

# CAVERSHAM BRIDGE 6d.

March, 1968

A Member of the Christian News Group

## NEW BUILDINGS ALONE

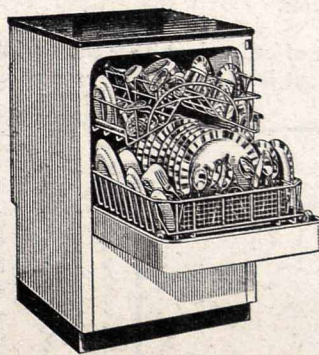


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## PROTEST

"Ban the Bomb," "Stop the War," "More Houses," "Student Power."

Be the scene Aldermaston, the Pentagon, Town Hall, Campus, the protesters, the marchers, the sitters, the haranguers, the slogan shouters are much the same.

What a noisy, enthusiastic contrast with the grey, shoulder-shrugging people who let the world drift by (che sera, sera) and only ask for a quiet life!

And they're good for the world, these impatient people who see great issues simply, who refuse to drift with the crowd and who want to take the world by the scruff of the neck and shake it out of its complacency and into its senses.

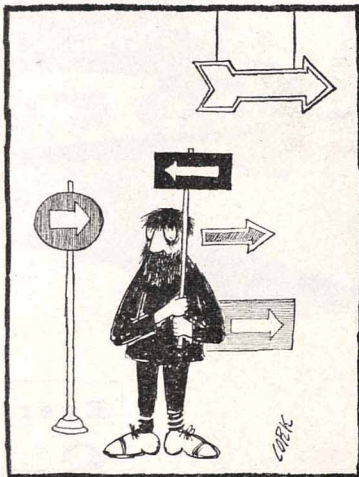
They point the finger at abuse, injustice and futility which have been under our noses so long that we've got used to the smell.

Of course some may protest to be fashionable, part of the "in" crowd, some may protest and do nothing (fiddling while Rome burns). Some protest because it's easier to shout than act. Mere shouting of slogans and waving of placards will not stop the bomb falling or remove the tensions that make men want to destroy one another.

Yet basically, all protest men and movements, from Jesus to the hippies, from the first trade unions to C.N.D., ask individuals and society uncomfortable questions about the way they're going.

They demand that we get up off our backsides and act—or at least think.

We cannot afford to laugh off the world's conscience with bad jokes about long hair and irresponsible youth.



We give a guinea each month to the letter which presents a controversial or interesting point of view in the most effective manner. Address your letter to: The Editor, Christian News Ltd., 319, Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham, 4.

Letter of the month

## How to find Real Happiness

Dear Sir,

Many people I know are constantly seeking that elusive quality — happiness. Most people think that money is the first essential to it. However, the two happiest people I know have renounced all worldly possessions; they are two nuns, whose sweet expressions and calm untroubled eyes reflect the serenity of their souls.

At Christmas, they spent the morning as usual doing practical things to help others (prayer and meditation are only a part of the life of this Order). They washed and dressed a bed-ridden pensioner, washed nappies for a mother without the ability to cope with a too-large family, merrily slaving on, though one of them is quite elderly and had a major operation less than a year ago—but that is of no consequence to her.

Only when all was done did they go back to celebrate the Christ Child's birthday, and then a happier gathering would have been hard to find anywhere.

They have found the secret that even a millionaire will never find in material possessions. It is human nature that the more we have, the more we crave; happiness is a gift that these nuns, and others, have acquired through a life of service to others.

## PUT UP WITH YOUR HUSBAND

Dear Sir,

Thirty-six years of married life have convinced me that no job, no hobby, no activity, can compare with the monotony and drudgery of living with a man, trying to love him, doing your best to put up with his infinitely cursed behaviour (and hoping he is doing his best to overlook yours).

