accentuated all over the country as people's jobs require frequent moves. This contrast is especially marked in an area like Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village. To use the jargon of the sociologist "the locals" are a group, or rather an interconnected network of face-to-face groups, based on family, neighbours and social standing. Caversham is their principal frame of reference. "The cosmopolitans," though united by the fact that they live in Caversham, have their frame of reference in a wider society. Their key question is one about achievement: "What does he do? What has he done?"

The Caversham Park Village Residents' Association is making a strong attempt to give a sense of community to that part of life which people spend at home. What they are doing to counter the disintegrating forces of mobility—could well be studied by people living in the other parts of Caversham.

● WHY HAVE YOU COME TO LIVE IN CAVERSHAM PARK VILLAGE?

(A)—A strong reason was the hope of our being able to put our children out to go to school without crossing any road. (In fact our daughter has to cross a busy road since the school promised for the estate has not yet been built).

(B)—It is convenient for travelling. It was possible to get a mortgage. It is in a good position not too far from both sets of parents.

(C)—Price and availability. For what each house has, Caversham Park is cheaper than other places nearby. The interior (and especially the kitchen) design attracted us more than the outside design.

(D)—Price. Caversham Park had more style than other housing estates within striking distance of London.

(E)—Because I could not get a house at this price in London.

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Five people living at Caversham Park were recently interviewed by a "Bridge" reporter. Of the five—three are closely connected with the Residents' Association. An accurate assessment of the questions would have meant dealing with a much larger sample, but their answers, perhaps not unfairly, represent the different views current amongst residents.

● HAS IT LIVED UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

(A)—Davis Estates are very good salesmen. They are good at suggesting things, but if you really study the brochures, you'll see there is nothing they can be held to.

(B)—Yes.

(C)—The amenities are poor, and the way the Local Authority (Oxfordshire), goes on is shocking, but yes it has, having accepted the fact that the brochure adds up to nothing. In spite of many faults it promises to be much better than the average estate. It's quiet; there is an impression of space; the children can play quite freely and they grow in confidence quicker than those who live in more conventional housing areas. You can isolate yourself if you want to.

(D)—Yes—though the Village hasn't developed as quickly as we expected.

(E)—No.

● DO YOU THINK CAVERSHAM PARK VILLAGE IS A COMMUNITY?

(A)—Yes. It's far more of a community than any other estate I know. Only a dozen or so out of the 300 families have relations near at hand. People have had to put down roots—unlike for example an estate where we lived on the edge of Cardiff. There people for their relaxation and social life returned to their "roots" six miles away, and didn't make new friends. Here, after a short time we have many community activities—e.g. the Drama Group, the Newsletter, and bus trips to the Proms, and to the theatre. There is more visible expression of community life than in an area like Emmer Green. It's a geographical unit on its own. People have a lot in common, and there is the need for joint action to protect our material interests. Joint social activities are the best way of maintaining the continuity of effective business action.

(B)—Not yet, though there is a friendly spirit. Organisation will get more complicated as the estate gets bigger. There's quite a good cross-section of intelligent and lively people.

(C)—Yes. People help each other when there are domestic crises. It is easy to "belong." It is better than the average dormitory estate. We shall be able to have an inter-change with Emmer Green. We and they will be able to use the new Youth Centre and the Community Centre we are planning to have. Emmer Green needs to come alive.

(D)—No. All that we have in common is that we have bought similar houses, and we've got similar

financial status (£1,500—£2,000 a year per family). There is not much ready money. A community is a cross section, and new towns are designed for the whole social range. Caversham Park is just middle-class, and it is artificial to foster "the unity" of Caversham Park Village.

(E)—No. We are so far removed from the southern end that we are not particularly conscious of living in a community. We have no time to take part in things. There is the need to integrate with the people living around us rather than having a "closed shop" to ourselves. There isn't any need for a pub to be built on the estate. There are two perfectly good pubs in Emmer Green. We need to get over the barriers of resentment between the Estate and Emmer Green. They don't resent us as people, but they resent our living on what used to be countryside.

● WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE THE ROLE OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE?

(A)—It would prevent the community from "being suffocated." Many small groups now meet in people's houses. It must be made possible for people to meet in larger groups in a natural way. There is the need to put down roots. Once they are down—THEN there can be mutual contact with the surrounding communities. If people spread themselves in lots of different places—they are no use to anyone.

(B)—It would be a place to hold events. All musical evenings, slide shows and meetings of the Residents' Association now take place in houses, and there just isn't enough room. Recently 37 people attended a meeting on handwriting! Communal activities would increase if the facilities were available.

(C)—In any community one needs a building for the following activities: Nursery schools, blood donation, drama, women's meetings, youth clubs, further education, a headquarters for sport, and some sort of Church activity. When the village is complete one would like to see in its centre a "village green" with the schools, the shops, the pub and the community centre around it, and with sports fields nearby. Caversham and Emmer Green just can't supply the facilities we shall need, but people living in other parts of Caversham will be most welcome to join our activities when we have a place suitable for larger numbers. The Centre would be occupied from 9 a.m. until midnight every day. One age-group we should like to see catered for would be the 18-25 age group: there's nothing for them in Reading.

(D)—There is a great need for a community centre, BUT NOT for Caversham Park Village alone. We are part of Emmer Green where there are shops, pubs, schools and the Church. Soon there will be a Youth Centre. Let's have a Centre, and let it be built on the Village, but let's have the whole community planning for its construction and its future use. It would be horribly condescending to invite the rest of the community in afterwards. The whole of Caversham and Emmer Green north of the traffic lights by Queen Anne's School could be involved in planning for the Centre.

(E)—We want somewhere for our young people, especially Scouts and Guides. We don't want an extension of the Officers' Mess.

-IS IT A COMMUNITY?

● DO YOU THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR A RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION?

(A)—There will always be a need — especially when the estate is full. New people will always need to be welcomed, and to be made to feel accepted in this rather self-conscious community.

(B)—Certainly, but it is difficult to say how militant and how general its approach should be. As a large body we need to deal with Davis Estates and protect our interests.

(C)—An Association helps to keep the values of our houses, and provides a means of mutual self-interest. We need to deal with the Local Authority over matters which are outside the control of the builders. For example, we need to fight for a better bus service.

(D)—A Residents' Association is too exclusive. Everything conspires to make it separate. I agree however, that we need a means of protecting the interests of the residents in their relationship with Davis Estates.

(E)—No. We can work together when it is necessary to fight our general battles, but there's no need for social organisation. Let the social side happen naturally. The young people will see to that.

● WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHURCH HAVE IN THE VILLAGE?

(A)—Going to different churches dissipates what Christian energy there is. Why couldn't the Anglicans go to the same church and the Methodists go to the same chapel? There is a great need for discussion groups in people's houses. These would help people to meet each other at a deep level. The Community Centre could be the focal point for Church life.

(B)—The Church should be available for those who want it. There is no need for a church building. It would be quite a good idea to have a chaplain living in the village, but to be quite honest—people are too involved to go to church.

(C)—The Church should be concerned with people rather than bricks and mortar.

(D)—The Church already provides lines of communication. St. Barnabas has lively organisations. The question should be "What role does the Church strive for and attain?" The Residents' Association will always have to be non-sectarian.

(E)—Where there are young people the Church will always have a rôle. Going to Sunday School at the moment means transport. There should be somewhere on the estate for children and young people.

