

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE 6d.

January, 1968

A Member of the Christian News Group

Fred Smith toasts the future

So here's to—

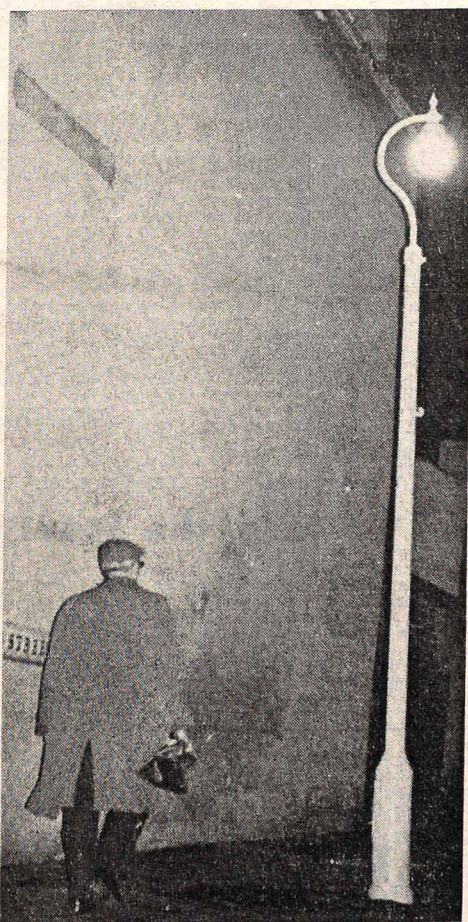
Friendship
Health
Happiness
Success
Excitement
Security
A steady job
Being somebody



But — **WHEN THE PARTY'S OVER...**

*He'll have his
share of —*

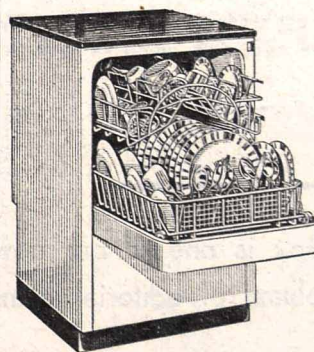
Loneliness
Ill health
Disappointment
Failure
Dull routine
Worry
Short time
Being a nobody



God grant me

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Soap box

New Year, New Look

*"Change and decay in
all around I see."*

RECOGNISE the line from that top of the hymn parade "Abide with me"? Now who would ever have thought that anyone could make change and decay sit hand in hand in the same line as if they meant roughly the same thing?

CHANGE IS THE ARCH ENEMY OF DECAY. IT'S ONLY THE STAGNANT, THE STUCK AND THE STATIONARY THAT GO ROTTEN.

This is an age of rapid change. We may think it's too rapid, of course — but whether we like it or not we have to face it and live with it.

Sometimes the changes we have to make can be made without reluctance — even with great enthusiasm.

Sometimes the alteration of circumstances makes it possible for us to widen our boundaries — to do something bigger and better than we have ever done before.

Just over ten years ago this paper was founded by members of the Church of England to provide a more modern alternative to the traditional parish magazine.

At that time, in the late 50's, it was still thought daring and a little outrageous to rock the boat and be critical of the Church set-up. Co-operation between the different denominations — and particularly between Roman Catholics and Christians of other camps — was in its infancy.

In these circumstances we were often labelled "brash and irresponsible" and our readership was largely confined to the Church of England.

But times have changed, and so through the years has "Christian News."

Today, at the beginning of 1968, after 12 months of intensive consultation with editors and readers all over the country we can see our task in a new light.

As criticism of the Church is beginning to bear fruit there is now a need to show the world some of the positive and good things that Christians are doing.

AS MORE AND MORE GROUPS OF CHURCHES OF DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS COMBINE TO SPONSOR A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, "CHRISTIAN NEWS" CAN NO LONGER THINK OF ITSELF AS SERVING THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ALONE.

As our average reader is still not necessarily a church-goer, and doesn't want to be fed with "club" news, we must continue to cater for wider interests.

Bearing all these things in mind "Christian News" in 1968 is not afraid to change.

Soap Box is one of our new monthly features. It is a column of editorial comment.

But what about your point of view? "Christian News" is your paper and your comments are always welcome. For this reason from February we're offering a guinea for the best letter published each month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

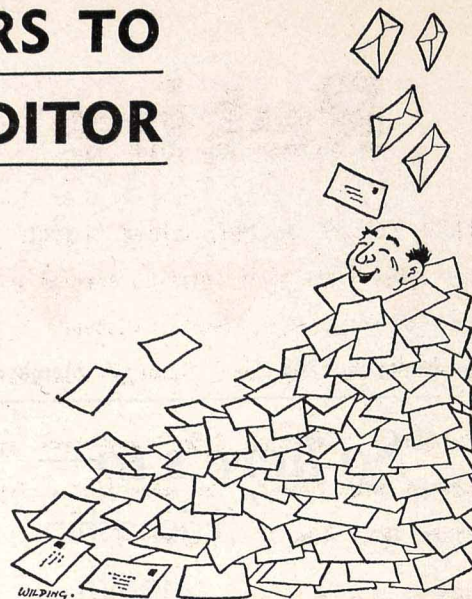
Dear Sir,
Thank you! Thank you for a wonderful church newspaper, so alive with topical interests. So many times I have found consolation, or answers to my inner questions, there. It makes me feel I must go forward to do something.

Good wishes and God bless all concerned in its editing and publishing.

Yours truly,

IRIS HUGHES

28, April Croft,
Birmingham, 13.



CLEANLINESS

—a comeback
on Topiquotes

Dear Sir,

As I have been a practising public health inspector for many years, I was naturally interested in your topiquote in the November issue.

The writer of the letter alleged that "dirty food is served by dirty cooks to a dirty public" and he does not think the situation will ever improve because "the Englishman is basically uninterested in food." But worst of all he thinks that "public health inspectors are so lenient they are a joke."

Let me assure your readers that it is not the leniency—but the scarcity—of public health inspectors which is the main point. There are at present more than 1,000 vacancies to be filled.

Entrants to the profession are required to undergo a long course of training. The work is hard and sometimes unpleasant, since our functions are often galling to the individual.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN FINERON,

9, Charnwood Close,
Lichfield, Staffs.

Let your hair down and air your views. Christian News offers a guinea for the best letter published each month. Address your letter to:

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

DRUG ISSUE

Aren't we being hypocritical about marijuana?
Two points of view about our front page on drugs.

For

Dear Sir,
May I congratulate Christian News on its November front page article on Drug Addiction. As a plea for a level-headed look at all the drugs which we in Western society use or abuse it was excellent. We must indeed, in each case, weigh the good against the bad."

Yours sincerely,

A DOCTOR.

Name and address withheld for professional reasons.

And against

Dear Sir,
I wish to protest most strongly against your irresponsible article on the front page of the November issue. Under the heading "This Woman is a Drug Addict" you appear to condone the use of "soft" drugs. You say that "any drug from tea to L.S.D. only becomes an evil if its effects are harmful," the inference being that L.S.D. is no more harmful than tea. What dangerous nonsense! Tea does not cause loss of self-control, nor does it induce a craving for something stronger that does untold harm.

Again you say "most drugs are two-sided" and cite aspirin. Agreed, but again the implication is that aspirin can do good and so can L.S.D. You ask "are we not just being hypocritical about marijuana?" I entirely agree that no good will be done by 'tut-tutting' and a 'holier than thou' attitude towards those who take drugs, but I maintain that by adopting a permissive attitude, by implying that L.S.D. is no more harmful than tea or aspirin, you are doing incalculable harm.

We still know pitifully little about the relation between "soft" and "hard" drugs, but we do know three things:

(1) Many, if not most, of those on "hard" drugs started on "soft" ones.

(2) Drug pedlars are utterly unscrupulous. It is easy enough to slip a dose of heroin into a packet of "soft" drugs, so that the recipient becomes addicted while thinking he is still only indulging in the "safe" drugs.

(3) Marijuana is only obtainable illegally. Your article appears to condone law-breaking and ignores the fact that those who indulge are exposing themselves to all the dangers of associating with law-breakers.

Yours truly,

R. A. COOPER,

Old Stables,
22, Peppard Road,
Caversham, Reading.

To help the lonely

Dear Sir,
I am forming an independent organisation for the purpose of help for the lonely — to be known as the National Loneliness Project. Its object is to research, educate, advise, and in co-operation with lay people and churches to form Action

Groups for assisting the lonely.

Yours faithfully,

ARMAND GEORGES

13 Colnemead,
Rickmansworth, Herts.

Anyone interested should contact Mr. Georges at the above address.

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by cars

FRED TAYLOR, recently retired himself, has taken a course in Local Government to give power to his elbow as Labour candidate for his local Borough Council.

In July's "Christian News" last year he shared with readers his memories of 50 years ago. Now he examines —



Retired people in a weekly car maintenance class especially arranged for them

Problems of retirement

STATISTICS prove, and observation in all sections of the community confirms, that there is a higher proportion of retired people than ever before.

The substantial increase in pensions, through Act of Parliament and schemes in industry, the savings accumulated during the latter years of employment and individual house ownership have all encouraged people to relinquish their jobs at an age that earlier generations would have found impossible. "Dying in harness" was a boast of men who apparently desired their independence; but it was generally necessitated by lack of means to secure the material needs of life.

The first old age pension, of 5s. a week, introduced in 1911, was a welcome and revolutionary step towards social security; but for many years it had to be supplemented by assistance from charitable organisations and payments by Boards of Guardians from local and national grants.

life and the personal degradation of the recipients, is but a memory recorded in the history of the times.

Many "fringe benefits" can now be obtained by our senior citizens: rate rebates to house owners, hot meals available at reduced cost and delivered to the homes of those who are incapacitated, clubs for leisure and recreation, chiropodists and specialised medical treatment where necessary, reduced fares concessions by many local authorities, special holiday charges, cheaper admission to entertainments and reductions for personal services such as hairdressing.

These are very welcome and desirable reforms for those who have served the community and must be maintained.

Improved

Finally, do those who find themselves in the drastic change of circumstances that retirement brings, make any preliminary preparations for their leisure time activities? The expectation of life and improved mental and physical capacities demand an extension of spare-time interests and occupations of all kinds — outdoor, intellectual creative.

The difficulties arising out of insecurity in old age are being solved; but as so often happens, in solving one problem another one is created. The community and the individual concerned would do well to give the matter their urgent consideration.

Courtesy

These were often harshly administered by officials determined to keep down expenditure, and to refrain from any action that would encourage indolence and lack of self-respect among the lower classes.

Today, supplementary pensions and allowances are available for those whose incomes are inadequate to meet their necessary expenditure, and their applications are considered with reasonable courtesy and the minimum of investigation.

The vicious Means Test of the years of depression, involving the break-up of family

In cities like Glasgow and Birmingham and among many large firms, such as Rolls Royce, things are afoot to prepare men and women for useful, creative and enjoyable retirement.

"An Approach to Creative Retirement" is the title of a first-class book that has recently been published. In just over 50 pages it ranges from health and finance to housing and worthwhile occupations, not forgetting a chapter on "The Woman's Point of View." Here's what it said:

LOOKING AHEAD TO RETIREMENT

HAVE YOU ever faced up to what retirement means in its many aspects? Some say "Roll on the day"; a few regard it with dread, but the majority regard it with lukewarm enthusiasm, and even resignation. Have you sat down and considered it squarely? It can present you with a period of TWELVE or more years of opportunity.

Now what does retirement really entail? Largely, leisure you haven't had before; leisure which must be partially filled by some kind of activity if you wish to remain active in mind and body.

In retirement, you will need some of the discipline of routine your former work gave you, to prevent you becoming apathetic and idle. But it will be self-discipline.

Start thinking now before you cease full-time employment — you cannot have too long a time for preparation.

Factual information on finance, health, diet and housing can and should be obtained while there is time and money to effect improvements before the estimated or known date of retirement arrives.

FIVE YEARS before that date is recommended. It is not too soon nor too much — one year is not too late, only too little.

In the full approach to this many sided chal-

lenge, it is foolish to ignore considerations of money, but health and a wealth of interest, of purpose and of happiness for you and for others through you, are the true objectives. Each of us in our own way and choice can and must find them.

Good for a laugh



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"The bleary-eyed, monosyllabic creature crouching behind the newspaper at breakfast this morning was really an infinitely complex piece of mechanism . . .



THIS IS THE LOW- DOWN ON THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

by John Duncan

THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO ONE WAY AND ANOTHER TRY TO BE CHRISTIANS; TRY TO FOLLOW CHRIST. BUT WE ARE OFTEN SADDENED AND DISCOURAGED BECAUSE OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES ARE RATHER FEEBLE.