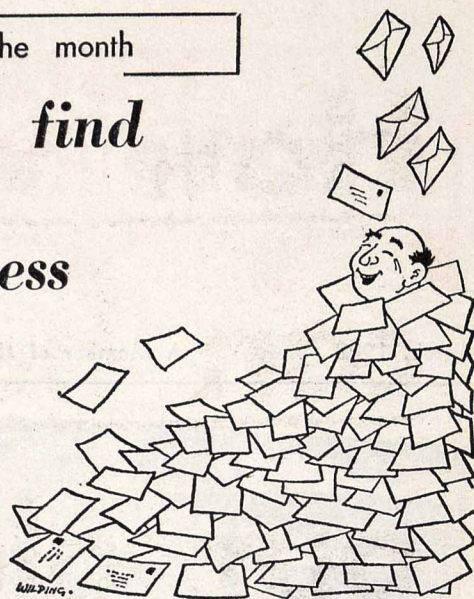
Try to put up with your husband. Does he like untidiness? Try not to resent the muddle and work this causes. Does he hate friends around? Ignore this for his own good. Is his job exacting? So is yours.

Make his home (note the HIS) — what of the "with all my worldly goods I thee endow?" — a haven of quietness (should we throttle the grandchildren?). Does he want you near? Not too near too often.

Not too Serious

Bath

We do not usually publish anonymous letters, but we thought you would enjoy this sly comment on our January article in "Mainly for Women."



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOD GRANT THAT MANY MORE PEOPLE WILL FIND IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE, AND WILL THUS REAP WHAT THEY HAVE SOWN.

Yours faithfully,  
M. K. CLARKE  
23, Ernest Road,  
Bedhampton, Hants.  
*The writer of this letter receives our guinea award for this month.*



(photo Annette Westwood)

**There's one thing more shocking than this picture — that you will disregard it**

This is a picture of what hunger can do. It can induce trachoma and slowly blind a child. But if this picture shocks and upsets you, think how much more shocking it is to do nothing about it. A donation from you could help prevent this kind of suffering — by improving a child's diet, by getting him medical attention, by teaching his mother child-care and hygiene. Any of these things could happen. What it needs is your decision not to ignore this picture now.



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## AN ARTICLE OF ADVICE BY EUNICE BANKS



Picture: Impact

"WHAT IS the best thing to do about Mother or Father? More and more I hear this familiar cry among friends of my fortyish age group.

We like to think of our old folk living happily independent in their retirement bungalows. But when this is not the case, or when they get sick or too old to manage on their own, what then?

Obviously the kindest arrangement is absorption into the family circle. A bedsitting room equipped with armchair and TV provides the best working basis, and avoids the main hazards; a senile person's growing intolerance to children's noise; overtiredness caused by too much talking; lack of privacy for the family.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES have definite standards to maintain, and are on the whole very well run. For admission the person concerned must be mobile. (i.e.) able to wash and dress themselves. (An incontinent person would not be considered suitable). Usually there are long waiting lists. There are exceptions, depending on the degree of urgency.

An old age pensioner who can no longer manage on his own, and has no son or daughter to help, or who perhaps already lives with his daughter in distressingly overcrowded conditions can obtain admission more readily into a council residential home.

### FULL AMOUNT

The full cost is about £10 per week. If a person has, say, sold a house, he would be required to pay the full amount. If he only has his pension, he pays according to his means. (i.e.) His pension goes towards his keep, but 16s. is returned to him for pocket money.

For those who have the means a nursing home, or private rest home may seem the most pleasant choice. Nursing home charges vary considerably, but usually cost between 15 gns. — 30 gns. weekly, depending on the room selected and the medical treatment required.

Private rest homes range from about 12 gns. weekly. Some are good; some are not. Look for the less obvious points that add to comfort—or discomfort.

For instance: Does three sharing a room mean three sharing a wardrobe? Check

things like towel rails. To replace a towel on a plasticised curtain wire stretched tautly behind a dressing table can be a nightmare for a person with feeble or arthritic fingers.

A very sick, or incapable person is understandably happy to relinquish all responsibility and content to be absorbed into a family circle, or a home. But if an old person has always been independent, they will wish to remain so for as long as humanly possible. So help them to stay in their own homes.