"BRIDGE" SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

A steady trickle of new names of house-bound folk who would welcome a friendly caller comes in. So far we have always found volunteers who are willing to spare a little time each week. These visits bring great joy to both parties. After all, it is pleasant to call on someone and see his or her face light up at seeing you! Our third birthday having just been achieved, perhaps it is worth mentioning this month the fact that some of our visitors have been calling on their new housebound friends for a year, two years, or even more. Probably they do not wish for thanks, but as Central organiser I am most grateful to all our helpers who quietly carry on doing car lifts, shopping and visiting, etc., week in and week out and enable us to achieve our object of friendship in its widest sense, to our neighbours. Our thanks also to our hard-working Area Organisers — always available and always quietly confident that they will find an answer to what is required, and they do! All we now need are names of more volunteer helpers so that our present list of friends is not overworked.

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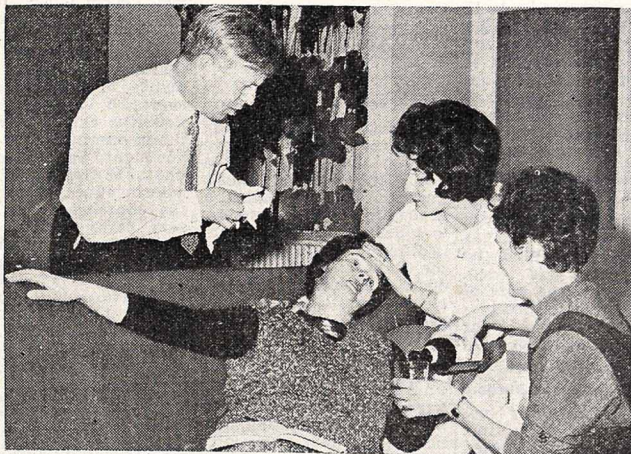
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Interest in drama is strong among Caversham Park residents. Rehearsals take place in the homes of members of the drama group.



The egg-and-spoon race at the Residents' Association Sports Day at Micklands School in July this year. (Photo supplied by the "Reading Chronicle").

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NEWS FROM THE

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

On Advent Sunday, December 3, the parish of Caversham will start to use the recently authorised revision of Holy Communion. Not since the year 1549 when the service was simplified and translated into English from Latin has the Church made so big a change.

The Liturgical Movement, as it has come to be known, has made its impact on almost all branches of the Christian Church. Worship has once again seen to be not just the function of the priest but of the whole congregation of Christ's people. The Reformers in the 16th century went a long way in getting the congregation to take their share, but in their day they met with opposition to much that they tried to do. Now the recent teaching of many scholars has helped us to a fresh understanding of our common share in worship.

CHANGES IN SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Some may feel that the changes that have been made are not bold enough. Little alteration has been made in the translation of the Gloria, Creed and Sanctus but this is because it is hoped that discussions with other churches will result in the production of common forms. It has also to be remembered that the revised order is experimental until the matter is reconsidered in 1971 in the light of its use in these four years. The service has also been so authorised as to allow for certain local variations, and it is right that in the next four years we should ourselves try out these variations. There will indeed be certain variations in the use between the four districts of the parish, though these are in comparatively minor matters.

In some respects the service reverts to the order our ancestors once knew. The Gloria is restored to its former position near the start of the service (as it was still found in the first English translation of 1549) and the sermon will once again come after the Gospel and not after the Creed. The Lord's Prayer is restored to its proper place before the administration of the Sacrament.

The service will be used at the 9.15 a.m. Eucharist on Sundays in each district, and at 8 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month in St. Peter's. It will also be used at all weekday services of St. Peter's and St. Barnabas', and at some at St. John's and St. Andrew's, and its use will be reviewed at the annual meeting next spring. It will be introduced at Springfield St. Luke's Chapel at the same time. Copies of the service (9d. each) are obtainable in all the churches of the parish.

St. Barnabas' News

Key Fortnight

There is so much that could be reported about Key Fortnight. Suffice it to say that all the evening meetings were very special occasions when many points of new understanding were reached by us all, and when a new spirit of fellowship and understanding grew up among us. We will all look back upon Key Fortnight as a time of enrichment in the life of our Church; a time when God gave us new knowledge of Himself and new faith.

Mr. Gordon Page has written: "In St. Barnabas' Key Fortnight was an unqualified success and, if I may speak for all of us, I would like to say that in Fr. Shand we had a most able and devoted spiritual leader, ably supported by Sr. Evelyn-Angela and Br. Cyril. We were most favoured and fortunate, and Br. Evelyn-Angela endeared herself to us all and we were most sorry to have to say 'goodbye' to them. We shall not forget them and they will be in our prayers..."

Family Services

Parents with young children will be interested to know that our two family services in October were very well supported. At the first, a large number of children brought harvest gifts which were distributed to local people, and at the second the children of the Sunday Club presented a puppet service depicting the lives of

Christians from history. Our next family service will be a nativity play at 6 p.m. on December 24.

Men's Forum

Mr. G. Hall writes: "On Wednesday, October 25 the Men's Forum commenced their 1967-68 session with a discussion by Mr. J. W. Harbour, a probation officer, on 'Drug-taking—the father's point of view.' The chairman welcomed Sister Audrey-Mary and Sister Rita-Magdalena from Springfield St. Luke, who have both worked in their communities' home for drug addicts, and several men from St. John's Church. Mr. Harbour prefaced his remarks by saying that it was difficult to condense a subject which demanded at least a two-year course, but in spite of this he packed a lot of dynamite into the next half-hour. The number of questions asked and the lively discussion that followed were evidence enough of this. Many fathers present expressed concern at their lack of knowledge about drug-taking and all present acquired a new understanding of the problems which confront young people."

The Church Hall Colour Scheme Competition

The winning entry for this competition was by Mr. Harry Gray. In his scheme the walls were painted grey-green, the window and door frames white, and the doors and other woodwork chrome green. We hope to repaint

the hall next spring using voluntary labour.

St. Barnabas' Youth Club

At a recent meeting it was decided to launch a St. Barnabas' Youth Club for those over 15. Overall responsibility for the meetings will be taken by an adult leader while the programme will be arranged and meetings will be conducted by the members themselves. It is hoped that this club, meeting on Friday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in the church hall, will provide a forum for our young people and their friends to relax, and, through occasional discussions and service to the community, to help them work out the implications of the Christian faith for themselves and their generation. We wish this club every success.

A New Coal Bunker

A new coal bunker, large enough to take an entire winter's supply of coal, has been completed behind the church. This has been, almost entirely, the work of one man—Mr. F. Galloway—to whom we express our gratitude for his careful and painstaking effort.

The Church Flower Borders

Many people may not know that Mr. C. Pain, from Caversham Park Nurseries, has quietly tended the flower borders along the wall of the church for many years, and that he often rose early on a Sunday morning to stoke the church boiler. Now that he and his wife have moved to Kington, we would like them to know how much their work has been appreciated and that we wish them every happiness in their new home.

Choir Outing

On Saturday, October 21, the St. Barnabas' choir and the All Saints' choir went on a trip to Winchester by coach. Before the service we went round the cathedral. It was very interesting. The shrine of St. Swithun is there. The east end of the cathedral is slowly sinking into the ground at the rate of two inches a year. Work is going on to prevent further sinking. The main altar is very beautiful indeed. Around it are two small chapels. Winchester Cathedral has the longest nave in England.

The service started at 5.15 p.m. During the service the head chorister sat in the middle of the other choirboys. The choir sang beautifully. If you wanted to join the choir you'd have to be a probationer for a year. The

organ at the cathedral had four keyboards. We got there and back safely thanks to Mr. Dare, the driver, and the St. Barnabas' choirmaster.