WE FEEL WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH, OR CLEVER ENOUGH, OR PURE ENOUGH: OUR FAITH SEEMS SO WEAK, WE SEEM SO COWARDLY IN STANDING UP FOR OUR CONVICTIONS.

And for these reasons a lot of people never venture on the Christian way—"I could never live up to it," they say.

And for the same reasons many people give up the Christian faith in despair.

We feel it would be all so much easier if we were like the saints, the real giants of the Christian faith, who seem so much better at it all. And particularly, perhaps, we think of the saints of the Gospels, people like St. Peter.

THUMP YOU

But Peter was "no saint," as they say. He was a rough, tough fisherman, the sort of chap who'd thump you as soon as look at you. He couldn't bear criticism and he had a cowardly streak in him, a weakness which showed itself when he denied that he knew Jesus. And yet Peter was chosen by Jesus to be the leader of the twelve who were to continue his work.

Another disciple, of whom we don't hear very much, was Simon the Zealot. He was a terrorist, a violent man, the sort of man who knifed Roman soldiers in dark alleys in

"We in our weakness and failure can take courage, and dare to be Christians"

Jerusalem and who today would be lobbing hand grenades into the trucks of an occupying army. He was as unlikely a person to find in the company of a religious leader as was Matthew, the twisting, tight-fisted tax man. And yet they were both chosen to be apostles.

And when we turn to the women close to Jesus the story is rather similar. Mary Magdalene, tradition has it was a prostitute, a woman of the streets. And yet all down Christian history she has been seen as particularly close to Christ and as an example of

devotion to him.

SIMPLE

Even when we turn to Mary, chosen to bear Jesus in her womb and to be responsible for his rearing and training, we find that she was a simple young village girl, who could probably neither read nor write.

The people with whom Christ shared his earthly life were not super-people, they were similar to us—and yet they were used for the purposes of God. We in our weakness and failure can take courage, can dare to be Christians.

WHAT'S GOING to be new next spring? — coloured eyelashes; Eyelure are making beautiful blue and green ones. More and more wigs — prices now start at about 7 guineas and up. Some say longer skirts, and if they insist long enough they're bound to be right one year; plenty of browns, beiges and camel; Thirties' berets and soft silky blouses. In fact, there will probably be a much more subtle feminine look than last year.

Shoe colours will follow the same lines. Instead of the vivid oranges, lime greens and citron yellows that sold so well last season, there will be corals, greeny turquoise, sandy beiges and pale pinks, plus the usual navy, black and brown.

There will also be a tremendous amount of shoes made in the new synthetic leathers. The prettiest shoe in the London Shoe Week Fashion Show looked like pale pink suede but was made out of Corfam, Du Pont's newest baby; it had a square toe, flat buckle and chunky heel. The manufacturers, Sutor Ltd., from Stafford, also make a much cheaper range of plastic shoes. Personally, I'm not fantasti-

MAINLY FOR WOMEN

Ladies, you have married an infinitely complex mechanism...

"Study your man, as if he were a strange and rare and fascinating animal — which indeed he is!

"Thirty-six years of being a wife have utterly convinced me that no job, no hobby, no activity on earth can compare with the drama and exhilaration of living with a man, loving him, doing

A clergyman's wife writing in "Home and Family," the journal of the Mothers' Union, says:

your best to understand his infinitely complex mechanism and helping to make it hum and sing and soar the way it

was designed to do.

"Try to please your husband. Does he like neatness? You can be neat. Does he like friends around? Learn to entertain. Is his job exacting? Make his home (note the HIS) a haven of quietness in a noisy world. Does he want you near? Thank heaven — and be available."

The way to live like a sheik...

by Eric King

NOW all you ladies who have nothing to do all day but cope with a home; cosset and clobber a hoard of squalling brats into reasonably disciplined human beings; slog bargain hunting around supermarkets eking out the inadequate allowance the "strange, rare and fascinating animal" doles out reluctantly each week, should realise that you are taking part in a great big adventure simply packed with drama and exhilaration.

The bleary-eyed, monosyllabic creature crouching behind the newspaper at breakfast this morning was really an infinitely complex piece of mechanism which makes your latest multi-programmed automatic washing machine look as simple as an egg whisk.

Of course now you can understand what all this plethora of face painting and powdering, hair dyeing and lacquering, scenting and dieting among the bright young females is all about.

They too want to capture one of these strange animals

and, like the clergyman's wife, devote their lives to studying it as if it were some zoological specimen.

ROARING

As one of these rare animals, still roaming fearfully through the hagridden jungle, as yet uncaptured, I had always imagined that the poor chaps who were married had a pretty rough time of it. I thought their lives were made up of endless chores like gardening, house painting, baby-minding and great piles of greasy washing up.

Little did I realise that these chaps really lead the lives of Arabian sheiks, blindly adored and waited upon by some devoted member of the opposite sex who finds the whole thing one great big adventure.

What have I been missing all these years? Is there yet some lady who can cook like Fanny Craddock, who looks like Sophia Loren and who is prepared to devote herself to the study of my infinitely complex mechanism?

It all sounds too good to be true. There must be a catch in it somewhere.

Now — back to the thirties?

JOAN BEST
LOOKS AHEAD
TO SPRING
FASHIONS

Plastic saving

cally keen on plastic shoes, but some of the darker colours look like patent, and at about 39s. 11d. to 59s. 11d. a pair they're a pretty good bargain, especially if you just want a shoe to match up with a particular outfit.

The thing I have never been able to understand about shoe retailing is why the various shops insist on selling under their own label.

If a woman wants to buy a dress, suit or coat, etc., she can go into a shop and ask to see the Mary Quant range or Susan

Small or whatever the case may be. But as soon as you walk into a shoe shop, you're obliged just to ask for colour, size and height of heel, which is completely crazy. If you're a working housewife and have to shop in your lunch hour or during late-evening shopping, it means a ridiculous waste of time going from shop to shop if you want a choice of makes.

Charley's jackpot

Life would be so much simpler if one could just walk in and say "I want to see a Charley shoe." Charley boots— they are a tremendously light

ankle boot with a long tongue, and cost only 79s. 11d.—are the big export story in reverse. Sexton Shoes started off with just the Charley boot, which they exported to America. At the time we weren't interested enough in trouser suits and so on to make them worthwhile over here. Then last year they introduced the boot to England. In the first year Charley boots sold over 100,000 pairs, and they have now decided to bring out a new range of flat shoes in coral, sea change and bedouin buffalo. There's a very sad story about Charley boots, and if you're at all squeamish don't read on. They're all made out of buffalo leather, and as the old buffaloes have nasty tough wrinkly skins they have to use young hides. Each year the buffaloes make a trip over the mountains; the old lead the way and the young ones follow on. Some don't make it . . .

Nevertheless, Charley shoes still sell \$1m.-worth to America each year, with exports to Canada and Scandinavia, and are now taking an interest in the Common Market countries — so that if and when we ever enter it they'll already have a foot in Europe.

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CHEWING THE CUD

I WAS recently sent a copy of a short book and asked to review it. The book in question set out to argue that 1968 would be a year of decision for the Christian Church, because a number of important international conferences to be held during the year would compel Christian leaders to reach decisions about many matters of importance.

I suppose I must be getting middle-aged, but after reading this little book I felt a little breathless. I found myself being given brief accounts of the work of Christian Aid, of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, and told of the need to hasten on with talks for reunion. And it all sounded very convincing. But as I put the book down I found myself wondering whether we are not in danger of forming two camps in the Church of God. There are those who respond at once to the latest proposals that come from central church bodies, and there are those who are not even aware that many such bodies exist. And it would be a tragedy if these two groups grew apart. In the same way there are those who are all the time seeking to present the Christian faith in ways which they think are more relevant to the younger generation and who do this with a genuine evangelistic concern; but there are also those, as Walter James, in a recent article in "The Times" has reminded us, who want the old faith of the apostles and martyrs to be defended.

What is important is that neither party should seek to unchurch the other. But if we are to avoid doing this I would plead for a little more breathing space when we can quietly absorb some of the many reports and suggestions for reform which have been laid before us of recent years. We have had the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and Feed the Minds. We are now just starting International Human Rights Year. Stewardship campaigns which began as Anglican projects have spread to other parts of the Christian Church just when the Anglican professional companies are already beginning to go out of business or at any rate change their tactics drastically. We are seeing the different Churches produce new forms of worship, an Anglican Commission on inter-communion is expected to report this month, and we shall shortly be given the final draft of the scheme for Anglican-Methodist reunion. And proposals for dividing the dioceses, establishing synodical government and altering the whole system of appointing, paying and deploying the clergy are all under consideration by Anglicans. So perhaps I can be excused for being a little breathless. Far from 1968 being, as I was told repeatedly in the little book I reviewed, a year of decision, I felt that there were so many things we were being asked to decide that we are unlikely, in fact, to decide anything at all.

In all seriousness I plead that 1969 should be a sabbatical year, when we try and absorb this mountain of reports, and above all when reformers and conservatives can try and appreciate each other's point of view. Let bishops be free from conferences and trips across the Atlantic so that they can visit their clergy in the parishes; let the clergy be free to exercise a much needed but all too often neglected pastoral ministry, and to do some of the other things for which they were ordained, but which too often are left undone.

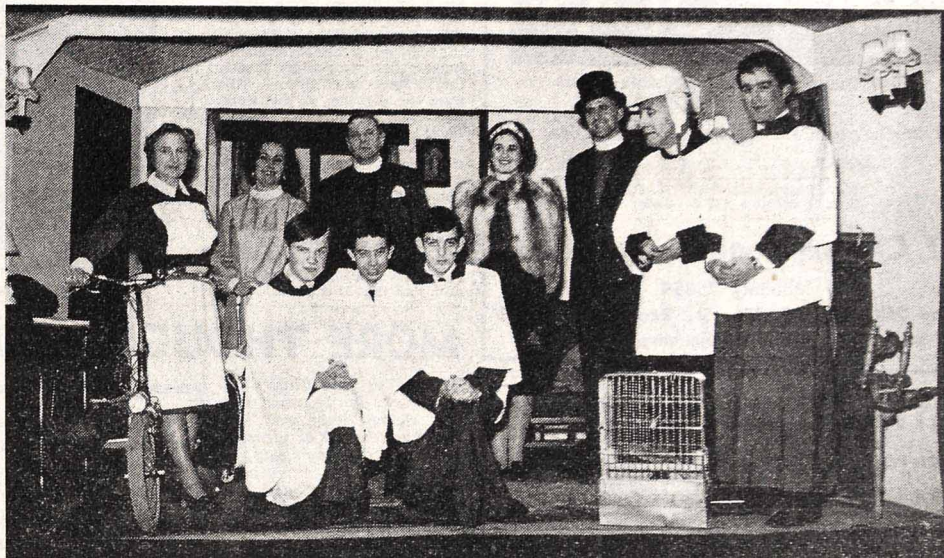
If 1968 is to be a year of decision, let the decision to be made be this—that 1969 shall be International Digestion Year when clergy and over busy laity alike quietly but positively chew the cud.

John Grimwade

Local Drama

In announcing new productions for CAVERSHAM PARK THEATRE, the bulletin of the Caversham Park Village Association said about Terence Rattigan's "SEPARATE TABLES": "The large cast are all worthwhile characters which will test the Group's acting capacity and it will be interesting to see how they cope with the problems of setting the two scenes of the hotel dining room and lounge on the rather limited facilities of the St. Laurence Hall stage." I can confirm that on the whole the test has been carried out quite successfully considering that the Group had to rehearse in private houses.

As for the Group's acting capacity, the programme of the play was quite right in expressing the hope that "we have not been too ambitious in attempting 'Separate Tables'." It was ambitious considering the subject and so many new-



The cast of "Pools Paradise"

—Fred Walker.

comers. There were, perhaps unavoidably, a few mechanically spoken lines here and there, due to excessive self-consciousness, which could have stopped the dramatic crescendo of the pent-up emotions short of eruption. It was an explosive play with a provocative essence which required bluntness and ability on the part of the actors to create the right atmosphere on the stage and in the auditorium.

Led by Peter Cockman, Jill Burland and Celia Sorab, the Caversham Park Theatre gave a fine performance. Barbara Bentley, José Buck, Pip Parry and Michael Cockman made their debut and I hope to see more of them. A large cast—too many names to mention—is a big headache for the producer to keep the rehearsals going according to the timetable. Cecil Hole seems to have achieved the impossible. The next production by Caversham Park Players will be in March when the Group presents Benn Levy's "The Rape of the Belt."