### HEARING AIDS

Organise if necessary a home help; meals on wheels; chiropodist visits. Hearing aids and crutches may be obtained by taking a medical certificate from the doctor to the hospital.

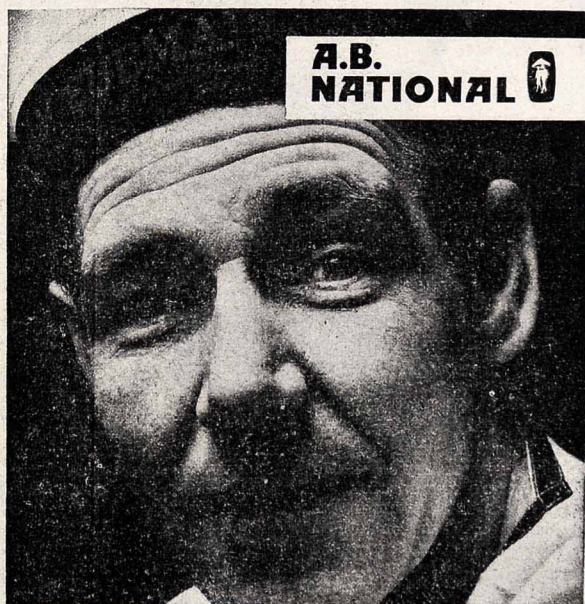
Certain appliances and equipment such as commodes and wheelchairs may be obtained on loan from the British Red Cross Society. The Red Cross will undertake to bath the elderly disabled at home. But it must be stressed that this service is NOT a luxury for every elderly person, but a necessity for the sick.

If your relative is in need of a walking aid, yet too proud to borrow, give—as a combined family present if necessary—a Zimmer. This is a four legged, light-weight tubular steel frame, which stands approximately 4ft. high. Grasping firmly, the user walks behind it. It costs about £6.

It is amazing how even the frailest old person can get about independently with this aid.

IN THIS WAY WE CAN HELP OUR OLD FOLK TO STAY HAPPILY INDEPENDENT IN THEIR OWN HOMES. FOR IN OUR HEART, EACH OF US KNOWS, HOME IS BEST.

# How we can help our old people in the best way



'Saving for a luxury cruise?' they ribbed.  
It's not *what* you're saving for  
it's *who* you're saving *with*, I explained.  
'Any port in a storm' they advised.  
Some sailors never learn.

For my money it's Abbey National

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## Mainly for women



Is it a council house, daddy?

# Terrible twins visit a stately home

IT was decided that we should attempt to visit a "Stately Home." I say attempt because, as it takes me all my time to get Philip and Timothy round a department store, I felt very dubious about a stately home, all those priceless ornaments, antique furniture, etc., just waiting for two pairs of busy little hands, but as my husband and I had foregone this pleasure for six years, we decided to risk it, providing we each hung on to one twin—of course we should have known better!

The day of the proposed visit arrived and into the car went food, toys, two changes of small boys' clothing (I kept thinking about the moat!), the camera, daddy's "oculars," Philip and Timothy's "noculars" and various other items that suggested to the neighbours that we were taking a month's holiday this year!

Two packets of crisps and half a pound of biscuits later we had arrived at our destination, duly parked the car and walked up the half mile drive to the house.

"Where's the house, mummy?"

"Behind the trees, dear."

"Why isn't our house behind trees, mummy?"

Luckily the house came into view and we joined the group of people round the moat waiting for the

guide.

"Why is there a pool in front of the house, daddy?"

Daddy explained.

"Is it a council house, daddy?"

"No, dear."

"What's a council house, daddy?"

### BACK GARDEN?

The guide fortunately appeared and we followed him into a courtyard at the rear of the house.

"Is this the back garden, mummy?"

"Sshh, dear."

"Where's the dustbin?" Polite laughter from the crowd.

Inside the Great Hall we lost Philip. Timothy, seeing his brother's legs protruding from the fireplace and excitedly trying to join Philip up the chimney, fell over a suit of armour! We extracted Philip, who we learnt was "only looking for Father Christmas" (in June!) and after the guide had picked

up the armour and returned Timothy to us with a look that said, "Hold on to your children, or else..." we proceeded into a bedroom.