Zoran Novakovic

(Head Boy of

St. Barnabas' choir)

Sundays, Dec. 24 and 31

On Sunday, December 24 there will be no 8 a.m. service of Holy Communion and on December 31 the annual Carol Service will be held at 6.30 p.m. in place of Evensong.

St. John's News

The voice of experience

At last! The clergy really don't know what they are talking about when it is about the world of work. But Mr. Tom Chapman, a Trade Unionist and worker in industry for many years is different. He is at present the Church of England's Industrial Representative and has a reputation as a public speaker. On Sunday, November 26, at 6.30 p.m., he is to introduce the subject "The Christian Layman in Industry." Bring your friends to what promises to be a most stimulating and helpful evening, especially for those working in industry.

Talking about marriage

On December 17 at 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Swinbank, a mar-

ST ANDREW'S DAY

at
ST. ANDREW'S
Thursday, November 30
7.30 p.m.
Parish Communion
Preacher:
The Rev. A. S. Jeffery
(Combined choirs of the parish will sing)
6.30 a.m.
Holy Communion

riage guidance councillor, will introduce a discussion on "Marriage Guidance." This can include anything from courtship to the end, whatever that may be.

Children's Gift Service

At 11 a.m. on December 17. The gifts are for children in the Smith Hospital, Henley. Largely for reasons of possible infection, we are only able to accept new toys to pass on to them. There will be no Sunday School or Junior Church on Christmas Eve, but on Christmas Day there will be the usual Family Carols at 11 a.m., which many have come to enjoy so much.

St. Peter's News

Local Wine

At Harvest Festival the wine used at the Parish Communion was made from grapes grown in the parish. There can be few parishes which number among their communicants someone who grows grapes and makes home-made wine from them and this unusual happening deserves to be recorded.

More gifts to the church

The new hangings round the organ manual and piano have been much admired and they have brightened up what was an unattractive corner of the church. Many thanks to the donor. Now, a number of parishioners have expressed a desire to give flowering cherry trees as a thank-offering for "Key Fortnight." Since a large elm had to be removed after the gale in June, the corner of the churchyard has looked very barren and the presence, in years to come of a number of flowering trees will serve as a visible and attractive reminder of "Key Fortnight."

Beryl Hutchinson

has just begun her nursing training at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Her regular presence in the choir will be much missed, but she hopes to appear as often as her hospital time-table allows.

Musical Sunday evenings

We hope to have a recital of church music by the Palestrina Singers after Evensong on Sunday November 26. The following week, Queen Anne's School joins us for the Advent Sunday carol service; this has become a very popular occasion and the congregation is advised to arrive in good time. Then, on Sunday, December 10, we shall be making our second hymn broadcast to the Reading hospitals. On December 24 there will be no sung Evensong at 6.30 p.m., but on December 31 the service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held. The evening congregation since "Key Fortnight" has been noticeably larger than for many years.

St. Andrew's News

Proceeds to Ovamboland

The sale of harvest festival produce, together with harvest gifts from the Sunday School, goods made by the Working Party and several other stalls, raised just over £100—the highest figure from such a sale for many years. This was a most welcome addition to our overseas giving. Of particular interest was an attractive "collage" picture made by Miss Pryce-Jones. A competition was held to guess the number of hours it took to make. This was won by David Sidwell, who now owns the picture.

Flowers

Mrs. McClellan, who has been in charge of the flower arranging, has resigned from this post. Under her leadership, the organisation of the helpers has run very smoothly and the floral dis-

plays have always been of a very high standard. We are grateful for all that she has done. Mrs. Burton, of Win-croft Road, has kindly agreed to take over from Mrs. McClellan and Miss Dormer will continue to act as second in command.

Guild of St. Raphael

Seven new members were admitted to the St. Andrew's Branch of the Guild of St. Raphael before Holy Communion on the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude. This Guild is concerned to promote the ministry of healing by prayer and sacrament within the Church of England. Among other things, its members pray daily for the sick. If anyone reading this would like us to pray for someone in particular, he should contact Mrs. Hodges, 156, Kidmore Road, or the priest-in-charge.

Congratulations

Our good wishes go to Brian Gardner on his recent engagement to Joan Blake and his appointment as manager of Boots in Marlborough. He will be missed at St. John's, where he has been deputy organist, assistant Scoutmaster and, for the last two years, has been assisting at Communion with the administration of the chalice.

Youth Clubs

About two years ago Mr. Ray Turner re-opened the

St. John's Youth Club and after building up the membership, planning and organising the unusually interesting and worthwhile programme, he then opened a junior branch—assisted by a few other adults in running the canteen and club evening. This has, of course, been immensely costly in both time and energy and after two years Ray has felt it necessary to resign the leadership and take a well earned rest and devote more time to his own home.

(Caversham Branch established 35 years)

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CAVERSHAM CHURCHES

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Anne's News

The congregation of St. Anne's contributes generously to 15 Diocesan charities, both at home and overseas. Despite this, assistance is given to many national efforts and now the task of "Housing a family for Christmas" has been taken on.

"Shelter" has requested that this should be done. It means raising £325, and it is hoped that this will be done for Christmas so as to assure that some family will be able to enjoy the holy season in reasonable comfort.

St. Anne's School

"Open Day" at St. Anne's School was held on Friday evening, October 27, when the majority of parents with children at the school came and met the teachers.

In a pleasant social atmosphere the teachers were kept busy with parents anxious to question them on the progress of their children, the work they were doing and how they were co-operation with their teachers.

The atmosphere itself was an indication that things at the school were quite satisfactory. This, in other words, was a reflection of the pleasant atmosphere throughout the school.

Overheard time and again were expressions of appreciation and gratitude to the teachers for their interest and efforts to give the youngsters in their care a sound educational foundation.

St. Anne's Mixed Youth Club

Within the past six months attendance at the club has grown tremendously. When guests are admitted on Sunday nights some 200 are present.

Unfortunately, some incidents have occurred which could not be tolerated and it has been found necessary to restrict admission to members only.

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Caversham Methodist Church

What a start to the Connexional year at Caversham Methodist Church. After the quiet holiday months, it has been a joy to feel the new surge of interest that has come with the Autumn days. A joy too, to welcome new faces at the services, and we hope our new friends will soon make themselves at home amongst us. On September 17 and 18, the Harvest Festival services were held, with the customary colourful decoration of the church, and during the Sunday evening service there were readings and music to assist in the thanksgiving for God's bounty. A week or two later, the choir held their Choir Service on Sunday, October 15, when special music was sung, and this was preceded on the Saturday evening by a social. October came to an end on a suitably triumphant note with the Annual Gift Day and Church Anniversary. On Saturday, October 28, the Gift Day was opened by Mrs. Brian Powell, and the Chairman was Mr. Brian Powell—both of whom spent their youth in the Caversham Sunday School and church. The tea, sale and concert following were particularly enjoyable in view of the fact that so many ex-friends returned to meet Mr. and Mrs. Powell. The Sunday morning service was a family one, with the Boys' Brigade parading, and during the service a plaque and holder on the wall of the church, was designated in memory of Mr. J. West, the founder Captain of the Caversham Boys' Brigade Company. Now the Company flag will hang permanently in the church—a reminder of one important aspect of youth work in this neighbourhood. The evening service was conducted by the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, Rev. A. J. Badcock. Gifts and proceedings over the weekend amounted to £250.