Quite a different proposition was Philip King's "POOLS

PARADISE" presented by the MAPLEDURHAM REPERTORY ASSOCIATION, although here, too, producer Kathleen Lacey faced a very difficult situation with the limited facilities at the Memorial Hall. They were resolved with great skill and thoughtful planning.

As I predicted, the play went off with a bang and never lost momentum to the great delight of the audience which packed the little hall to capacity three evenings in succession. Much is owed to Gillian Liddbetter whose first appearance at the Memorial Hall made everybody—including those on the stage, I suspect—relax and enjoy the plot to the full, so much so that after a slow start the Rev. Lionel Toop (Ray Lacey) often seemed to see the joke before the audience. Heather Mumme was in her element, once or twice perhaps overreaching herself in the role of Ida, the maid. Yvonne Taylor as nurse Skilton was good but still too much of a lamb for my liking—she should have been as prickly as a porcupine! Albert Wake and Frank Boshier were true to their reputation—although the bishop might have been a bit older to match his dead-pan face. James Crick made his debut—coaxed on by Heather Mumme (with little difficulty).

P.G.

THE CLERGY AND MINISTERS OF CAVERSHAM ANGLICAN

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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FREE CHURCHES AND ROMAN CATHOLICS
OF CAVERSHAM

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CAVERSHAM AND CHRISTIAN AID

£5,000 raised in the Reading area

The April edition of "The Bridge" carried a description of the Marangu Farm Project on the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The farm for 60 students is administered by the Y.M.C.A. and the Reading area had promised to send £4,420 to cover the running costs for 1967. Within a fortnight of Christian Aid Week the treasurer was able to send a

cheque for that amount. In addition, since considerably more had been raised in the Reading area, a further £600 was sent to relieve the distress caused by the war in the Middle East.

Christian Aid shows the way. The Farm School at Marangu is helping to solve the problem of unemployment by encouraging young men to work as farmers with a better farming education than was possible for their fathers. It is a good example of the way Christian

Aid helps people to help themselves. More and better food is now being produced in an area formerly considered to be very poor, and more local people now have a little cash with which to supply their needs. The farm is an object of great interest to the Government departments involved in its day to day running. Christians in Reading are enabling Christians in Tanzania to do a piece of pioneering work. It is probable that the Government will start similar projects, and eventually take over the Marangu project itself. This is the way Christian Aid works throughout the world.

The Church often starts projects designed to help anyone in need, and then the Church gives its projects to be administered by the Government. This is what has happened to a Christian Aid project in Sarawak similar to the Marangu Farm School. The Sungei Pinang Farm School in Sarawak was started seven years ago, and this summer the Chief Minister of Sarawak and the Anglican Bishop of Kuching were both present at a ceremony at which the project was handed over to the Government. During the course of his speech the Bishop said this:—"We were the pioneers of this work, but since we started, Government has opened six other centres and Sungei Pinang makes the seventh. With the help of Christian Aid we have blazed the trail, but we are not obliged to carry the burden for all time. We are able to hand over to the Government a first-class piece of work in excellent condition, and it has been freely admitted that this Farm Centre

is well ahead of the others."

Let us hope that in five years time perhaps the same may be said about the project that we in Caversham have helped to finance.

Our plans for the future

It is hoped that many people will be able to take part in the sponsored walk which will start in Caversham on the night of June 2, 1968. Those taking part will be from the whole of Reading. June 2 is Whit Sunday, and June 3 happens to be the Spring Bank Holiday. The route will be just over 24 miles. Walkers—book this date, and make this "Christian Aid walk a MUST."

Another date to book is Tuesday, February 13. There will be a "Christian Aid Evening" at 8 p.m. at the Balmore Hall. One of Christian Aid's excellent films will be seen, and we shall hear further news about the two projects with which we have been concerned—the Uturu Young Farmers' Scheme in Nigeria (1966), and the Marangu Farm School (1967).

Devaluation

If the work done overseas by Christian Aid in 1967 is to be equalled in 1968—A FURTHER £200,000 WILL HAVE TO BE COLLECTED! This is the effect of devaluation. Every £1 now

going out of the country is only worth 17/3d. of the £1 before devaluation. The Missionary Societies, Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund have all been similarly affected. Difficult as we may feel our position in Britain to be—let us not forget the tremendous need for help in the poverty-stricken and underdeveloped parts of the world. Our difficulties are temporary, and we still have our needs supplied. Let us hope that devaluation will not be used as an excuse to stop giving, nor to close our ears to the cry for help from the countries where Christian Aid is working.

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Speaking of Caversham people—I don't know who the elderly lady was who gave me such a pleasant greeting on my way to Church the other morning, but she certainly made my day as she hurried off to her own Church. I can't help thinking that a stranger watching us scuttle backwards and forwards to our respective Churches each Sunday, giving each other furtive, almost suspicious, glances, would certainly NOT be tempted to say: "How these Christians love one another!" We have so much in common — couldn't we perhaps acknowledge this, if only with a smile.

I see one of our favourite bakers is now installed in new premises, and very pleasant they are too. That's one piece of development which won't upset the ratepayers, and we are sure they will continue to be as popular as ever.

A funny story came my way recently about the "Bridge" Social Service Scheme, reminding me of the young officer in the First World War who sent a message: "Send reinforcements, I'm going to advance." base HQ got it as "Send three and fourpence, I'm going to a dance."

A conscientious social scheme worker was somewhat startled to hear that apparently 14 elderly people were living in a house somewhere in Caversham and nobody was bothering about them. Chasing this up, she found the place deserted. Traced to its source, it appears the story started with a casual remark by a resident to a voluntary worker some time previously, that it was a pity the place wasn't taken over. "It could," he said, "house 14 elderly people."

Many of our readers have expressed the wish that a column containing a round-up of Caversham news should be a regular feature, so we intend to try to include one in future issues. But do remember that we are terribly dependent on YOU for items of news. We are not interested merely in Church affairs or church-goers. If it concerns Caversham it concerns us.

It was interesting to read in last month's issue about the mallards nesting in Church Road. We are wondering how to encourage our pet blackbird to nest in our garden. It was several months ago we first noticed him — from the top of his head to half way down his back he is pure white. Investigations show that there was an albino blackbird nesting in Reading last year, and it is thought this is one of the off-spring. The Natural History Society suggest we encourage the bird to nest in our garden and make observations. In the meantime, can anyone give me tips on photographing a reluctant blackbird?

Congratulations to 15-year-old Mustafa Sami on discovering a very fine example of an early Stone Age axe-head in the garden of his home in Albert Road. Our archaeology correspondent tells us that this area, with its gravel deposits, is a good hunting ground—the British Museum, he tells me, has at least one Caversham find of this nature. But it takes a trained eye and a keen interest to spot them. Young Mustafa got his training in Kenya where he lived for several years with his parents. With two such keen enthusiasts as Mustafa and our correspondent, himself only a 14-year-old, it looks as if we are in for some interesting discoveries in Caversham.

Has anyone tried to make sense of the new bus timetable incorporating changes in the service to Emmer Green. Both the times and the routes are now so complicated it would take master's papers to help you understand them. My advice is — walk! Unless, of course, you are prepared to wait ages for a bus that isn't going where you want it to when it does finally appear.

And it did occur to me that the only public conveniences in Caversham could be better sign-posted. No stranger could make sense of them.

We are glad to see we are to have two or three restaurants or cafes in Caversham. These we could certainly do with.

With 1968 approaching, I would like to nominate as my own particular personality of the year in Caversham, a very good friend of mine who lives in Emmer Green. She suffers from multiple sclerosis and, like so many, is now completely tied to a wheel chair. Always in the past a very active person, she naturally misses the joy of being able to work. But she has discovered one very big advantage about her present state;

she has more time than she ever had before. And to her that means time to spare for other people and their problems. Anyone who calls is sure of a cup of tea and a firm shoulder to lean on—despite her own problems she will listen by the hour to those of her callers, and if necessary be ready with advice. She is a very wonderful person and if anyone needs cheering up I am more than ready to supply her address.

But it wouldn't be quite fair not to mention her husband, who copes admirably with the situation, attends to all her wants, does the household chores and a full-time job as well. When one hears of how easily young couples separate it certainly makes one think to come across a couple like this who have learned the true depth of marriage.

I am sure my readers will wish to join me in sending them both our very best wishes for the coming year.

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TALKING POINT

Jeremiah lived at a time of crisis. Many of the Jews had become complacent. More recently they had become immoral too. The Ten Commandments were being flouted left, right and centre. Now the Babylonians were marching towards Jerusalem. Soon the Jews would be a captive people. They would shortly be singing the Lord's song in a strange land. This is the context of Jeremiah's preaching and of his campaign for religious reform.

We too live in a time of crisis. Our days are days of confusion, change and bewilderment. Morally speaking our society has many depressing trends — more crime, drugs, increasing divorce. We also live in a period of religious reform. In all branches of the Church old patterns are breaking up: established ways are being unsettled. Things are not quite as bad for us as they were for Jeremiah. But the parallels are striking and worth considering.

The task of a prophet is to interpret the events of his day to his fellow men. If Jeremiah were preaching here this morning he would say many of the things he said in the sixth century B.C. Let us therefore compose a prophecy for the twentieth century. What is God up to? Where do God's people, the members of the Christian Church, stand in 1967?

To interpret the present, Jeremiah began with the past. He drew strength from history. He reminded

the Jews of their heritage and their traditions. God had led them out of Egypt. God had guided their fortunes and given them their greatest king, King David. All through the preceding centuries there had been crisis after crisis—some just as serious as the current one. But God had coped. God had brought them through it all. Retrospectively there could be no doubt about God's providence.

by

Roger Packer

A sermon preached in St. Andrew's on Sunday, November 26, 1967. (See Jeremiah Chap. 23 vv 5-8).

The same things are true of the Church of England. "This church will be dead in 50 years." Prominent people have been saying that for centuries. But we are still here. God has brought our church through the Reformation in the sixteenth century, the Puritan Revolution in the seventeenth, the Evangelical Revival in the eighteenth and the Oxford movement in the nineteenth century. We have had our share of crises like the Jews of the Old Testament. Yet God has been merciful and providential.

The history and traditions of our church are despised by many people today. Earnest reformers want to throw everything out. They want to knock it all down and build again. Such dis-

respect for the past finds no place in the Scriptures. The Jews had a great history. As Jeremiah reminded them, they ought to rejoice in it and be thankful for it. So ought we. There is courage and hope to be drawn from history. We can ill afford to let such courage go.

Jeremiah began with the past. Now he turned to the present. In spite of their history the Jews were far from perfect. Indeed the state of their spiritual life was a scandal. So, as the Babylonians approached Jerusalem, Jeremiah said: "Here is the Lord coming to humble you. The God who led you out of Egypt, the God who raised up David is on the move again." After a word of hope, Jeremiah turned to judgment.

There is a grave scandal in the Church today. It is the scandal of disunity. We are beginning to realise how sinful we are in maintaining separate churches, separate creeds and separate communions. It is coming home to us that the Church will never grow until it is united. Furthermore the world outside the church becomes increasingly hostile — whatever our denomination. Every year that passes forces us back to the wall, back to fundamentals, back to face the pagan Babylonians. This is the age of the humbling of the Church. The God who delivered us from the corruption of the Middle Ages, the God who restored dignity to public worship one hundred years ago is on the move again. The righteous and holy God is crushing our pride as He crushed it in the days of Jeremiah.

So much for the past and present. Now the future. This is where today's lesson comes in. For in this passage Jeremiah is saying this. God does not humble the Jews for want of something to do. God humbles His people for a purpose. God is sending His people into captivity to teach them a lesson. In years to come, when the lesson is learned, the Jews will return to Jerusalem. They will be purified and fortified. Their moral fibre will again be strong and healthy. Then they will expand. A king, greater than David, will appear. The two divided nations, Israel and Judah, will be reunited. New and more exciting history will be made. The Jews will no longer look back to the Exodus from Egypt, they will look back to this new event: to the time when God reunited His people from every country whither He has driven them.

In the history of the whole Christian Church the twentieth century will be remembered as the Ecumenical Century. The greatest fact of our day is the coming together of Christ's scattered people. God is humbling us all for a purpose. The fact that we are being driven back to fundamentals means that God is purifying us. He is toughening up our moral fibre. By drawing the churches together He is making His people strong and healthy so that one day we can expand.

When the new church emerges we shall no longer look back to the Reformation in the sixteenth century. We shall have forgotten that we were Anglicans or Baptists or Congregationalists. We shall look back to the beginning of God's new era. We shall look back to the time when a reunited Christendom fell on its face to worship. The Name of our God will be the Lord our Righteousness.