A hush descended over the crowd as they gazed in reverence at the bed "where slept Elizabeth the First." The silence was suddenly broken by Philip, who asked the whole room "Why has the bed got a lid on it?"

An American gentleman standing next to me remarked

"You sure have a cute little boy there, Ma'am!"

The cute little boy's brother was about to examine a priceless looking vase at picking up range!

### BEAKLE'S HARP

At the end of the Long Gallery, Philip and Timothy were looking at a picture of a long haired young man playing a lyre.

"Is it a Beakle?" whispered Philip.

"I think so," replied Timothy, "he's got his harp with him."

The part of the house most fascinating to the twins was the kitchens with all the large pots and pans.

"Where's the gas cooker, mummy? How did they make the tea?"

"They boiled their water over the fire" I answered. At this point they went into a prolonged giggling fit. Talking of tea made me realise I could do with a cup, and we found a cafe in one of the dungeons. Timothy had gone unusually quiet.

"They could have come down here and had a cup of tea instead of baking it over the fire, couldn't they mummy?"

And for a six-year-old I reckon that took some working out.

## Send for Mary Quant

SO, MARY QUANT is to be asked to design a "multi-colour scheme for typewriters and other office equipment." It's amazing how everything she touches just seems to work—clothes, underwear, cosmetics, and now, if she accepts, office equipment.

### Devilled apple froth

THERE ARE many ways of making apple dishes, but this recipe certainly gives them a different look.

Ingredients: 2lbs cooking apples, two egg whites, six tablespoons sugar, two pinches cinnamon, one teaspoon lemon juice, quarter pint cream (whipped), one small tin fruit salad.

Method: Bake the apples in a moderate oven (325°) until soft and then remove the core and peel. Rub them through a sieve, add the cinnamon and leave aside to cool.

Beat the egg whites until they form stiff white peaks; fold in the sugar and lemon juice and beat the mixture again lightly. When the apples are quite cold, fold in the egg mixture and pile on to a serving dish. Decorate with the whipped cream and the drained fruit salad.

I think it's a tremendous idea. Why should a girl be expected to spend most of her day surrounded by gloomy greys, dark greens or brown? They might even find that she responds better to cheerful colours and works far harder.

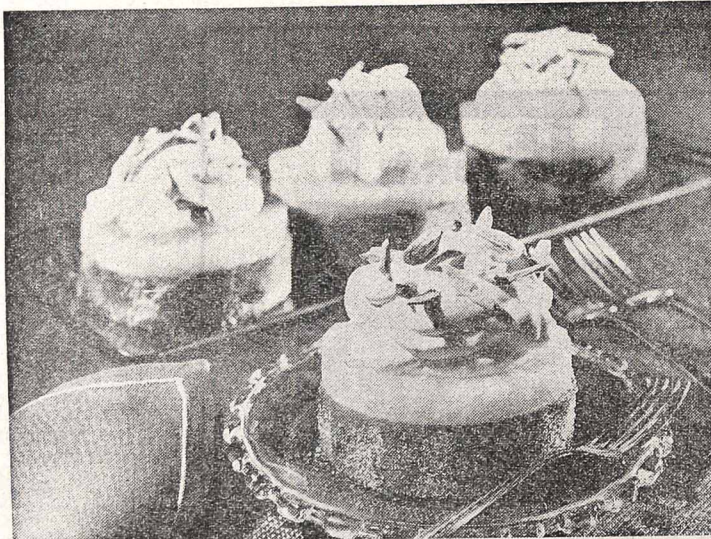
## DON'T SPREAD DUST

IMAGINE BUTTER looking like yellow powdered milk. An Australian research organisation has developed a new process for converting butter into powder. A godsend to cake-makers.

The powder is made in much the same way as powdered milk: by evaporating the water. There is one snag, however: when water is added to the powder it doesn't return to slabs of butter, but forms a thick yellow cream. It cannot be used for frying, but is ideal for cakes, puddings, ice cream and sauces.