Perhaps it was too much to hope that these first two months of the connexional year should be all "brightness." On the evening of October 8, a little before 6.30 p.m., the organist was playing a voluntary, most of the congregation had assembled and three babies had been brought by their parents for baptism. The entry of the minister and stewards was expected at any moment, when—all the lights went out! The Rev. E. B. Wright coped in a very noble manner. The baptisms were performed in the darkness and only one slight whimper came from one of the babies. The service proceeded as planned, even the collection being taken in the darkness. One or two torches had been found, one of which enabled Mrs. Holley to play the hymns on the piano (the organ is electric). Then Mr. Wright had the happy inspiration of selecting well-known hymns, and still in darkness he suggested that "Lead Kindly Light" would be very suitable. This hymn was sung, and immediately the last line of the last verse had been sung, the lights came on again.

St. Paul's Presbyterian News

At present Presbyterians and Congregationalists all over England are considering how they can set about uniting these two denominations. It looks easy, but when you get down to the details of the new REFORMED Church as it will be called, difficulties in the local situation become apparent. The people of St. Paul's have been trying for themselves to find out the attitude of their congregational neighbours to church union, and the Rev. A. L. MacArthur, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England, who visited the Congregational Assembly at Trinity Church on November 4, has tried to put our position to our friends of Congregationalism. Denominationalism may not be an altogether good thing but variety is to be valued. The problem is how to reach unanimity without uniformity.

At the same time conversations between our mother Church, the Church of Scotland, and the Church of England are being carried on. For some time the outlook was quite hopeful, but it now seems more and more unlikely that Presbyterians are willing to take Episcopacy into their system of church government. The Apostolic Succession is something that Scotsmen are not likely to accept, and we in England are being made aware of this, and we follow the Anglican-Methodist conversations with deep

These were some of the questions being asked and discussed by a great number of Caversham people recently.

To many people, Key Fortnight meant simply the floodlighting of the churches, frequent ringing of church bells and a rash of yellow posters in windows. To those who took part it meant a great deal more. What it will mean to Caver-

interest because these matters are inter-connected.

The Church of Scotland views against Church Union have been put forward most forcibly by Professor Ian Henderson in his book *Power without Glory*. and it is a book which should engage our attention even if we do not agree with the author's views. Perhaps the words of St. Jerome fit the occasion "If an offence come out of truth, better is it that the offence come than that the truth be concealed."

Meanwhile, the people at St. Paul's continue their local witness in the neighbourhood, and are, like their minister, rather confused by all the changes that might or might not, take place within the next few years. The great thing is to proclaim the Gospel to the World in the place where we are.

Services on December 17
There will be a toy service at 11 a.m. and carols at 6.30 p.m.

Baptist News

Amusement, consternation and improvisation are not usually ingredients of Baptist worship, but they all found their way into Evening Service on Sunday, October 8. The minister, deacons and choir were preparing to take their places when the lights went out and the organ groaned to silence—there was a power cut. Undaunted, we pressed on and whilst the first hymn was being sung in the twilight, a car battery and inspection lamp was produced, followed shortly by a portable electric lantern and with the aid of these the organist performed at the grand piano and the minister read the lesson. By the time the second hymn was reached it was completely dark and so a good old standby, "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah," was sung in lieu of that chosen. The collection was taken in the dark and it didn't appear to have suffered unduly as to the result. When the lights came on again, after groping our way along for half an hour, "normal service" was resumed. Speculation as to the cause of the failure prompted many suggestions, but we are glad to report that there was no foundation in the rumour that the mains had been over-loaded by our Anglican friends flood-lighting their churches, but how we envied them bathed in light as we languished in gloom.

Missionary work is of great importance to our Church

and denomination and we donate over £300 annually to this cause. Much of this money is derived from individual giving and small enterprising efforts by the various auxiliary organisations of the Church. One of these efforts was staged recently by the Women's Own, when their president, Mrs. L. S. Lewis, showed a series of transparencies entitled "Minister at Large," depicting the travels of the members of the Manse Household. As we go to press we look forward to our annual Missionary Gift Day, when the programme for the evening will include films and "prayer tapes" relating to the needs of the Baptist Missionary Society. The meeting will be concluded with the in-gathering of gifts, to which previous reference has been made.

We also look forward to our Christmas arrangements, in particular the afternoon of Sunday, December 17, when the annual Toy Service will be enjoyed by old and young alike, at 2.45 p.m. Gifts for the Christmas tree will afterwards be sent to homes and organisations for underprivileged children. The Evening Service on that day will include Christmas music by the choir. The customary Sunday services, suitably adapted to the Advent theme, will be held on Christmas Eve and a Family Service will take place on Christmas morning.

KEY FORTNIGHT

BY A "CAVERSHAM BRIDGE" REPORTER

*If God created the world, who created God?
Do we have to believe in the Virgin Birth?
Why does God allow pain and suffering?*

sham as a whole is still a matter for conjecture. Not for nothing did a member of St. Barnabas' suggest it should have been called "Operation Impact."

It would be difficult to find a more suitable title, for to define Key Fortnight would take more than a couple of words. Perhaps it would be easier to say what it was not rather than what it was. It was not an attempt at mass conversion, it was not simply an outside forum for debate. Neither was it an attempt to rethink the position of the Church in a secular world. But it did, we hope, provide an opportunity for believers and non-believers alike to discuss and think out their own beliefs, their attitude to religion, Christianity and the Church—a chance to find the Key to Living.

Each church has its own plan of campaign, consisting of services, talks, discussions and debates, coffee parties and house meetings—led by a very able team of theologians and helpers. And the immediate result surpassed all expectations. People turned out in large numbers all over Caversham, evening after evening, to listen and discuss with tremendous enthusiasm and "with the gloves off," if one may use the expression. No question was too basic or too advanced to be discussed, no subject too sacred. People who, a hundred years ago, would have had neither the opportunity or the encouragement to ask the kind of questions which always bothered them, now felt able to do so, openly and unashamedly. The only criterion was complete honesty and sincerity. I don't know how many, if any, came to scoff, but even if they didn't stay to pray, they certainly went away with food for thought.

People who labelled themselves agnostics, even atheists, rubbed shoulders with confirmed Christians. With such a wide range of participants reactions were bound to differ and there were, of course, criticisms. More than one person expressed the view that the most valuable work was done at house parties. The services alone, one man said, would have convinced very few.

Those who were mainly interested in working out basic doubts regarding the mere existence of a creator felt that the whole thing was inclined to snowball too quickly. At least one person expressed the view that he did not feel ready to participate in the Communion service which "wound up" the operation in one church. While yet another thought that while doubts about a creator were dealt with, if not answered, honestly and thoroughly, doubts about the Christian doctrine were rather glossed over. At last one person thought the exercise should have been spread over three weeks.

At the other end of the scale, those who were already well advanced in the Christian faith thought too much time was wasted on preliminaries and not enough on working out the application of Christian faith to everyday living.

But criticism in each case was a measure of the interest taken. Of those who started the course, few drifted away. Hundreds more stayed and performed prodigious feats, cramming many meetings and activities into already overcrowded lives—feeling that this was something they might not experience again. Practically everyone, despite mental and physical weariness, was sorry when it came to an end.

And, as one man said, nothing but good could come out of it. Unfortunately it was not possible to attend all four courses. The leaders, though all extremely able, obviously varied in approach; in many cases the type of people who attended dictated the tempo and the course of the exercise. More than one person expressed the view that they would like to have met the other leaders, many said they would like further opportunities to meet informally with others, often strangers to them, who took part. And it is obvious that some people would have benefited more from one type of course than another.