Oxford Conference

by Observer

cis of Assisi, who was not a priest yet manifested the effects of divine grace through his work. Similarly grace comes to other Christians. Today, however, the church must now have a HORIZONTAL feature, a more outward looking attitude. The moves towards Christian unity make this necessary.

The Results of Vatican II

Since Vatican II we have been helped to see how the Christians of the West have an interdependent relationship, no matter what their particular church allegiance. We are united in the pact of Christianity through baptism, and with this binding grace we can work towards unity and destroy misinterpretation based on prejudice. What is needed is fruitful dialogue so that we can learn from and appreciate one another. Catholics can learn as much as anyone else — from the Anglicans about prayer—from the Free Churches we can learn to involve ourselves personally in the debt payable to the world through organisations like Christian Aid and Freedom from Hunger. The Roman Catho-

lic Church could be a little less authoritarian — while more definite leadership might be valued in other churches.

The Future

The importance of the Reformation is only now being felt as the divided church asks herself why she is divided. The most valuable form of discussing this is through dialogue amongst small groups of Christians taking the form of ecumenical house groups. It is a basis on which we can work and therefore progress. This progression towards unity is a converging rather than groups of Christians sidling towards each other. On joint prayer and worship — the Ecumenical Directory, Part I, para. 59, was referred to (Catholic Truth Society, 1/-). Fr. Coventry pointed out the "Lund principle" — "NOT TO DO SEPARATELY WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER." This does not only apply to worship, but also to church buildings. There was a lot of overlapping at present, e.g. Union of Catholic Mothers and the Mothers' Union; Youth Clubs; Retreats and Conferences. In practice dialogue was more important than knowing all the answers to the questions under discussion.

The Nature of the Church

Father Coventry talked first on the historical picture of the church. He said that the church, the Mystical Body of Christ on earth, was not to be identified with the Kingdom of God which is in Heaven. The Church has a VERTICAL relationship with God, i.e., it is a means through which grace is poured down from Heaven, sometimes through obedience to and respect for the authority of the church and conscience; sometimes a pouring down on a more personal level, e.g. St. Fran-

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Mrs. J. Swift (East Caversham),
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Caversham, 73221.

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

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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18-25

Sunday, January 21, 6.30 p.m.
CAVERSHAM PARISH CHURCH
UNITED EVENSONG

(Normal evening services in other churches are being cancelled, and members of all denominations will be attending this service).

Monday, January 22, 7.30 p.m.
ST. ANNE'S HALL

Bridge Scheme Helpers Annual Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 7.30 p.m.
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Distributors' meeting

"DISTRIBUTORS ARE PEOPLE WHO SELL, CARE AND REPORT"

This was the message that Mrs. G. Smith, Distribution Agent for the "National Christian News," gave at the two meetings of "Caversham Bridge" distributors held at the West Memorial Hall on Wednesday, November 8.

More than 75 of the 240 distributors attended the meetings at which the Editor, the Rev. J. G. Grimwade acted as Chairman. Mrs. Smith certainly made us feel that we belong to a big family. From its one-room office in Birmingham—"National

Christian News" now extends to more than 70 local editions. It caters for a wide range of readers in many different parts of the country ranging from the East End of London to the plusher suburbs of Birmingham. It is read by a large number of people

who don't go to church, and through its pages, and the use of good journalism, it is possible for Christian insights to be shared with many more people than would be possible through the more conventional parish magazine.

A Worthwhile Job

Mrs. Smith said that the job of a distributor was a rewarding one—depending on how much effort was put into it. It was important to SELL the paper, and vitally necessary to attract new readers. There was the pastoral side—the CARING side of the job. This involved talking to the lonely and the elderly, and letting clergy and others know if a visit would be appreciated. And finally, it was their task to REPORT. Any items of interest about Caversham places and people, should be passed on. News and views depended to a large extent on the initiative of distributors.

The Business Side

Mr. Jim Pilgrim, company secretary of "The Bridge," with the use of wall charts helped us to realise the importance of the financial side of the paper. To keep our heads above water and avoid a price increase will mean an average INCREASE OF TWO MORE READERS FOR EACH OF THE 240 DISTRIBUTORS. Mr. John Hargreaves, the advertising manager, stated that he would be always ready to follow up any potential clients who might be willing to advertise in "The Bridge" which provides "high-density" advertising in over 50 per cent. of the homes in the Caversham area. Mr. W. C. S. Harrison, distribution manager, stressed the importance of the necessary increase in our readership.

Distributors' Views

The Rev. John Crowe summarised the 133 replies sent in on the reaction sheets, he had sent out to all the distributors asking for information about the job, and their views as to how the paper could be improved, and their particular task made easier.

1 Apart from a few people who deliver more than 30 papers each—the majority deliver between 10 and 30, and the average is 15 papers per distributor.



Mr. W. C. S. Harrison speaking at the meeting.

2 Caversham people enjoy "The Bridge." There's generally a chance for a chat with each subscriber. People's method of payment varies from monthly to quarterly, half-yearly or annually. Old Age pensioners are apparently unaware that they can buy the paper at a reduced rate of 4d.—these were impressions common to a majority of distributors.

Suggestions for Improvement of "The Bridge"

Many said how good it already was — excellent value for 6d. Twelve people wanted more local news — though one admitted "I realise it's up to us to submit it." Amongst other suggestions were the following:—"More controversial articles on subjects not concerned with church activities." "Improve the ink and paper used." "Front page—too sensational." "More articles from non-Anglican churches." "Have adverts and film reviews." "Articles should be signed by contributors."

Making the distributor's job easier

"Annual subscriptions would make life easier."—this was a general feeling though it was admitted that in some cases monthly payments were necessary. "It would be a help if bundles of papers could be delivered to the distributors." This already happens in Emmer Green, but is difficult to organise in other districts.

Mr. Crowe said that these and all the other comments would be considered in detail. He was most grateful for all the views which had been sent in, and said how important it was for the organisers to be in close touch with the people who did the hard work of distributing.

A Big Thank-You

The Rector thanked Mrs. Smith for her enthusiastic and encouraging talk, and he gave a special word of appreciation to all the distributors. He said that "The Bridge" relied upon them. He also thanked all those who gave so much time towards the production of the paper — and notably Mr. Fred Walker, the photographer, Mr. Paul Goriup, the drama critic, and Miss Winnie Darter, the general reporter. Without all their help, which was entirely voluntary, the paper would not exist. He gave a plea for more local news, and asked that any suggestions should be sent to him at the Rectory (71703) or to the Rev. John Crowe at the Rectory Flat (75152).

POSTBAG

Dear Mr. Editor,

I feel I must refer to your Editorial on death in the November issue. As individual cases differ so widely, it is quite impossible to generalise, and I would have thought the person best qualified to decide whether or not a patient should be told that he is dying is the person nearest to that patient. For instance, a husband and wife, perhaps married for 40 or 50 years, have probably discussed this sort of situation anyway.

In the case of a highly nervous, neurotic type of person, I feel it would be most undesirable, even dangerous, to tell him of the true position, at least until a late stage in the illness. To such a person the shock might be too great, and would probably result in heavy sedation becoming necessary, rendering home nursing impossible, thus making yet one more case for our much over-worked hospitals. How would preparation for death be possible in such a case? Moreover, surely a Christian should be prepared to meet death at any time, and when one is in the throes of a painful and distressing illness, with perhaps reduced mental capacity, hardly seems the best time and circumstance in which to make such preparation.

Personally, I think it is not death which most people fear, but the physical agonies which often precede it, and the knowledge that one must leave behind those who are dependent on oneself.

Yours, etc.,
Barbara Hargreaves
11, Berrylands Road,
Caversham, Reading.

Dear Editor,

Many of your readers must be grateful to you for your article about death. All nature is in stages, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly, with one thread of life running through them all. We accept the gradual development of the embryo, the birth of the baby, the maturing of the child: why do even professing Christians find it so difficult to believe that death is the birth into a new stage of life as much richer and fuller than this life, as this life is richer and fuller than life in the womb?

If I thought that the next stage of life is truly depicted by hymns, I should much prefer to be extinguished at death, but surely Christians should believe that all that is really worth having in this life, love, gaiety, beauty, companionship (I believe in the communion of saints), congenial work and growth, all that we can associate with God goes on. A mother came to her daughter in a dream and said, "We are always busy but we are never tired." No boredom in life after death. Let us accustom ourselves to think of it, and of those we love who are waiting to welcome us when we join them.

The clergy so very seldom speak of death or of the life everlasting in which we say we believe when we say the creed. Please urge your friends to follow your example!

Yours, etc.,
M. Somervell



Fred Walker.

Dear Sir,

At a recent meeting of the Caversham Residents' Association it was decided to object to proposals to widen Grove Hill and to further development of land at Rotherfield Way. Whilst fully realising the need to utilise all available land within the Borough for housing needs, I cannot help feeling that the destruction of beauty spots such as Surlley Row and Grove Hill should be a matter of some concern to Caversham residents. There still seems to be a lack of communication between the Planning Committee of the Council and the public, in that, very little publicity is given about intended development and redevelopment schemes. Local Authorities are shy of giving advance publicity of its intentions, and it would appear that there is still a great need for the public to be taken into confidence earlier than seems to be the rule at present.

Yours, etc.,
John Freeman

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CAVERSHAM GUIDES AND BROWNIE GUIDES

GUIDES

Although there are a large number of Guide Companies and Brownie Guide Packs in the Caversham District most of these are full, and all the Brownie Packs have waiting lists. Many girls move into the area who are already Guides and Brownie Guides, and they are put at the top of the waiting lists. It is a strict rule of the Guide Movement that Guide Companies should not exceed 36 and Brownie Packs not exceed 24. As many Guiders

are working single-handed this number is sometimes more than enough, as we like, when possible, to give individual attention to the girls.

Any parents wishing their daughter to join the Movement are advised to contact the Guides in charge some time before the girl reaches the age of admittance. (Brownies: 7 years minimum age. Guides: 10 years minimum age).

HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED IN ALL

BRANCHES. A KNOWLEDGE OF GUIDING IS A GREAT HELP, BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.

GUIDERS. Anyone interested in becoming a Guider must be prepared to attend trainings and to wear uniform.

UNIT HELPERS do not need special training or uniform. They attend meetings and give general help.

BADGE TESTERS are needed to test the girls on many and varied subjects. Tests are arranged in the

tester's home at a convenient time.

INSTRUCTORS. Anyone who has knowledge on any subject that would be of interest to the Movement would be welcome to attend meetings to instruct the girls.

ANYONE WHO FEELS READY TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER:

MRS. J. MOSS, 161, UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD, CAVERSHAM. PHONE NO. READING 73110.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The writer of "Community" in December's issue may rest assured that the Residents' Association did not stop at mentioning the need for an east-west bus service in this newspaper but, as they said, went and saw the Transport Management about it. We knew that it would be no use asking for anything that required more buses but hoped that our suggestion of re-routing would not necessitate this. However, we were told that it would in fact require an extra bus a day so would not be possible at this stage. Another of our complaints was about how every other No. 20 bus is timed to follow the 21 along an almost identical route, leaving a 20-minute gap with no bus at all. We were told that this is due to a technicality of timetable planning but we still feel that it should be possible to alter these intervals to be of greater use to passengers.

Our complaints and suggestions were listened to sympathetically and while we cannot report that inadequacies on the Caversham routes will be given priority treatment we gained the impression that if and when improvements became possible, they would be given consideration.

Although the difficulty of getting on buses during the morning rush was not one of the matters we had gone to discuss, because we realised that the solution did not lie solely with the Transport undertaking, the point did come up. Much of the trouble lies with traffic hold-up and there is hope of a considerable improvement when a new one-way system is introduced throughout the central areas of the town. This should also result in an improvement in the siting of certain bus stops.

One of the consequences of children being unable to get on the Hemdean Road bus to Horncastle is that those attending Westwood and Stoneham Schools often find the crossing patrol has gone by the time the bus they finally manage to catch has arrived, leaving them to cross the dangerous A4 by themselves. We are writing to ask the Chief Constable whether it would be possible for the patrol to remain at the crossing place a little longer until the next Horncastle bus arrives with those Caversham children who were unable to get on an earlier bus.

Some time ago we drew the Chief Constable's attention to the difficult task the "lollipop" lady has to perform each morning at the Gosbrook Road-George Street junction and have been grateful to note that a second patrol has now been appointed.

With regard to the possibility of building commencing on the Church Street precinct site whilst the case still pends with the Ombudsman, the Town Clerk has written to say that there is little he can do, so there seems little point in a deputation meeting him at this stage, although his offer to meet us will be taken up at a later stage if necessary.