Melbourne has had the secret for quite a while, but a difficult technical problem of cooling had to be overcome.

## The Joan Best column



### Pineapple Rings

One swiss roll.

Sherry.

One medium can pineapple rings.

One packet Dream Topping.

A good half-teacup of cold milk (4 fluid ozs.).

Toasted blanched almonds.

1. Arrange slices of swiss roll on a serving dish.

2. Soak each with a little sherry and top with a ring of pineapple.

3. Make up the Dream Topping as directed on the packet and swirl over the pineapple.

4. Serve sprinkled with toasted chopped almonds.

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OF CAVERSHAM

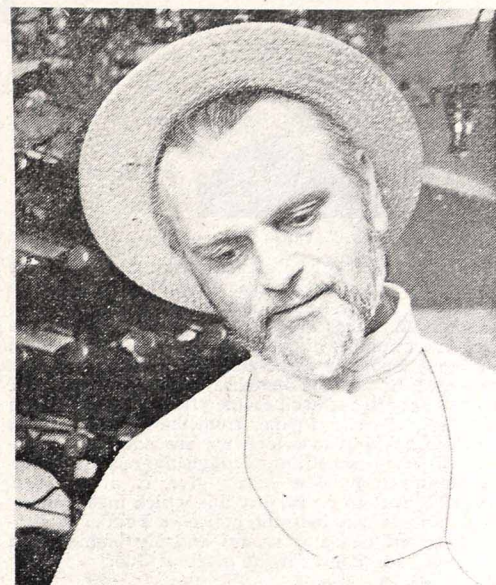
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## VIKTOR

Concentrating on the traffic and intent on getting home—those who drive back to Caversham over Reading Bridge may not have noticed the recently opened "Chez Viktor Bistro" tucked away next to the Caversham Laundry in George Street. It is small, candle-lit and unpretentious—but you can be sure of excellent meals and the personal attention of Viktor, the proprietor, a benevolent, bearded Lithuanian who is interested in providing "only good food."

Viktor's interest in food and cooking started from "the day I could open my mouth." Before the last war Viktor was an actor in the Lithuanian National Theatre

Company. He prefers to forget the war years, and all that happened under successive Nazi and Communist regimes. He came to England in 1947, and his knowledge of several languages enabled him to work as an interpreter for the Berkshire Agricultural Committee which was then accepting refugees from all over Europe. Soon, Viktor's overriding interest in good food—encouraged by a brief course in commercial cooking in Hamburg before coming to England—led him to work as a chef in some of the best restaurants in the London area. He came to Reading in 1958, and recently had a restaurant in Christchurch Green. Those who take eating out seriously will be interested to read the commendations Viktor has received from the Good Food Guide and other magazines on which gourmets rely.



given him the chance to select each dish from the recipe books of Europe. Two examples from the fairly extensive current menu are Paella Con Vino (chicken, prawns, mushrooms and capscums cooked in wine) and Scampi Provencale (cooked in oil, crushed tomatoes, chopped shallots and garlic served on a bed of rice). There is a lunch menu on a more modest scale.

### A real pleasure

**The Menu**  
The menu is very special. Viktor has no desire to run a large restaurant. His premises in George Street (seating capacity—30) allow him to make sure each dish is cooked individually and with great care in the spotless kitchen which one can see just beyond the dining area. "Today, there is so much automation," he says. "Smaller places have the personal touch which goes a long way to making eating out a real pleasure." Viktor lives over the bistro with his English wife, Rosalind, and two-year-old daughter, Ruth. Ziggy, a delightful little Dachshund is the fourth member of the family. "Chez Viktor Bistro" is the first restaurant to open in Caversham. It has been worth waiting for such a distinguished restaurateur.

## BACK TO THE JUNGLE

ARE moral standards all that much lower than they have been in earlier generations? I doubt it. It is rather that we give more publicity to the fact that to-day one out of every six brides is pregnant before her wedding day. But what probably is new is the alarming number of schoolchildren who, as young as thirteen, are having sexual intercourse.