But with all its faults and shortcomings, it was a wonderful experience. And, without exception, everyone expressed their gratitude to the leaders, to the local clergy who organised it, and particularly to that wonderful body of sidesmen and helpers who coped so ably with the mass of paper work involved.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN CAVERSHAM



The Chairman and Editorial Board of the "Caversham Bridge" thank all who have helped in the production, writing and distribution of the paper during 1967, and wish them and all readers and advertisers a Happy Christmas and New Year.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Church of England
Times when the clergy will be available to hear confessions will be given in the church notices on December 17.

St. Anne's
Saturday, December 23, 11 a.m.-12 noon; 3-4 p.m.; and 6-8 p.m.

Our Lady of Caversham
5-6 p.m.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

ST. PETER'S

Christmas Eve
4.00 p.m. Children's Gift Service with Blessing of Crib.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
7.00 a.m., 8.00 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.
11.00 a.m. Matins.

ST. JOHN'S

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.45 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.00 a.m. Family Carol Service.

ST. ANDREW'S

Christmas Eve
3.15 p.m. Crib Service.
6.30 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Blessing of Crib.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. BARNABAS'

Christmas Eve
6.00 p.m. Nativity Play.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.
10.00 a.m. Family Service.
11.00 a.m. Matins.

METHODIST CAVERSHAM

Christmas Eve
6.30 p.m. The Rev. E. Wright.
Christmas Day
11.00 a.m. Morning Service.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

Christmas Eve
11.30 p.m. Christmas Communion.
Christmas Day
11.00 a.m. Morning Service.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

Christmas Eve
6.30 p.m. Christmas Music, Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Day
10.00 a.m. Family Service.

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.
Christmas Day
11.00 a.m. Morning Service.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S

Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Mass.

OUR LADY OF CAVERSHAM, RICHMOND ROAD

Christmas Day
8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Mass.



Fred Walker
Student nurses from the Chillern Nursery Training College visiting a house in Caversham last year to sing carols.

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Personality of the month . . .

CHRISTMAS is coming with its reminder of peace and goodwill. For most of us it is a time when we can step back from the rat-race and think with compassion about those members of the human race who've missed out on the good things of this world. We dig deeper into our pockets for flag sellers and carol singers—we may even be moved to visit some lonely person in hospital or invite an old age pensioner to Christmas dinner.

But when the last decoration comes down and the last mince pie has been eaten, we tend to slip back into the old routine of putting ourselves at the top of our list of priorities and forgetting the needs of those for whom life is an unending struggle against poverty, loneliness and despair.

But there are some who don't forget.

There are people whose compassion and care last the whole year through. People who spend them-

selves unceasingly in the service of others—and outstanding amongst these men and women is Sue Ryder.

Born into comfortable middle class circumstances, she was educated at Benenden—a top public school for girls which today numbers Princess Anne among its pupils—and at the beginning of the last war joined the F.A.N.Y.S. She immediately started work with Special Operations, that twilight world peopled by men and women constantly smuggling themselves into occupied Europe, and saw for the first time and at first hand the courage and the suffering of those living under German occupation.

She developed a passionate admiration for those who worked in the resistance movement, and particularly for the Poles, and when, at the end of the war vast numbers of these people were released from the terrible concentration camps where they had been imprisoned after capture,

she knew she had to help.

Many concentration camp victims had no homes to go to, no families to care for them, and, because of bad health, little or no hope for the future. Sue Ryder became their champion.

For a time she had some support from the German Red Cross and Ministry of Justice, but it was slight and lasted for a very short time. It needed all her courage and singleness of purpose to carry on the fight for her "survivors" as she called them. She was untiring in her efforts. She pleaded with the authorities, negotiated, argued, lied—anything that would ease the lot of those for whom she cared so passionately. She ate little and slept less. She travelled thousands of miles through Europe—often just to rescue a single person.

In 1952, with some kindly Norwegians and Danes, she started a holiday scheme for survivors, and in 1956 her mother gave over her own

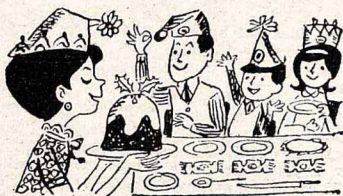
home at Cavendish, in Suffolk to Sue Ryder's work. Today, scattered all over Europe, there are nearly thirty homes caring for forgotten concentration camp victims and displaced persons of the last war, and all of them owe their existence and their funds to the untiring work of Sue Ryder and her friends.

What sort of person is she? A great domineering fire-eating dragon? Not a bit of it. A slight, determined person with an enchanting smile and two children, married to Group Captain Leonard Cheshire—himself a tremendous worker for the suffering—and "not very good at administration."

This year, once again, Sue Ryder will have travelled thousands of miles around Europe. To many people she is a symbol of hope. She is certainly a symbol of the meaning of Christmas.

SUE RYDER

Photograph by courtesy of the "Sunday Times."



Have you ever noticed that the year's shrinking? Mum has! No sooner have the celebrations finished for one festive season, and Easter and summer have flashed by, than Hey Presto! It's Christmas again. On one memorable occasion the children actually bought Christmas cards during the summer holidays at the seaside. It wasn't as though we were having our usual Christmas weather in the summer either—it was one of those rare hot days! Perhaps our Australian cousins have altered our conception of the Christmas climate.

Summer holidays apart, we are reminded of the impending festival when the children return to school for the Christmas term. Shortly



following this the dates of the Christmas exams are announced, and a few weeks later one is apt to find little scraps of paper festooned around the house, on which are scratched Christmas lists mixed up with hastily revised Latin verbs and chemical formulae. This is partly the reason that Mum has resisted all requests for chemistry sets as pre-

sents—some of these formulae are so hair-raising that she has visions of loud explosions shattering the peace of Christmas afternoon.

Meantime schools are sending requests for us to buy Christmas cards from them to help their party funds, wistful longings are expressed in thinly veiled hints, carol practising is begun in earnest and the night is anything but silent. Each child appears to be practising a different tune, and four recorders shrill differently together in the same



room. Mum's long-found desire for an old Georgian mansion with distant wings increases daily as the pace heats up.

Preparations for the Guide Christmas Bazaar are in progress, and home-made Christmas labels, aprons and cakes are beginning to dominate the scene.

The Advent Calendar, ordered from school, arrives and small boys spend their time peering down the sides to see what pictures are hidden behind those little windows. Mum, grim with Sellotape and scissors, rectifies this situation.

School carol concerts are fixed and Mum duly does the rounds. Mum finds it confusing to say the least, that each establishment has its own version of well-known carols. Just a word different perhaps like a does and a doeth, but Mum invariably sings the wrong one and it rings out loudly, much to her consternation.

By now the Christmas cake and puddings are safely

tucked away at a cost of twice the finished article, as Mum has to buy double the ingredients to allow for all those nuts and raisins that the family will demolish before they ever reach the mixing bowl.

Small boys are shouting up the chimney to Father Christmas and he is coming in very useful in the behaviour department. Mum looks nostalgically back to a childhood of wide chimneys and glowing embers and wonders if it means the same to small sons shouting up the aperture under the gas fire, but they seem to relish it, just the same.

The Christmas tree arrives, schools break up, and reports



come—the only post at this time of the year not pounced upon with eager anticipation. The decorations are brought lovingly down from the loft and the house grows smaller every day.

Mysterious whisperings are heard and lists grow endlessly—often hastily revised after demoralising investiga-

MUM'S EYE VIEW OF CHRISTMAS

Her deepest prayer: Peace in our time

by Kay Francis



tions of money boxes! Hiding places are at a premium and pens scratch fervently away at cards. The post office queue grows longer at each visit and Mum battles, hot and flustered, through the crowded shops.