We have been gratified at the response to our appeal for support from those who are opposed to the building up of Hemdean Bottom (Rise in last month's "Bridge" was a printing error). Anyone still intending to, should send their names to the Secretary (Mrs. S. Clayton, 52, St. Anne's Road). We hope these will not be only those whose view from their back garden will be affected but all who think this would be bad town planning.

The larger our membership, the more authority we shall be able to speak with so join us for the small subscription of five shillings per annum per household or individual.

DETAILS OF GUIDING ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Mrs. J. Moss, 161, Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 73110

BROWNIE GUIDE PACK

- 1st Caversham:** Balmore Hall, Tuesday, 6—7.30 p.m.
Mrs. Harrison, 227, Hemdean Road.
- 2nd Caversham:** St. Andrew's Hall, Thursday, 5.30—7 p.m.
Mrs. Canning, 50, Highmoor Road. Tel. 75330.
- 3rd Caversham (St. John's):** The Iron Room.
Wednesday, 5.30—7 p.m.
Mrs. Nicholls, 190, Henley Road. Tel. 77405.
- 4th Caversham (St. Andrew's):** St. Andrew's Hall.
Wednesday, 5.30—7 p.m.
Mrs. Moss, 161, Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 73110.
- 5th Caversham (St. Peter's):** Balmore Hall.
Thursday, 6—7.30 p.m.
Mrs. Jackson, 20, South View Avenue. Tel. 71680.
- 6th Caversham (St. Anne's):** St. Anne's Hall.
Thursday, 6.15—7.15 p.m.
Mrs. Twiney, 1, Fernbrook Road. Tel. 71535.
- 11th Caversham (Caversham Free Church):**
West Memorial Hall, Tuesday, 6.15—7.45 p.m.
Miss Smith, 25, Chiltern Road. Tel. 73223.
- 1st Emmer Green (St. Barnabas):** St. Barnabas' Hall.
Thursday, 6—7.15 p.m.
Mrs. Morley, 18, Burnham Rise. Tel. 73495.
- 2nd Emmer Green:** Emmer Green School.
Friday 6—7.15 p.m.
Miss Browning, 9, St. John's Road.

NEWS

Many of the Guiders are attending Trainings in preparation for the New Programme which commences in March, 1968, and some are already changing their programme at meetings to enable the change-over to be easier for everybody.

2nd Caversham Guide Company. As their "Barbecue Dance" was such a success last year the Guides held a similar event on Friday, December 15 in St. Andrew's Hall.

1st Emmer Green Brownie Pack (St. Barnabas). Mrs. Morley, the Brownie Guider, is making steady progress after her recent operation. Mrs. Baker is taking the meetings but urgently needs adult help. Is there any member of St. Barnabas' Church who could

help her?

The Local Association. A very successful jumble sale was held recently at the Balmore Hall, and over £80 was taken.

The chairman and the committee would like to thank all those who helped make it such a success—not only those there in the afternoon, but all those willing helpers who collected jumble and sorted it.

4th Caversham (St. Andrew's) Brownie Pack held a "Birthday Party" on November 15 at St. Andrew's Hall. For many weeks they had been planning the party. Each Brownie Guide sent an invitation to a Brownie Guide in the 20th Reading Pack and looked after her guest for the evening. A

beautiful birthday cake decorated with Brownie badges and emblems was made by Mrs. Robinson (Caversham District Badge Secretary) and it drew gasps of admiration from everybody. After the blowing out of the candles the cake was cut (rather regretfully). After games and supper Mr. Kent, assisted by two of his sons, entertained the Brownies with conjuring and a Punch and Judy show. This was thoroughly enjoyed, and the adults in the audience were doubly entertained by watching the expressions on the Brownies' faces. To conclude the party a giant cracker containing tubes of sweets for every Brownie was pulled by teams of the two Packs while showers of balloons came from the platform. As the Brownies left the hall each received a toffee-apple made by Mrs. Hens. It was a very happy evening for all the

Brownies and their guests.

Members of the 3rd Caversham (St. John's) Guide Company gave a fashion show which the Guides prepared and put on themselves, to parents and friends in November. Dresses ranging from a charming bridesmaid's dress, mini suits and cotton dresses (some made by the Guides themselves), swim suits and nightwear were modelled by about 12 of the Guides. One of the Guides, Shirley, eighteen, introduced each model as she appeared and gave an excellent short commentary on the dress worn. Perhaps the star turn for spectators was one young Guide walking on in pyjamas, carrying a teddy bear nearly as large as herself and a hot water bottle, and giving a large yawn as she turned to disappear! The show ended with Guides modelling the various uniforms worn by Guides including camp dress. Tea and refreshments were served by other members of the Company. By special request the fashion show was repeated at St. John's Autumn Bazaar.

G. Besley.



Mrs. Love—teaching Meryl Setchell and Sheila Taylor to make a gift for Mummy.



A new Brownie Guide—Meryl Setchell shakes hands, and salutes her Six, the Pixies, after being enrolled. Left to right: Sixer, Julie Dennis, Sheila Taylor, Deborah Tainsh, Gaye Alexander, Gillian Peach.

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NEWS FROM THE

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

First, my best wishes to you all for 1968. The New Year will, no doubt, bring new questions and problems for your parish, our diocese and the whole Church. Christians expect to live in a difficult world. New questions keep us awake and alert and prevent us from sitting back and going to sleep. But we know that the only safe way of going forward is obedience to God's will, with the faith and courage that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. With Him to support us, we can be both safe and adventurous. He is the same through all the changes of time.

In 1968 I want every parish and deanery to think hard and think afresh about its responsibilities for

Christians in other lands, especially in Africa and Asia. Do we care about them at all? Do we pray for them? Do we give? They belong together with us in the family of Christ just as much as the people next door. A group of parishes or a deanery can often do something constructive to create a new link of prayer and active caring between ourselves and some part of the Church overseas. Next summer the bishops of the Churches of the Anglican Communion all over the world will meet in the Lambeth Conference, probably over 500 of them. Four of them will visit this diocese for a weekend in the summer and bring news of what is happening in their dioceses in South Africa, Australia, Ceylon and America. Let them find us knowing a good deal already and willing

to learn more about the Church in their countries.
Your sincere friend and Bishop, **HARRY OXON.**

* * *

AFRICAN PRIEST'S VISIT

The Rev. Christopher Mlangwa, who is from the diocese of Tanga and Zanzibar, will be staying at the Rectory from January 5 for a week. He is studying in England for a year at Lincoln Theological College. He will preach at the Parish Communion at St. Peter's on January 7 and at Evensong at St. Andrew's. During his week in Caversham he will hope to meet many people in different parts of the parish and anyone wishing to entertain him for a meal is asked to contact the Rector.

St. John's News

Key to the future?

At the end of Key Fortnight many requests were made for a continuation of the House Meetings. The District Committee considering how best to follow up Key Fortnight has therefore invited the original groups to re-form themselves as House Churches, meeting perhaps once a month in each other's homes, and deciding for themselves their future way of functioning.

Worship through work

Mr. Tom Chapman, the Church of England's industrial representative held the congregation gripped in a most stimulating discussion on the

Christian Layman in Industry. The normal time limit is one hour, the congregation was so interested, they elected to continue; we finally broke up after a further three-quarters of an hour.

To develop our understanding further, and to plan suitable action, a working party has been set up to consider how Christians are to worship God through their work and relationships in commerce and industry; the problems that face them as they do this; and to suggest ways in which we can help one another to serve God better in this part of our lives. They are to report back to the District Committee in a year's time.

The Infant Sunday School

We were encouraged when a number of parents visited the Infant Sunday School at work on November 26, and we hope to invite them to come again from time to time.

Those who come, may be surprised at what they see—drawings of tractors, ears of wheat and barley, even, perhaps a loaf of bread. They are unlikely to hear any "little Bible stories" being told, and they may wonder if this is, after all, a Sunday School. What are we up to?

We are trying to widen the children's experience of the world in which they live, so that they may come to acknowledge God as the Creator of all things "visible and invisible." We hope that, as a result of the work we did in recent weeks on "Bread," their understanding of what lies behind "Give us this day our daily bread" is greater than it was.

At least half of the children in our Sunday School are under five, and for these we are

Goodbye to the Holder family

Recently Mr. and Mrs. Holder and their daughter Pamela moved from Emmer Green. A family which has been associated with the life of St. Barnabas' Church for many years, we offer them our best wishes as they make their home in another part of Reading. We are also sorry to lose their daughter, Marion, now Mrs. Nester, who will long be remembered by the children she has taught in Sunday School during recent years.

A Substantial Contribution

During the past six months a very large and substantial structure has grown in the store room of the hall. This built-in cupboard, which can accommodate the large amount of equipment that our play groups have accumulated, is almost entirely the work of one man—John Walker. Many thanks John.

THE CAVERSHAM CHURCHES WHEN FLOODLIT DURING KEY FORTNIGHT
Pictures: Fred Walker

simply going to provide lots of play material; any teaching will be quite incidental, but we hope that they will enjoy being part of God's family each Sunday.

Hospital Hymns

On Sunday evening, January 14, we have been invited to record half-an-hour's community hymn singing to be broadcast early in February to the hospitals of Reading.

Donors anonymous

The leaders of the Youth Club wish to express their thanks to the unknown donors of two sums of money to the Youth Club. Quite apart from the much needed financial help, they gave very great encouragement to those involved in this work.

St. Andrew's News

New Ideas

A few weeks after Key Fortnight St. Andrew's Teen Action held a weekend conference in St. Andrew's Hall. What Key Fortnight did for the adults, this conference did for the teenagers. Thus within the space of one month all sections of the congregation were made to think. From all quarters ideas and suggestions for the improvement and development of St. Andrew's came thick and fast. Since then a number of steps have been taken to absorb some of these new ideas. They have been considered by the District and Teen Action Committees and by an Open Meeting of the whole congregation. What the outcome of all this will be cannot yet be seen. But in general it can be said that as a result of the Key Fortnight and the Teen Action Conference St. Andrew's has acquired a new and deeper sense of purpose.

The Choir

"Evensong for St. Cecilia's Tide" on Sunday, November 26, was much appreciated by the large congregation which gathered for the occasion. This was a special musical offering by our choir in

honour of the patron saint of music. The service included a special setting of the canticles, vocal and instrumental solos and two anthems. We are grateful to the choir for this and we look forward to the next occasion of this nature—the Carol Service on Sunday, December 31, at 6.30 p.m.

The Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) this year falls on a Saturday. There will be Holy Communion at 7 a.m. On the same evening at 7.30 p.m. there will be the traditional Epiphany Party in the Church Hall. Among other things, we shall again be welcoming to the party a number of Overseas Students from the University.

The Church Overseas

On the First Sunday after the Epiphany (January 7) we will be directing our thoughts to the church overseas. Members of the congregation will be invited to make a gift towards the work of St. Mary's Hospital in Ovamboland. Gifts may be in kind—blankets, bandages, etc.—or in money. At Evensong we shall be welcoming the Rev. C. Mlangwa as our preacher.

St. Peter's News

On from Key Fortnight

A well attended open district meeting laid plans for a number of study groups which will be starting early in January. It became apparent from the many requests made during Key Fortnight that the teaching given by Fr. Gibbard was stimulating many people to want to know more about their faith. Several members of the congregation opted to "sit in" on the adult confirmation groups now being held, and many others will be meeting in different homes for Bible and other study.

Carols and Councillors

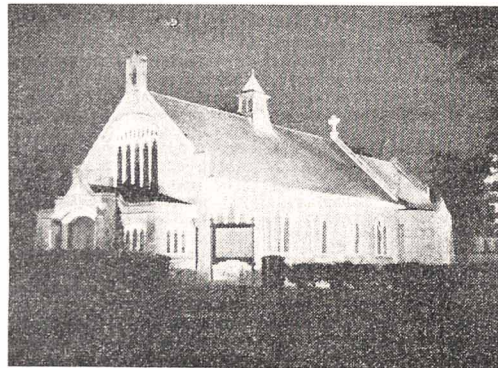
At the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 31 at 6.30 p.m. we shall be welcoming as our readers this year a number of councillors for Thames and Caversham Wards. The visit of the Palestrina choir on November 26 was a most enjoyable occasion, and their beautifully controlled singing gave great pleasure to the many who came to hear them. We are grateful to our own choir and the choir of Queen Anne's School for all the hard work which they put into the service of Advent Carols which seems to get better and more popular every year.