Why is this wrong? There is no point in the Church condemning this behaviour unless we can say plainly why this is wrong, and point to a more positive way.

It is wrong because sex is not only a fact of life: it is also a gift of God. There is a sacramental aspect to sexual intercourse: it is a means by which two people are brought into a relationship that can be achieved in no other way. How terrible, then, to debase it into a drug, and to use the sex act to give immediate pleasure as drugs give their addicts a false sense of elation regardless of the consequences.

Some people mistakenly suppose that the Christian attitude to sex is old fashioned. How wrong they are. It is the modern attitude, which is really old fashioned for it is little better than a return to the jungle or farmyard. The modern attitude debases men and women and looks on them as mere animals for whom sex is just a physical instinct. Tear the trappings away from the romantic love of the teenager, and all that is left is really the approach of the bull and cow on the farm. This modern attitude is really the pre-Christian jungle or farmyard behaviour in a new guise.

In contrast to this the Christian attitude is progressive and treats each man or woman as a responsible being. Quite apart from the essential purpose of bringing children into the world sexual intercourse is a means of expressing love—not just any sort of love, but the deep personal life-long love which belongs to marriage. The Prayer Book Marriage service reminds us forcibly that marriage, among other things, was ordained "in order that the natural instincts and affections implanted by God should be hallowed and directed aright, that those who are called of God to this holy estate should continue therein in pureness of living." And it was Archbishop Temple who wrote "The reason for not joking about sex is exactly the same as for not joking about the Holy Communion: It is not that the subject is nasty, but that it is sacred and to joke about it is profanity."

But worse than joking about it, is to squander it on any Tom, Dick or Jacqueline to keep up with what the other chaps do: sex is a precious gift reserved for one person only—the person to whom we are prepared to give the whole of our love and the whole of our life in marriage. In marriage sexual intercourse makes sense, but in a dark street corner it is trivial and sordid. And I often think that Christian parents who go away for the week-end or stay out late while young folk have the run of a house for a party are doing something very risky: for such parties can all too easily become the occasion when couples withdraw for a while to experiment in sexual relations. It is not only the street corner, but also the home with the parents out that can be a temptation.

Our Lord lifted marriage on to a nobler plain, and when the Church proclaims that chastity is a virtue it is a chastity that is no negative thing, but something that sets us free so that we can eventually really love, and really enter into a true relationship with our partner in marriage. When we all realise this there will be more stable marriages, and less homes broken by the tragedy of divorce.

*John Grimwade*

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P.C. Jim Titcombe

Unfortunately, it has lately become customary for the man in the street to look upon the policeman as his natural enemy. For one thing, the vast increase in motor traffic has brought within the range of the law a great number of people who would never dream of robbing a bank or embezzling the company's funds. Another factor is the increase in opportunities for petty dishonesty; it has become "fair game" to take a few sheets of writing paper from the office stocks, to wangle something to which we are not strictly entitled, to bring something through the customs without paying duty. We never give it a conscious thought; but it could be just this which makes many people reluctant to help the police—a kind of realisation that not many of us are entirely blameless, a feeling of "there but for the grace of God."

#### Friends

All the same it is vital that we get back to the days when policemen were regarded as friends if the current increase in crime is to be combated. The police need us and we need them, and it is people like Jim and Tony who are going to help us to realise this.

In many ways, Jim Titcombe and Tony Ford have much in common. Both have served several years with the force. They both live in their areas of duty, Jim in Emmer Green and Tony in Lower Caversham, they are both married with two young children and both are tremendously enthusiastic about their job. As reported in a previous issue of the "Bridge," Jim Titcombe has already made a major breakthrough with the youngsters by spending a fortnight at Caversham Park Prim School. The children know them as friends, a factor which is going to help in many ways. It recently, for instance, helped to identify a lost purse recovered from under the snow, containing a few shillings in one section and, in the other, a child's drawing of "P.C. Titcombe's house."