Talk of parties colours the conversation and the children arrive home from Sunday School with tentative arrangements for their Christmas party. Mum's heart sinks somewhat as she envisages another hat competition. She knows that her children always go in for the larger creations, with which they refuse to part for literally years afterwards. They roll off shelves and out of wardrobes, discarding little rosettes of crepe paper, well into June, and then go onto the tops of cupboards to collect dust in their fading old age. Oh for some enterprising Sunday School teacher who would organise a competition for the smallest hat.

The days rush past and Christmas Eve arrives at last. Rustling paper can be heard

everywhere and the battlefields of Hastings had absolutely nothing on Mum's kitchen.

Miraculously all is done, excited children are whisked to bed, to lie restlessly in a half-sleep, waiting for the first shafts of light. When all have finally retired, Mum gets cracking again, and Father, home at last after his hectic busy weeks prior to Christmas, prepares all the vegetables for the next day and helps wrap the presents—a cosy sort of rush this!

Father has laid down our own traditional rule that no one shall touch anything until the alarm goes. This was always most successful with the girls and allowed Mum a brief respite for much needed sleep. The boys, however, have rather defeated us by coming in at 20 minute inter-

vals from 3 a.m. onwards to ask how long it will be before the alarm goes.

Morning at last, greeted with excited exclamations over gifts received, frantic dashings in and out of each other's bedrooms and most disturbing thuds on our bed as children rush into show us things we have seen long since. Defeated and excited too, Mum rises at last and commences the mad rush peculiar to Sundays. The house appears to be knee deep in wrapping paper and resembles a fairground after August Bank Holiday.

Breakfast over, the oven lit, and a sort of orderly chaos restored we repair to church where Christmas is put into perspective and its true role one more revealed.

Home again to the ritual of Christmas dinner, games (sit down ones for Mum's benefit), tea for those who can, and round-the-fire convivialities.

Mum looks at the youthful faces around her, eager, alive and happy. As she catches sight of small sons' faces, glowing in the half-light, she knows what is her deepest Christmas prayer—"Peace in our time . . ."



ROBIRCH

FAMOUS OVER A CENTURY

for

PIES, SAUSAGES AND COOKED MEATS

The case against drink

By Percy Burnell

STATISTICS are usually uninspiring, but they often cause us to stop and think. Look at this, for instance. This country is spending the colossal sum of over £940,000,000 a year on alcohol. That amounts to more than £18 a year for every man, woman and child. About one-eighteenth of the national income is spent on some form of alcohol. To me that is pretty staggering!

Amongst young people, to have a drink is one of the signs of growing up—and it's an increasing habit. I conducted a bit of research, recently, and discovered that some 70 per cent. of the youngsters in my school, be-

tween the ages of 11 to 16, take alcohol at some time or other.

A group of teenage lads on a Sunday School outing, called at a village pub and "had one." "What harm

Many people will not agree with the conclusions of this article. "Christian News" offers a prize of two guineas for the best presentation of a different point of view.

have we done?" they asked, when tackled about having done such a thing. Herein lies the problem—a difficult one. These young people—and all our teenagers—are growing up in a world in which it is the "done thing" to have a drink.

Advertisements, colourful and attractive, stare them in the face on large hoardings; on the TV screen advertisements depicting the manliness of drinking delicious alcohol shout to them to "have a try"; drink is the antidote or the soporific to mischief and trouble in many of the plays—and so it goes on! Dad regularly has his pint—often Mum does too. In some cases the whole family does even down to the baby. I know of a woman who told me, sheepishly, that her two-year-old "loves his whisky."

"How can you have a party without drinks?" asked a 15-year-old girl, impetuously.

It is reported that owing to high wages and a lack of

change, emergency drills, and public address announcements.

During the training programme the girls spend one week flying scheduled aircraft as supernumeraries to gain practical experience.

Cabin staffs are posted usually to London (Heathrow) Airport but a small number are also based at Manchester and Jersey.

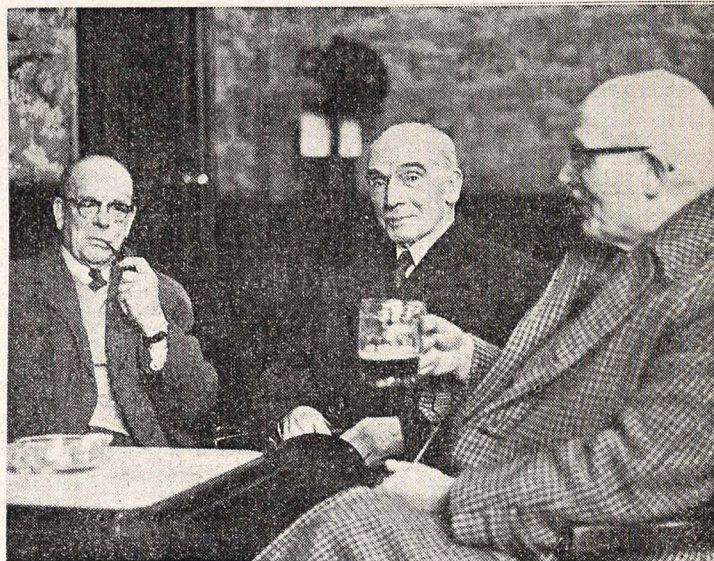
The working week for cabin staff is on a progressive roster of six days duty followed by two days off, followed by five days on and three days off.

What does the stewardess do, that makes her so important a factor in airline operation? She is in close touch with the passengers during the most impressionable part of their journey, and to them represents the airline. She is the first to greet them as they board the aircraft and is there to say "goodbye" when they leave.

Before take-off she helps with the seating arrangements, the stowage of hand baggage, coats and hats, and the use of the seat belt, during the flight the cabin staff serve meals and offer for sale cigarettes and drinks either for consumption on board or to take off the aircraft.

In fact she has to be:

"A person who enjoys giving



THE TWO-YEAR-OLD WHO "LOVES HER WHISKY"

responsibility, too many young men and women are drinking far too much—at least 75 per cent. more than 10 years ago.

Mr. Justice Finemore has declared that half the crime in the country is directly caused by alcoholic drinking.

The U.S.A. finds herself in the toils of drink. A professor of clinical psychiatry told 7,000 doctors at a conference in Boston; "Industry is suffering from a billion dollar binge. Drink strikes down one out of every 50 employees, makes workers more prone to accidents and increases absenteeism."

BINGE

Scientific experiment has discovered that drink deadens the conscious control and judgment centres of the brain. It prevents cool and calculated thinking. It slows up the reactions of a driver, and on our congested roads the result may well be tragic—even fatal. Think of it: a car travelling at 30 miles an hour is travelling at about 15 yards a second. A split second slowness in reaction can quite easily cause someone's death at that speed, and that is comparatively slow.

A man does not have to be anywhere near drunk to have that slightly slower reaction.

Of course, it is true that many people can take a drink, and do, and neither they nor anyone else comes to any harm because of it. But we should surely be stupid, and falling in our duty to the community, if we didn't take serious heed to the fact that with the increasing drinking the road accidents—and deaths—are continuing to rise. A tiger in the tank, yes, but DRINK can very soon transport the tiger from the tank to the steering-wheel.

SAFE SIDE

"Safety first" is a familiar motto and the abstainer is on the safe side. "Wine has

done harm to many, abstinence has done harm to none," said Ambrose long ago.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell, the great medical missionary to Labrador, wrote, "A thousand times have I thanked God that I kept clear of the drink habit."