New caretakers for Balmore Hall

Mr. Turner has felt obliged to give up the post of caretaker at Balmore Hall. He deserves the warm thanks of many people in the parish for all he has done, but since the death of Mrs. Turner he has felt it more than he can undertake single-handed. Mr. and Mrs. Cleaver of 3, Oxford Street, have been appointed to succeed him. They are well known in the neighbourhood and it is a great help that they live so close to the hall.

St. Peter's Wives' Group

At the annual meeting Mrs. J. Cuthbertson and



St. Barnabas' News

Open District Meeting

A number of people spent a stimulating evening on November 27 discussing the reports which were prepared by the house groups during Key Fortnight. As a result it was decided to think about certain subjects more deeply during the coming months in a series of "parish parliaments," so called because we hope for lively debate after hearing a speaker on our chosen subject for the evening. First to be considered, on Monday, January 15 at 8 p.m. in the hall, will be worship. What is worship? Why must a Christian worship regularly? What is the best way to introduce people to Christian worship? Some people are concerned to vary our 6.30 p.m. service on Sundays,

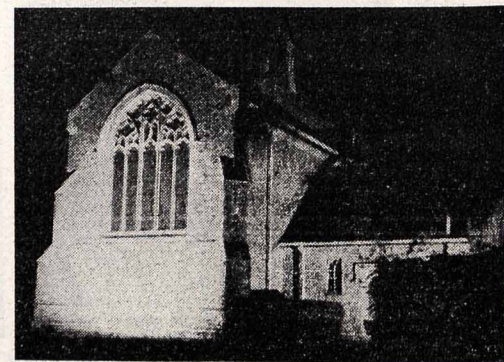
Mrs. M. Suggitt were elected to the committee for the first time. The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 16 in Church House at 8 p.m. This will be a joint meeting with the Roman Catholic Marian Group. The speaker will talk on Decalogue and husbands are invited to attend.

January Festivals

Times of Holy Communion The Circumcision, Monday, January 1, 7 a.m. The Epiphany, Saturday, January 6, 7 a.m. St. Paul's Day, Thursday, January 25, 9.30 and 8 p.m.



St. John's



St. Andrew's

CAVERSHAM CHURCHES

Mapledurham News

Mapledurham to use new Communion Service in New Year

Mapledurham's P.C.C. has decided to take part in the experiment of the new Communion Service. This new service is to be used at all Communion services in church from January 1, 1968, and the P.C.C. will review the service about September.

Savill Flagon

The Church Council of Mapledurham also decided to proceed with a faculty for placing on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum the Elizabethan Flagon, the gift of Lady Margaret Savill in 1598, and the Fitzclarence service of Communion Plate. This will be a considerable benefit, for the church will be saved the insurance, people will be able to see these valuable pieces in the Museum which they can't do while they are in the bank, and the church may have them out from the Museum whenever it wishes for special occasions.

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St. Paul's Presbyterian News

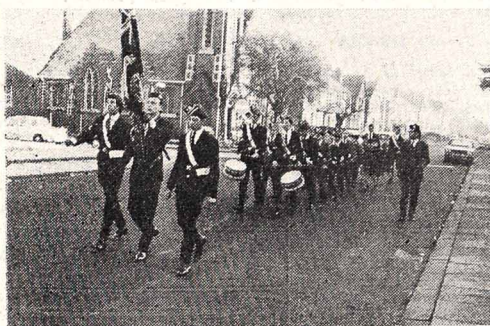
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church continues to bear its witness in an unspectacular way. Someone once described Presbyterianism as "low temperature religion." Uphill and downhill we carry on. The latest event was the Caledonian Market (which is a Scots' way of describing a Sale of Work) opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading. The bagpipes alas! and the haggis were not to be seen or heard, but it was a successful afternoon and we raised £188 towards the cost of repairs to the Hall roof.

It is quite remarkable how much youth work goes on in St. Paul's in addition to Sunday School and Junior Church work. We have a splendid pack of Cubs which meet on Mondays—yet we could do with more helpers with the pack. On Thursdays our Youth Club meets and obviously meets a need in the neighbourhood. On Friday we have a Girls' Club excellently run by our lady members and on Saturday we have a Junior Youth Club. All these agencies are carried on by Church members and their friends. Not a great many of the youth club members come to the church services, but it is a valuable piece of work to give these young people somewhere to go in the evening—to keep them off the streets and out of the pubs. Anyone who does work among our young people deserves the thanks of the whole community. Award yourself the C.D.M. which could doubtless be purchased at our new coffee bar.

Baptist News

The Wives' Group, which meets in members' homes at fortnightly intervals is a lively affair in many respects. The meetings are extremely friendly and informal and, very appropriately the Group is about to foster an offspring in that another Group is to be formed on the Caversham Park Estate. The inaugural meeting will take place on Thursday, January 11, 1968, at 8.15 p.m. at No. 4, Almond Drive and all wives in the area are cordially invited to attend.

The Church literature has now taken on a new look thanks to the generous enthusiasm of Mr. K. Shield. It is well stocked with "readable" books allied to the Christian Faith and there is something for all age groups—a "Feed the Minds Campaign" in miniature. A most generous gift from Mrs. D. W. Collier has enabled us to have the church car park surfaced to a very high standard by the Mechanical Tar Spraying and Grouting Co. Ltd. and it is a real pleasure not to have to paddle into Church on a wet Sunday.



Fred Walker

The Annual Parade of the Boys' Brigade at the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church.

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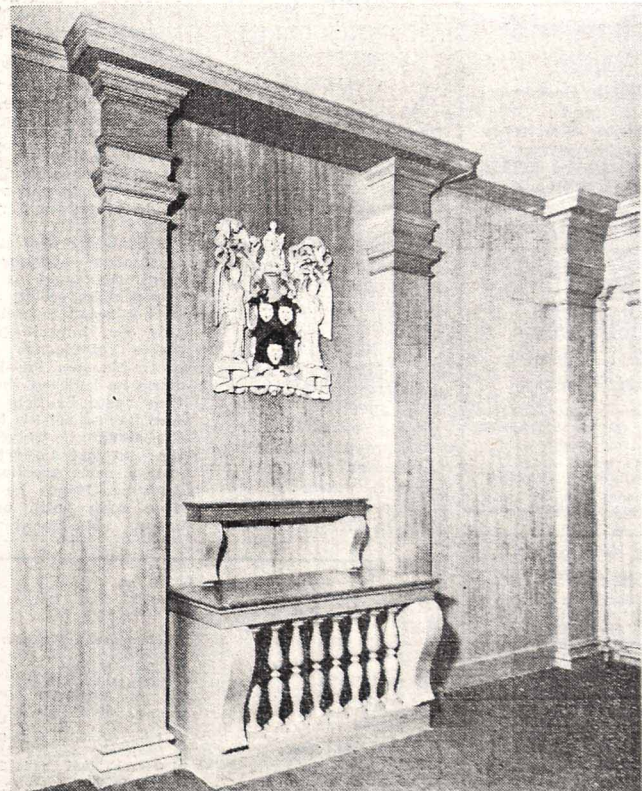
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CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON T.W.G.

At the annual general meeting of Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, Miss E. Baker, the Chairman welcomed four new members. She gave a report of a successful year which included many enjoyable social occasions and outings as well as interesting talks. It was also a record year with regard to support given to various charities.

The new Committee was elected and Miss E. Baker was re-elected as Chairman and Mrs. P. M. Tiffen has taken over as Secretary. The Arts and Crafts Section are starting classes in Pottery in the New Year. Anyone interested in joining the Guild should contact the Secretary, Mrs. P. M. Tiffen at 37, Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading, T.N. 73030.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS T.W.G.

Mrs. Haydon presided at the annual general meeting on Thursday, November 17, in St. Andrew's Hall. Mrs. Dave, Federation Assistant Secretary, had kindly agreed to act as Returning Officer for the election to fill six vacancies on the committee.

After voting had taken place, Mrs. Lott, secretary, gave the annual report for the year beginning October, 1966 — September, 1967. Membership stood at 116, an increase of 20 over the previous year. Twelve meetings had taken place during the year with an average attendance of 70 members.

Mrs. Lott said that she had been astonished at the activities achieved within the guild in one year. At the monthly meetings members had had opportunity of hearing many interesting speakers, among them to mention but two, Mr. Arthur Negus, TV personality and connoisseur of antiques, and Winston Churchill's bodyguard. Apart from this members had been able to visit the Theatre Royal at Windsor to see the pantomime "Cinderella." Among other outings which had been arranged were visits to see a performance of the "Tales of Hoffmann" at the Regal Cinema, Henley, and a drama performance at Broadmoor Hospital, Crowthorne.

SECTION REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ARTS AND CRAFTS

A wide range of subjects was covered during the year, among them millinery, curtain making and Christmas decorations.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the annual general meeting the chairman Mrs. E. Risius, welcomed our Returning Officer Mrs. K. Allen, and her Tellers, 60 members attended making it an interesting busy and satisfying evening. After the business meeting, members were shown a film of "Coventry Cathedral."

On November 22, the Social Studies Group held a debate "That the rush and speed of everyday life has an adverse effect on human relationships." Mesdames Gilbert and Morgan spoke for the motion and Mesdames Ross and Klein against.

Four members attended the Singer Sewing Machine School in April and learned a great deal to help in the general use of their machines.

Two members attended the Preserves School at the Berkshire Institute of Agriculture and had an enjoyable and informative day. As a result of this the daughter of one member attended a short summer holiday course at the Institute specially arranged for school girls.

In June, 30 members went to the Dorchester Abbey "Festival of Flowers" and despite the inclement weather had an enjoyable day.

In September there were several entries from this section at the Thames Valley Floral Art Exhibition, and in the marked classes one of our entries came second.

DRAMA

A series of classes, piloted by the Drama Chairman, has been held during the year in an effort to encourage members to gain confidence in public speaking. Votes of thanks and meeting procedure were also covered. Several members represented the Guild at the well organised Berkshire Drama Day at Windsor.

INTERNATIONAL

The International group have had a most interesting and instructive year. There have been regular monthly meetings, all of which have been well attended. A talk on Hungary, which Guild members heard on the tenth anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising, was one of the highlights of the year, and members have had opportunities to hear excellent speakers on Poland, Sweden, U.S.A., Holland, Greece, Iceland, Spain, France and China. A number of coffee evenings have been held and members of the group have assisted at the International Club, Watlington House, London Street, Reading.

MUSIC

This section has only recently been formed but already the choir have given two performances which show great promise.

They are extremely fortunate in having such an able musician as Mrs. Gant to lead them. Several members attended the final of the Regional Townswomen's Guild Music Festival at Bushey.

SOCIAL STUDIES

"Careers" was the subject chosen for this year and very interesting this proved to be.

Among the careers studied

were Prison Welfare Officer, N.S.P.C.C. worker, Hospital Matron, Psychiatrist, Children's Librarian, W.R.A.F. and Thames Conservancy Officer.

During the year the Comprehensive system of education was explained to the group by a speaker from the Education Authority and this was followed up with a talk about Primary Teaching and Post Graduate Courses.

A delegate was sent to the Residential Social Studies School on "Communication" at Southampton University early in September.

Mrs. Strange, treasurer, gave the financial report and a balance sheet was displayed on the notice board. Mrs. Haydon closed the business of the meeting with her chairman's remarks.

A "Bring and Buy" stall in aid of Guild funds was well supported and raised £14.

With the lively interest and stimulating ideas of members, 1967 has been a successful year. The committee has worked hard as a team for the smooth running of the Guild and it is their firm intention to make 1968 equally as successful.

New members will receive a very warm welcome. Why not come along and give our New Year's programme a try?

have been a great deal poorer if he had. Not for Fred the casual attendance at meetings, the lip service offered in armchair debates. He flung himself heart and soul into the work, putting in hours of hard work, yet always finding time for an encouraging chat with other volunteers. He never lost sight of the individual in the cause, never shunned personal problems, never forgot an old comrade.

His work took him into many fields where he will be sadly missed—the Labour Party, the Co-operative Movement, the Trades Coun-

cil, school management boards, etc. It left little time for anything else. His only other real interest was his wife and daughter. Though they did not always share each other's interests, they were a devoted family. Fred was overwhelmingly proud of them both, and they are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

It was with very real sadness that we heard of Fred's last illness and his death, and I would like to quote what I am sure would have been his own choice for an epitaph. "Write me as one who loved his fellow men."

OBITUARY

FRED PHILLIPS

From time to time we meet those who, while not claiming any Christian beliefs, lead the kind of lives that would put many so-called Christians to shame. Such a man was Fred Phillips, who died last month.