Any parent stupid enough to counter naughtiness with

## A FAIR COP

Recently I had the pleasant task of interviewing two of the friendliest young men in Caversham, our newly-appointed village policemen, P.C. Titcombe and P.C. Ford. And it is no accident that they are so friendly; it is part of their job to get to know people in the area and to make us feel that they are there to help.

#### A message from

##### Acting Chief Constable Dolby

"It is with every confidence that I recommend P.C.'s Jim, Titcombe and Tony Ford to all residents and business people in Caversham, Caversham Heights and Emmer Green. They are both keen on the new scheme, now known as Unit Beat Policing, and they have already shown considerable pride in being responsible for the Caversham area."

"I'll give you to a policeman" is likely to raise a good laugh in future. On the other hand, a friendly word from our young policemen to the young girl or boy with a tendency for dishonesty or mischief, could make all the difference. Both of them stressed very much their concern that they should be called on at any time — a call to the police station at any time will bring them to the doorstep in a very short time. It could save hours of worry. Again they both emphasise that suspicions, however unfounded they may later prove to be, should be reported to them. The strange caller, the very young child wandering alone late at night, strange lights in an empty house — these are among the many things which, if reported, can help to prevent crime and protect our own lives.

#### Encouraged

Already they have been tremendously encouraged by the interest taken in their appointment. Jim says don't hesitate to stop him in the street at any time; if he is on his motorbike a raised hand will be sufficient. And Tony whose area includes parks and open spaces, badly needs our help in keeping these as places where our children can play without fear.

Perhaps it is not unexpected that among the great mass of "police programmes" currently featured on TV, both plump for "Dixon" as being the most authentic — Jim says



P.C. Tony Ford

on one occasion the Dock Green Police Station displayed posters which his own station only received the following day — and conspicuous by its lack of brutality. They are highly indignant at the amount of police brutality portrayed on the TV screen. As Tony says, force is only used to meet force. Neither, he says, would the bullying of junior police staff by seniors be tolerated in any self-respecting police station.

Being a village policeman is nothing new to P.C. Titcombe who was for some years the village constable at Ramsbury, in Wilts. Previous to his years with the force, he spent 11 years in the Army, including service in Egypt and Cyprus. He and his wife are very happy to be in Emmer Green, where they have already made many friends.

Tony Ford on the other hand, is practically a local boy, coming originally from Silchester. Joining the force originally as a police cadet, he has spent most of his working life in the police, including the C.I.D. His wife, too, is very happy about his new job. Indeed, as Tony says, it would be impossible to do it without her support. Like Jim, he obviously loves children and one of his main concerns is to protect them. He is rather tickled about being called "Uncle Tony."

#### Astute

All the same, friendly though they both are, it would be very stupid to presume on their friendship. They are both very astute, and even on short acquaintance it is obvious that they miss nothing that goes on in the district, however unimportant it may seem at the time. Making friends is their business and they both love it. But preventing crime is also their job, and it would be a poor fool who thought he could get away with something just because he is on Christian name terms with the law.

For my part, I can think of no public appointment that has ever pleased me more. I am sure everyone will join me in wishing them both every success and in giving them an assurance of our co-operation at all times. I hope they will both be with us for many years.

W.D.

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# RANDOM JOTTINGS

## from an R.C. Layman

### SHARED PULPITS

If I, a layman, have felt awkward at the generosity with which our clergy have been invited to preach from other denominations' pulpits, it must have been embarrassing for our clergy not to be able to reciprocate. I am sure everyone will be greatly relieved that we may now return the invitation, albeit

with certain restrictions. Who would have thought 20 years ago that the Archbishop of Canterbury would be a welcome guest in the pulpit at Westminster Cathedral, and that when he was embraced at the altar steps by Cardinal Heenan the congregation of 6,000 would be so moved that it burst into spontaneous applause?

Cardinal Heenan has said a bishop is a builder of bridges. It would certainly seem that when you get men of vision and imagination, with warm and generous hearts, a vast amount of goodwill can be generated. False optimism about Christian Unity would be foolish. There are important issues for the theologians to haggle over, but when this is done in spirit of goodwill and friendliness, there can be some hope. In the meantime, we lesser fry can do so much more together than we've ever been able to do before.