The Prophet Isaiah reminds us that strong drink causes people to err in vision and to stumble in judgment. And what was it that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians? "Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh." If we do that we can take three watchwords as our motto:

1. Know thyself
2. Control thyself
3. Deny thyself

Careers

HOW TO BECOME AN AIR HOSTESS

FIVE THOUSAND applications are received by British European Airways each year from girls and men seeking posts as air stewardesses and stewards. Every application is acknowledged and the majority of the applicants are invited to complete an application form and to send it with a photograph. An average of 250 are recruited.

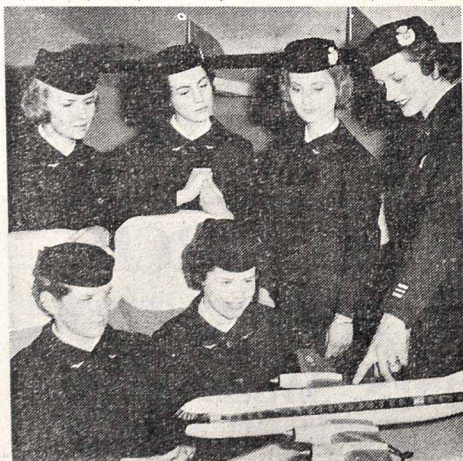
Still interested? Read on. The qualifications for girls are that they should be aged between 20 and 25, have charm, good diction and personality, previous experience in either the catering or nursing professions, proficiency in a Continental language, and be between five feet three inches and five feet eight inches in height. They must also be single, though if they marry after they

have joined, they may stay on. All applicants must be British, they must be smart, and have a high standard of physical fitness—for the job is a hard one.

Having passed through this fine mesh screen, a selection board, and a medical examination, the girls go on to a five week course at BEA's training unit at Heston, near London Airport.

CONTRACT

Subject to a satisfactory probationary period, the girls are engaged on a ten-year contract. The courses are held in the period from the late autumn to early summer each year. The subjects covered include deportment, meal and bar service, medical lectures, foreign ex-



NEED UNLIMITED

Millions in the hungry world are born, to suffer and die in desperate poverty and need.

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9, MADELEY ROAD, LONDON, W.5

If you pay standard rate tax, a covenanted gift adds 14/- to your 20/-.

We need Green Shield Stamps for an X-Ray Unit.

A COLLECTING BOX IN THE HOME, CHURCH OR OFFICE HELPS GREATLY

JUNIOR MAGAZINE

by Brenda Holloway

WHO SAYS "HAPPY CHRISTMAS"?

*Joyeux Noël !
Nadolig Llawen !
Fröhliche Weihnachten !
Buon Natale !
Bóas Fêstas !*

All over the world people are wishing each other "Happy Christmas." Here are five Christmas greetings, each from a different country. Can you guess the countries they belong to? (Answers and something to do with them—below).

WHERE'S CHRISTMAS?

Here's something to catch out your family! Ask them "Where's Christmas?" They'll probably think you're asking a silly question. But you're not!

Christmas appears several times on the map of the world. There are Christmas Cateracts in New Guinea, and a harbour in the Indian Ocean was named Christmas as British sailors discovered it on Christmas Day. Christmas Hill is in Australia, where you will also find Christmas Creek, and a township called Xmas. An island named Christmas is in the Indian Ocean, and another is in the Pacific Ocean.

Now you can tell your family where Christmas is!

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Cards. Cut bells, Christmas trees, balloons and ships from scraps of coloured paper and paste them on stiff white paper for Christmas cards. You could add a few gold or silver stars.

Silver Bells for the Christmas Tree. You will need the metal tops from milk bottles or some pieces of thick silver paper. Smooth them out and mould them over a thimble. Trim into shape with scissors. Draw a thread through the top of each bell and hang the bells together in clusters.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Just over two hundred years ago John Byrom was playing with his youngest daughter, Dolly. Suddenly Dolly asked her father to write something "nice for Christmas Day" all for herself.

On Christmas morning she found a mysterious envelope on her plate at breakfast time. It was addressed to her. When she opened it she found a Christmas carol in her father's handwriting, especially composed for her. Full of pride she read the words:

Christians awake, salute the happy morn

Whereon the Saviour of the world was born.

Dolly kept the manuscript for many years and then it was preserved in a library at Manchester. Now the carol is in most of our hymn books.

SOMETHING ELSE TO DO: Try your hand at writing a Christmas Carol, and send it to the Editor. A prize of 10s. 6d. is offered for the best carol received by January 6.

PUZZLE TIME

A STRIKING PROBLEM

One letter can be added to the beginning of each of the following words to make a five-letter word. The correct letters spell out the name of a striking feature of winter.

LATE: EVER: LIVE: HEAT: OAST: BOUT: EARN: ARCH

(Answer below)

AN ICY PROBLEM

All the answers to these clues end with ICE. (Answer below).

The ice we like.

Ice to protect us.

Flavouring ice.

Ice more than once.

Spiteful ice.

Ice with four legs.

Answers to Puzzles:

(1) The countries are: France, Wales, Germany, Italy, Portugal.

If you have any friends who come from these countries print the greeting in their language on the Christmas cards you send them.

(2) A striking problem: Snowball.

(3) An icy problem: Nice; Spice; malice; police; twice; nice.



A CHRISTMAS REMINDER.

This is one of "our" 6,000 babies that have been happily adopted into Christian homes. For nearly 50 years the unmarried mother and her child have been befriended by this Society, and we should like to continue this tender ministry. Please help us — and please remember us when you make your Will or by adding a Codicil to it.

May we send you our booklet or give you advice if you are contemplating adoption?

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S AID & ADOPTION SOCIETY
54 Grove Avenue, London, N.10

I enclose £..... towards your work. Please send me your booklet.

Name (block letters)

Address

NCN

Hip-hip-Boo for Coronation Street

Television
by Harold
Jeffries

HATS OFF to the lads and lasses of "Coronation Street," who celebrate their seventh birthday this month.

The regulars of "The Rover's Return" deserve at least two cheers for having survived so long in the television jungle, and a thumbs up for the things that are good about the programme.

First of all it is well written. It has, at least for a programme that has the superhuman task of going on the air for an hour a week all the year round, a strong story line, and above all, it has a first rate cast.

These qualities have helped "Coronation Street" not only to survive, but to head the viewing figures over a period of years, and it's worth noting the number of similar soap operas, from "Compact" to "Emergency, Ward 10," which have gone to the wall in the same period of time.

PHONEY

But our third cheer must be a boo, if you'll excuse the Irish way of putting things, and it must be a boo because for all its popularity "Coronation Street" is as phoney as a counterfeit note.

The fact is that this cosy community is a myth. I doubt if it ever existed like this even in the matiest days of down-town good neighbourliness. It's dead certain that it doesn't exist today.

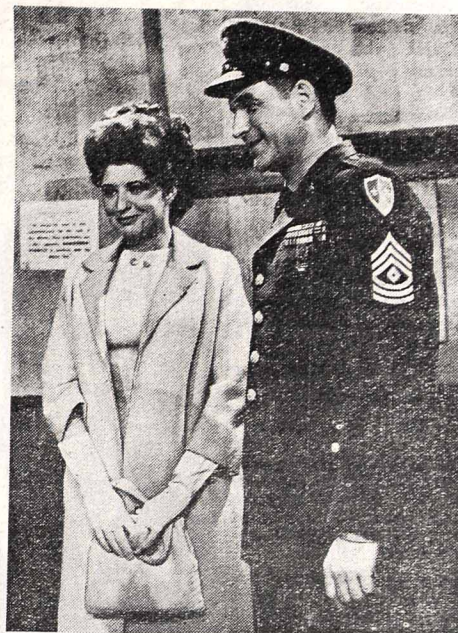
"Well, that's not to be held against it," you might say, "look at all the Westerns. They're myths. No one but a nut really thinks the West was like that, but it doesn't stop it being good entertainment." And quite right you'd be. But the dangerous thing about "Coronation Street" is that people do think of it as real. They do identify themselves with the characters. If Ena Sharples falls ill, half the country sends her get well cards, and for millions of people Elsie Tanner's marriage was the wedding of the year.