Without fear of punishment or hope of reward, Fred never missed an opportunity to do a good turn, never refused a request for help. Though I saw little of him in recent years, I would never have hesitated to pick up the phone and ask him to do something for someone.

Fred was one of the hard core of the Labour Movement. He joined, as a very young man, seeing in it a hope of better conditions not only for himself—he had ample intelligence to improve his own lot—but because he believed that only thus could he help others. And having set his hand to the plough he served with the utmost effort and loyalty, never questioning or doubting. Maybe he should have done both, but the Labour Movement would

January Sunday Services

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. Peter's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
11.00 a.m. Matins
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
6.30 p.m. Evensong.
St. John's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (2nd and 4th Sundays).
St. Andrew's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).
St. Barnabas
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).
St. Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

BAPTIST

Caversham
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship
Communion after Evening Service 1st Sunday after Morning Service 3rd Sunday.
11.00 a.m. Junior Church.
2.45 p.m. Sunday School.
CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
Sunday, 7th:
11.00 a.m. Rev. L. S. Lewis.
6.30 p.m. Rev. L. S. Lewis, followed by New Year Communion Service.
Sunday, 14th:
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Rev. L. S. Lewis.
Sunday, 21st:
11.00 a.m. Rev. L. S. Lewis
Morning Communion.
Sunday, 28th:
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Rev. L. S. Lewis.

North Caversham

10.45 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship
Communion after service on 3rd Sunday.
METHODIST
Caversham Heights
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship
10.15 a.m. Sunday School.
Senior Dept.
11.00 a.m. Sunday School.
Junior and Primary Dept.
Gosbrook Road
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship
11.00 a.m. Sunday School.

SALVATION ARMY

Prospect Street
8.00 p.m. Young People.
6.30 p.m. Adults.
ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, YORK ROAD
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's
8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Mass.
Our Lady of Caversham
8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.

MAPLEWOOD

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the November meeting a very interesting talk was given by Miss Markall on "Vilene" with many useful tips to the home dressmaker. The exhibition was of members' own work and some of the members paraded in dresses made by themselves. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Harper.

Mrs. Ridley the president, was in the chair. The flower of the month was won by: 1st Miss Dormer, 2nd Mrs. Duckworth, 3rd Miss Cole and the raffle was won by Mrs. Wyeth.

The next meeting on January 16, will be the birthday meeting when Mrs. Harvey Harrison will speak on "Fashion through the Ages" and a one-act play will be performed by the Drama Group.

ROSEHILL W.I.

At our monthly meeting Mrs. Sizer presided. Mrs. W. Bowie gave a talk on "Hardy Flowers for the Garden" also coloured slides were shown. Our Autumn Fair held on October 28 was very successful in spite of the weather. We raised more than the target we had planned for "Our National Appeal Fund."

Our next meeting will be on January 8, 1968, at 2.30 p.m. at The Caversham Hill Chapel Hall.

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We record...

BAPTISED	St. Margaret's, Mapledurham
Nov. 5 Charon Gregory	Oct. 22 Janice Kilbey
26 Jacqueline Martin	Sally-Anne Tingley
Sharon Shurey	MARRIED
St. John's	Oct. 14 John Goodale and Sylvia Gamble
Nov. 5 Paul Brown	26 Gerald Ford and Sheila Homewood
Christopher Hinton	28 Robin Kitcher and Marion Aitkin
Callum Mackechnie	BURIED
Stephen Moran	Nov. 1 Margaret Dent
David Reynish	27 Emma Gardiner
St. Andrew's	Oct. 18 Ethel Gunston
Nov. 19 Kathleen Baldwin	Nov. 5 James Kennedy
Elaire Alexander	St. Andrew's
St. Barnabas	Nov. 22 Neal Underwood
Oct. 22 Neal Underwood	Paul Wignore
Paul Wignore	1 Ethel Willis

Christian News — your National Hook - up



"Impact" picture

Geoffrey Smith, Birmingham business man, magistrate and Lay Secretary to the Birmingham Council of Churches, is the Chairman of Christian News Limited.

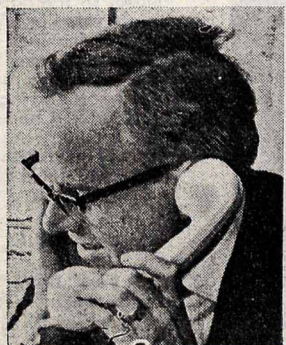


"Impact" picture

Maisie Smith, who travels widely as Circulation and Advertising Manager.



Diane Cox, a Cambridge graduate and one-time secretary to the Editor of "The Birmingham Post," is our Business Manager.



Ian Gregory, Sub-Editor, is a Congregationalist lay pastor.



"Impact" picture

Editorial Committee in session. Left to right: Geoffrey Brown, Editor and Vice-Chairman, Michael Dodd and John Duncan. Geoffrey Brown is the Rector of a large Birmingham parish in the grip of redevelopment. Michael Dodd is also a parish priest, while John Duncan is Anglican Chaplain in Birmingham University.

O.K. — So what's the point?

"CHRISTIAN NEWS" does not exist on its own or sell under its own name to the general public, except in one or two places and in very small numbers.

What's its point then?

Quite simply to make it possible for individual local papers to exist as a good and modern means of communication between the Church and the community.

Very few local papers could survive on their own resources. More than likely the one you're reading couldn't — because a ten or 12 page newspaper costs a lot to produce.

"Christian News," by circulating its pages nationally throughout the local editions is able to provide extra pages at a low cost and so make the local paper possible.

But it's the local paper that's important. "Christian News" exists to back it up as well as it knows how. In the months to come we hope to tell you something of the 63 papers which are joined together by their use of "Christian News" — about the areas they serve and the kind of communities that live there.

We want to introduce you to people who have a common purpose in making the work of the Church relevant to the real needs of the world.

WE WANT TO MAKE YOU PART OF A NATIONAL HOOK-UP AND HELP YOU TO REALISE THAT

YOU BELONG TO A GROWING FAMILY OF READERS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF ENGLAND (AND IN ONE TINY CORNER OF EIRE!).

"Christian News" is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity, dedicated to the task of helping churchgoer and non-churchgoer to look at the everyday world — whether it's something far away like the war in Vietnam or at home on our doorstep like bad housing — through Christian eyes.

In its early days the paper was Church of England and Birmingham only. Ten years later it is serving all the major denominations with the bulk of its circulation outside the Midlands.

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

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If you care, please add your gift to those of thousands who do care enough to send.

NO GIFT CAN BE TOO SMALL OR LARGE

Large sums are needed for long term development work and emergency relief

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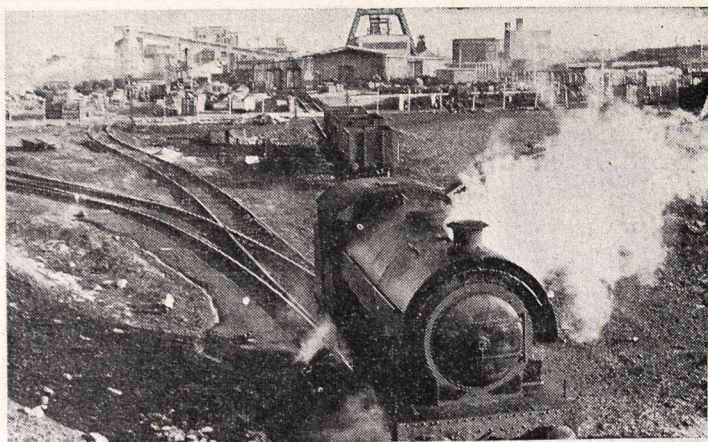
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Bates Colliery, Blyth

**THIS MONTH
WE WELCOME
TWO NEW
EDITIONS
TO THE
"CHRISTIAN
NEWS"
FAMILY**

BLYTH STAR

THE COAL mining port of Blyth lies on the coast of Northumberland. When "Christian News" arrived to visit it on a cold afternoon, with high seas running, a submarine had just docked, and all the rooms in the only hotel were taken by the submarine officers!

Blyth was the main British submarine base for the North Sea during the War. Coal mining is the major industry. Its huge shipyard, which provided much employment, closed down twelve months ago. New industry is vitally needed, and this area, because of its available labour and its long industrial tradition, provides the conditions for this to take root successfully.

FAMOUS

Blyth loves its football. Blyth Spartans — famous once in professional football where they had several good runs in the F.A. Cup—have now made a name for themselves in the amateur ranks. They play now in the Northern League and are having a good season and are well up in the League table.

"Blyth Star" is to be the newspaper of St. Mary's, whose Vicar, Father Clifton Joy, will be the Chairman of a small Editorial Committee. Newspapers are no new medium for Father Joy, who used to edit his own, "The Big Lamp," when in his previous parish at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

FOSS FOCUS

COASTBOUND motorists race past Saxilby, where they catch their first glimpse of the towers of Lincoln Minster on its hill six miles away.

But Midland anglers know it well. Through it runs the Foss Dyke, a canal made by the Romans to link the Witham at Lincoln with the Trent at Torksey, and deepened by Henry I. Still used by barges, it is busy with pleasurecraft in the summer.

WELCOME

In Saxilby the old houses are being outnumbered by pleasant estates built for commuters from the city and the Trent power stations. St. Botolph's Parish Church is a fine, light building (mainly 15th century), and here villagers lived for three weeks in 1795 when the Trent broke its banks.

The Methodist Church was completed in 1939. Both churches are well supported, and have had their own publications.

The new Vicar, the Rev. Edward Cook, ran a successful edition of "Christian News" in Grimsby, and Saxilby P.C.C. welcomed it as a paper which would appeal to the outsiders, uninterested in ordinary parish magazines.

They aim to make the local edition a real village paper, giving news of Church, Chapel and all secular organisations. This month every house will get a copy of the first issue.



The Foss Dyke Canal runs through the village of Saxilby.

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

THE OTHER DRUG PROBLEM

AFTER ALL the publicity given to the report of the Sainsbury Committee on Drugs, the whole issue was put in its right perspective, in my opinion, by a few sentences from Mr. John Cronin, Labour M.P. for Loughborough, who is also a Wimpole Street surgeon.

"The plain fact is that the extraordinarily rapid advance in medical knowledge since the war has been due almost entirely to the pharmaceutical industry, although there may be some black sheep in this industry who need shearing," he said.

"Deplorable as it may be to some people, there is no doubt that millions of people are alive today solely as a result of the profit-motivated research of the drug companies."

And Lord Shawcross, the former Labour Minister who is honest enough to point out that he is chairman of an American-owned drug company, has underlined this.

"In Britain, in the case of tuberculosis alone 100,000 people are living happily today who would have died before the discovery of the anti-tubercular drugs... The treatment of mental disease is being revolutionised."

The world of INDUSTRY

IT MAY SEEM trivial in the middle of the gloom of devaluation and economic crisis, to talk of one's own industrial annoyances; but they are not unconnected.

We have been having a new heating system installed in our church, it required a circulating pump run by electricity. This was installed by the heating engineer but the wires to connect it to the electricity supply were left dangling. So they remained for several days until the electrician had made a special journey of several

miles to do this minute job. The engineer could, of course, have done it just as well on the spot, but "there would have been trouble with the union."

This is restrictive practice in action, that complicated system of rules whereby types of jobs are rigidly divided one from the other and union members are not allowed to cross the barriers under pain of strike, excommunication or worse.

It made sense in days of gross unemployment when employers were tempted to cut costs by employing one work-hungry man to do the job of two and threatening him with the sack if he did not. Then the solidarity of the unions about this matter was essential in the cause of justice.

There is still obviously, a case for certain restrictions so that tasks are done by those qualified to do them and not left open to any bungling amateur. But the whole thing has been carried to the point of absurdity and, what is more, is often used as an excuse for a body of men to

dodge work and actually be paid while dodging.

For example, the "welt" system in the docks (now condemned), whereby a shift of men was never fully employed at any one time.

This inflexibility in our body of manpower must, if my example of the circulating pump is repeated all over the place, have a grave effect on our efficiency and costs. It must surely be a factor contributing towards our present economic plight.

And something must be done to "loosen up" our whole approach to work, to give us that attitude which feels more about getting a job done swiftly, economically and well than about constant protection from imagined threats to our livelihood.

The only real threat to our livelihood is the inability to produce goods at the right time and the right price for the world market because of our out-dated work methods.

RAYMOND EFEMEY.