Up and down the country far too many people think of Coronation Street as a little corner of heaven where people are rugged but kind. Where all of them stick together and lend each other a helping hand in time of trouble. Where everything comes out right in the end.

STUPID

And is it too stupid to suggest that some viewers would rather have a second hand relationship with this phoney world, than take the trouble to get out into the real world, which isn't half as comfy, and make real friendships with real people who are not always so good and reliable?

It's because I believe that there are that my third cheer is a boo.



Wedding of the year for millions

Mr. and Mrs. Tanner . . . Elsie and Steve, played by Patricia Phoenix and Paul Maxwell.

QUIZ

- 1 Who introduced decorated Christmas trees to England?
- 2 "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen." When is the Feast of Stephen?
- 3 When did the marriage take place in Westminster Abbey of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip?
- 4 What are the traditional names of the Three Kings?
- 5 Which Royal birthdays fall on Christmas Day?
- 6 Which King of England instituted the building of Westminster Abbey?

ANSWERS

- 1 Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria.
- 2 Boxing Day.
- 3 November 20, 1947.
- 4 Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior.
- 5 Those of Princess Alexandra and the Duchess of Gloucester.
- 6 Edward the Confessor.

A QUAKER PEACE TESTIMONY

Jesus came that all may have

LIFE

BUT

CHRISTMAS

will mean

DEATH

suffering and tears where
Napalm bombs fall

Published by Religious Soc. of Friends Peace Com., Ball St., Birmingham

TOPIQUOTES

Whenever somebody calls you names or wants to punch you on the nose because of something you've said you can be reasonably sure that you're reaching them — even communicating.

— George Target, in British Weekly.

* * *

Protestants don't go to heaven because they have too many sins on their souls.

— Child, aged eight, on a radio programme.

* * *

My buddy told the old man to get away from the hut, and since we have to move quickly on a sweep, he just threw a hand grenade into the shelter.

After he threw it, and was running for cover, we heard a baby crying from inside the shelter. There was nothing we could do.

After the explosion we found the mother, two children and an almost newborn baby. That is what the old man was trying to tell us.

— Letter from an American G.I. writing from Vietnam to his parents.

* * *

Statistics, I am sure, could be produced to prove that over-eating is as dangerous as smoking. Why should people who enjoy the company of their fellow men over a glass of beer subsidise lonely gluttons stuffing their faces full of excess food? Why not tax chocolates and cream buns?

— George Gale, Daily Mirror.

Topic of the month



THE BIBLE

Why it's worth looking into by sensible men

"MAN ON MURDER CHARGE" screams the... news poster, or "Bank Raid by Bandits." Americans bombing Viet-Cong; Nigerians fighting each other; race riots in the U.S.A.; hundreds killed annually on English roads. These form part of the facts of life in the sixties. An objective observer might exclaim, "The earth was filled with violence!"

These exact words occur in the story of Noah in chapter six of the book called Genesis, near the beginning of the Bible. Even if the human race has come of age, human nature has not changed over the centuries. Men still fight and fornicate with consistent vigour.

And yet many say the Bible is out-of-date. To many the Bible is a closed book. We know so much more than its writers. We have different ways of thinking. We are critical of records which appear to be historical.

So we often miss the truth that is in the Bible for us 20th century men.

And you can't say that it's too hard to understand at all. Not now that we have so many first-rate, easy-on-the-eye modern translations. Not now that 3s. 6d. can get you a straightforward little book on almost any bit of the Bible. Not now when two or three world-wide organisations lay on daily notes to bring it all right home.

And this is the trend all over the world—not just here.

By the end of 1966, 1,280 languages of the world had the Bible, whole or part, for its own people to read. And if you think that's a lot, then read the next bit twice. The British and Foreign Bible Society reckon there are still 2,000 languages to go.

This means in human terms that there are millions of people who have never even had a chance yet of finding out what the Bible has got to say. The Bible Societies aim to do something about this. Translation and revision work is now going on in over 800 languages.

There is every encouragement for this work

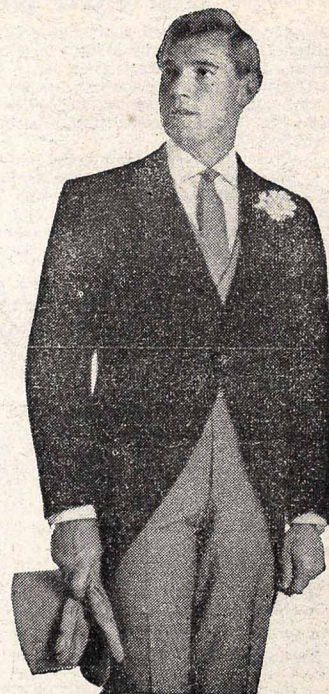
from many countries crying out to learn to read and to be supplied with reading material. And wanting to know the Bible's message, too.

What is the staggering pull of the Bible? Knocked about by critics like no other book in the history of the world, but still on top. Threatened in 1967 perhaps by "The Thoughts of Chairman Mao" but still on top of the world's book charts.

It takes some explaining. Perhaps the great secret of the Bible is that it has the power to speak to all men, at all levels of intelligence, freeing their minds so that they can understand more what life is about and what God wants from it.

It's always worth looking into.

(December 10 is looked upon as Bible Sunday by many Christians).



37/6

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POPS ARE THE TOP, BUT NOT ON THE KOP!

by Ernest Adkins

MY CAR radio is permanently turned on at Radio One. I am at any time conversant with the 'Top Twenty' and I lay positive claim to being a non-square.

Yet I intensely dislike 'pop' with my football.

My introduction to professional football was at the St. Andrew's ground, the home of Birmingham City, where before the game we were entertained by the Shirley Silver Prize Band. This was good, clean, wholesome stuff. The music was absolutely right for the occasion.

It engendered the right emotions, they were very much a part of the entertainment, particularly the bass drum player who could

be guaranteed to part company with at least one drum stick during the afternoon.

LARGEST

Contemporary with the Prize Band was "Knocker," the largest policeman I have ever seen, who alone patrolled one side of the ground throughout the game. It was rumoured among the younger spectators that "Knocker" was heavyweight boxing champion of the Police Force — true or false I have no idea, but I do know that one glance from him was enough to keep you where you belonged on the terraces.

The band has now gone, and so has

"Knocker." The one has been replaced by pop; the other by 20 or more of his successors. I wonder if this is in any way significant?

As an overtone to a great sporting occasion I find the battle hymns of the San Francisco republic enchanted by a group of hippies extolling the virtues of sitting in the rain and exchanging flowers singularly inappropriate. Entrance of the gladiators indeed!

The boys with the flick knives and broken bottle, devotees of the discotheque, now regard the football ground as yet another suitable venue for their activities played out to the

same accompaniment.

This column long ago suggested that the promoters of football games were not utilising the opportunity of entertaining a ready-made audience to the full, but I do believe they have now moved in the wrong direction.

A game of football is a clash of athletes. It is scarcely the time or place to arouse erotic emotions with fashion shows or other "way out" stimuli.

It is gratifying to note that Wembley Stadium authorities have so far resisted the current trend and continue to maintain the traditional atmosphere at cup finals and international games.

For me POP and PAGEANTRY just do not mix.