PSORIASIS

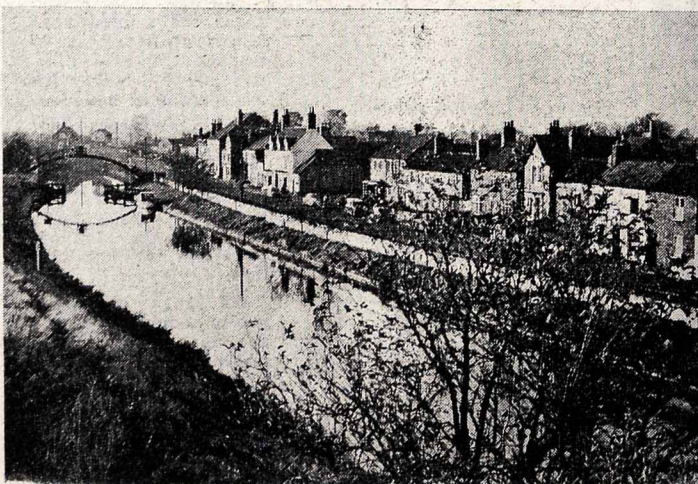
- PSORIASIS forms a white lustrous scale on a reddened area of skin. Both the scale and skin are always dry unless broken or brought away by too much scratching or combing. In most cases the reddened skin is of normal temperature and the scale thick and raised on the skin, especially on the scalp, elbows and knees. Where the skin is of a finer texture, as on the body, scaling takes place as thin flakes or a light powder.
- PSORIASIS may be hereditary, may occur with puberty, may follow injury, exposure, shock or worry, or may be due to faulty nutrition, and faulty elimination. It may also be persistent and recurring and sufferers often despair of ever having a clear and healthy skin.
- UNDER the Tremol system your own treatment is specially prepared for you to suit your individual needs. You apply the treatment in the privacy of your own home, without any interference with your work or your pleasure. Sufferers in all walks of life have applied Tremol Treatment in this way with gratifying success. Why not you?
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Here is the opportunity you have sought. Write today, enclosing 1/- in stamps for Brochure and full particulars of Tremol Treatment. Address your letter to—

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Junior Magazine

RING OUT THE OLD

GOODBYE, TIRED OLD 1967!

WELCOME, GAY YOUNG 1968!

Some people hate new things. Perhaps that's why they say that the first month of the New Year is a long, dark, dreary month. But for those of us who love having something new, then January is the month for us! It's an exciting time with all sorts of new things — a New Year, a brand-new calendar, new clothes for parties and New Year resolutions.

HOW TO BE WITH IT

Everybody's doing it. Staid old men and women are doing it! Hippies and the Flower People are doing it!

Read no further until you've written down on a piece of paper what you think they're doing. Then check your answer below. There's a clue in the opening paragraph.

MAKING NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS SOMETHING TO DO

Make a really exciting New Year Resolution of something new you intend to do in 1968. LOVE is one of the in-words that Hippies and the Flower People are all using this year. PEACE and HAPPINESS are two more of their in-words. These words could give you an idea for your resolution. Print the resolution on a thin piece of card and decorate the card with a picture or patterned border. You could go all out and draw hippie bells on the card, ringing in the New Year. Then hang your card up in your room or keep it in your favourite book as a marker.

MORE ABOUT IN-WORDS

Everybody knows, of course, that Hippies and the Flower People are absolutely the latest thing with their in-words of Love, Peace and Happiness. But did you know that they were in-words for Jesus, too? In fact, He really made them "in".

Here are some jumbled in-savings of Jesus. Put the letters in the right order and check with the answers below.

OVEL YTH NIGHEBORU SA FYTHLSE

SBELSED ERA HET CAPEEMKREAS

FI EY WOKN HESET GISNTH, YPAPH REA EY FI EY OD MEHT

SPEAK OUT AND SING IN

News has reached us that nearly 1,000 young people crowded into Leicester Cathedral not long ago for a "speak out and sing in." Dozens of Hippies and Flower People were there. So was the Bishop of Leicester. Electric guitars twanged and drums pounded as a pop group played and sang. One of the hymns sung to a pop tune was "Even the Bad Times are Good since I followed you, Jesus."

Answers to jumbled in-sayings: Love thy neighbour as thyself; Blessed are the peacemakers; If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them.

STOP PRESS

Why not write a cheerful New Year greeting to a lonely or sick person. If possible, post in time to be received on New Year's Day.

Television



David Frost in the studio. Picture by courtesy of Rediffusion, London.

But now I'm Frost bitten

THERE was a time when I couldn't stand David Frost.

SAYS

HAROLD JEFFRIES

In spite of his popularity with millions: In spite of his undoubted ability and his meteoric rise to fame: In spite of his utter "at homeness" in the television medium — his weekly appearance on the late (and by me unlamented) "That Was the Week That Was" simply served to deepen my contempt for this purveyor of verbal vitriol.

What got me about him and the rest of his satirical buddies was their sheer destructiveness.

They drove their witty little bulldozers around the national scene, sneeringly pulling down the reputation of this public figure, or demolishing that well-loved institution, smug in the knowledge that it

wasn't any part of their job to rebuild what they pulled down.

Of course they pricked many pompous balloons and exposed the stupidity of many of our attitudes, and for that they do deserve credit, but for my money they left behind a cold, cynical wilderness of empty spaces that made one long for more positive talents.

But fortunately time was to prove that David Frost had other and greater gifts than those displayed in the boom days of satire. Other programmes were to show him in much more favourable light.

In the award winning "Frost Over England"

we saw the flowering of a more humane sense of humour, a gentler touch in the poking of fun — without any loss of inventive genius, and this emergence of a real humanity was confirmed by his masterly interview of the Archbishop of Canterbury on a television programme which has become a classic of its kind.

Now, in "The David Frost Programme," this young man has the opportunity of displaying his real, and very considerable gifts, to the full.

His humanity, his sharpness, his ability to bore to the very heart of a question, his talent for handling people, his gift for making them speak, his genius for stamping his personality upon an interview without actually swamping it, have all helped to make this one of the most entertaining, intelligent and creative programmes on television.

Whatever my feelings used to be, I am now glad to report that I am today well and truly Frost bitten.

QUIZ

who

- (1) Killed Cock Robin?
- (2) First flew solo across the Tasman Sea?
- (3) Was nicknamed "The Desert Fox"?
- (4) Is the only golfer to have holed in one "live" on television?
- (5) In the present government was President of the Board of Trade when Sir Stafford Cripps was Chancellor of the Exchequer?
- (6) Lives at Woburn Abbey?

ANSWERS

- (1) The Sparrow.
- (2) Sir Francis Chichester.
- (3) General Rommel.
- (4) Tony Jacklin.
- (5) Harold Wilson.
- (6) The Duke and Duchess of Bedford.

Ball-Pens, Diaries, Note-pads, Keyrings, Pencils, etc., gold-stamped with Church name, raise funds quickly, easily. Competitive prices. Quick Delivery Details: NORTHERN NOVELTIES, BRADFORD, 2

Personalities of the month

JOYSTRINGS LOOK BACK, TO SEE THE HAND OF GOD . . .

WE WERE NOT the only national publication to sit up and take notice when a young group from the Salvation Army were billed to perform in the Playboy Club before one of the most choosy audiences in London.

It looked like a publicity stunt for the current Salvationist campaign "For God's sake care," with which the Playboy appearances were linked.

And, of course, it was, but it was much more as well. For this group was the Joystrings and they are in the "pop" business in a big way.

It all began with a press conference in November, 1963. The Army's newly elected international leader,

General Frederick Coutts, told a host of journalists that the guitar was welcomed alongside other musical instruments used by them to present the Christian Gospel effectively.

B.B.C. television's programme "Tonight" got hold of the story and Captain Joy Webb, then a member of the Army's international training college staff, was asked to demonstrate the sort of music the General

meant.

With the group of officer-cadets she brought together for that programme she became news. And they became the Joystrings. They went from song to song, and from disc to disc.

The first disc, "It's an open secret," swept into the top placings of the national sales charts.

Since the early days the group has developed in techniques and skills.

An all-electric sound has replaced the modest strumming.

But their motives are still the same. Always their exciting music-making leads naturally to moments of quietness and spiritual challenge. Rarely does one of their appearances end without young people responding publicly to their call to Christian discipleship.

They have appeared before packed-out

audiences in cathedrals and prison chapels; in some of Britain's biggest civic halls and theatres, by their sheer sincerity they have changed the opinion of equally sincere critics who suspected their way of getting Christianity across.

With their long trail of success (and there are now over 100 Salvationist beat groups in this country alone) none of the real Sally Army spirit has

got lost. "Looking back on our success," Joy has said, "we can only put it down to the hand of God. It is not something we think about, really. We are just concerned with doing a job. But when we do look back on how things have worked out, it is very humbling."

So perhaps the Joystrings in the Playboy is not such a surprise, after all. What price Bunnies' ears now?



TOPIQUOTES

I have done more Bible reading this year than ever before in my life. It has made me feel the enormous power of the Bible and its vital importance. All the time it is being read somewhere, and it is being gobbled up in the newer countries. There is still a big Christian commitment in this country.

—John Redfern, "Daily Express" columnist.

★ ★ ★

We may have to repent not only for the vitriolic words and violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good who waited on time.

—Dr. Martin Luther King.

★ ★ ★

Whenever any parochial church council is consulted about a new vicar it usually asks for qualities which even an archangel could not muster in full.

—Canon Harry Hartley, Rector of Solihull.

★ ★ ★

The British public is the best informed in the world.

—David Frost.

OLD PROS SHOWED US FOOTBALL TO DELIGHT

UNTIL VERY RECENTLY I HAD ALWAYS DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY CAPACITY WHATSOEVER IN "FRIENDLY FOOTBALL" MATCHES. THE VERY THOUGHT OF A "COMIC" GAME OF FOOTBALL MAKES ME SQUIRM. WOMEN'S FOOTBALL, AND THIS DOUBTLESS BRANDS ME A BIGOT. I BELIEVE SHOULD BE OUTLAWED.

By
Ernest Adkins

This attitude has always precluded my attendance at Show Biz XI games or any of the many charity matches played between teams of "old time" footballers, and I preferred to remember my heroes as they were in their prime, and not embarrassingly over the hill.

I was therefore predisposed to hate every minute of a game I could not avoid attending between a team of old pros and a young virile-looking amateur eleven.

TOOK OVER

The youngsters established an early lead before the opposition had eased their creaking joints. Then George Cummings took over.

The ex-Aston Villa and Scotland full back passed his half century some time ago, but I have never met anyone who remembers George with hair, or actually running, so he looked and performed much as he did 20 years ago.

Immaculately opposed by a husky young flyer who tried to pass him first on the outside, then

inside but somehow always ran straight into him. Never wasting a ball, he found time to marshal the defence which proceeded to put the eager youngsters repeatedly yards off-side.

Bewildered and dispirited, the flame of youth burned very low and the wise old men coasted home comfortable winners.

DELIGHT

Shorn of speed, and scorning physical contact, these old professionals gave a display of pure football that was a delight and an education.

I learned from the organiser of the game that there was never any problem in raising a team. In fact the "old timers" were only too anxious to lace their boots on again — so much for the popular conception of the mercenary footballer; football goes deeper than the pocket.

It occurs to me that players like these not only derive so much from still playing but still have a lot to offer the game. So

why not a competition for the over-forty footballer?

No doubt conditioned by the exciting demands of the Football League, we in this country always discard our footballers at a comparatively early age. We refer to a player in his late twenties or early thirties as a near veteran, yet Brazil won the World Cup with a team whose average age was 33.

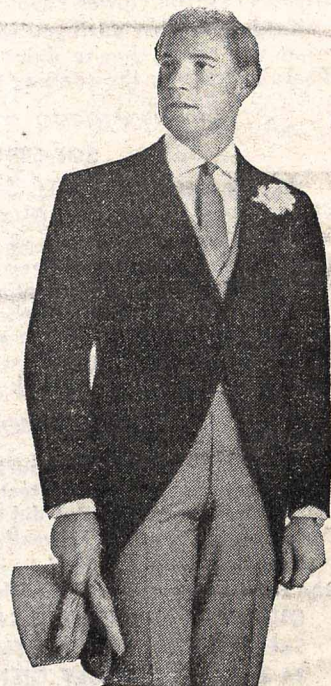
TOO OLD?

The super Real Madrid team of the late 50's carried at least three world class players in Puskas, Di Stefano and Kocsis and men in their thirties, and too old by British standards.

Squash, cycling and swimming all cater for the over-forties. Why not football?

My views about soccer being essentially a game to be won remain the same. Non-competitive football can be stale beer. Even the over-forties want something to play for.

I must at this stage confess to a certain selfish motive. It could be a previously thwarted ambition but I would like to appear at Wembley, and might be able to achieve it at last!



37/6

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