### DOG COLLARS

I was very interested to read recently in one of the weekend supplements the views of disc jockey, Jimmy Savile, on dog collars. He felt the clergy ought to be proud to wear them, and that it was important that they do so that they could be recognised by any member of the public needing help. He was speaking of Anglican clergy, but in some Continental countries the R.C. priests do not wear dog

collars, merely an ordinary collar and black tie.

The idea of not wearing a dog collar is presumably so that the man in the street feels less inhibited and more likely to enter into casual conversation. I know that when I was young the mere sight of a dog collar used to paralyse me completely; one of the small compensations for growing older is that this inhibition has died.

Ought one to opt for securing more "mateyness" through not wearing a dog collar, albeit obtaining this under false pretences, or ought one to wear a dog collar as a beacon to those needing help?

### QUINTIN HOGG & FATHER MARTIN D'ARCY

How I prefer Quintin Hogg, churchman, to Quintin Hogg, politician! I agreed with so much he said recently in the "Catholic Herald." He confessed that had he not been brought up in the Church of England, he could probably have been just as happy as a Presbyterian or R.C. I have often felt the same, though I have never had the slightest inclination to change. I am in complete agreement with him in not wanting to join another denomination for my regular worship. I personally am thankful that we Catholics MAY now attend and take part in the services of other denominations though, unlike him, I

have no desire to receive the Sacrament there. This may come, and I hope no-one will feel discouraged by my saying I personally am not yet ready.

I read recently in "The Listener," (having missed it on T.V.), an account of a most interesting conversation between Quintin Hogg and Fr. Martin d'Arcy. Towards the end of this, Fr. d'Arcy, speaking of the rejection of the world by so many of the young—the Hippies, etc.—sees this as "very significant, meaning the rejection of materialism, secularism and all that cheap vulgarisation of the world's values. In that sense there is hope." He believes that there may come a marvellous period after we've almost reached the death spasms.

I imagine the visits of the Beatles and others to the Maharishi is another aspect of the same tendency, perhaps a healthier one as instead of "Stop the world I want to get off," it could mean, "Stop the world I want to THINK." But not many of us can afford to skip off to India and sit at the feet of the Maharishi. There are, however, several monasteries and convents in this country where the laity can spend a few days either doing a bit of mental and spiritual stock-taking, or taking part in a full-dress directed Retreat.

## GUIDING IN CAVERSHAM

The 5th Caversham (St. Peter's) Brownie Guide Pack

Restarted just over 12 months ago the Pack soon filled to overflowing. Our first birthday was celebrated with a Witchy Party; the Guide Leaders dressed up as witches and the Pack ate a scrumptious tea round a witches' cauldron by the light of turnip lanterns. St. Andrew's night followed and the Pack made invitation cards inviting the Caversham Park Brownie Guides to join them in an evening of Scottish Country Dancing. Christmas arrived and the Pack made crackers and cards which they presented after a short entertainment to the ladies at Wychcotes and Warren House. As a New Year treat they all

went to London to see "Puss in Boots," put on by the Scouts in aid of their Roland House, the Pack looking very smart in their new-style ties and dresses.

11th Caversham Guide Company (Baptist Church).

Paint on the tables! Paint on the floor! Paint on the Guides' skirts as well as paint, silver gold and white on leaves, honesty and twigs — was it really worth it? About three weeks before Christmas the Guide leaders hardly thought so.

The following week, however, when the leaves had dried and they had been tastefully arranged with a red candle or apple sprigs covered with red crepe paper to make a table decoration, they thought that perhaps it was. A week later, when everything was assembled and the Guides were ready to take out their gifts, they were sure it was. By this time each Patrol had covered a box with Christmas paper and had filled it with various packets — tea, biscuits, butter, tins of soup and fresh fruit. The decorations were used either as the centre-piece or to stand alone, and were ready to be taken out. A short carol service was held and then the Patrols set out, each to visit an elderly person. The Guides were thrilled to see the pleasure their gifts gave.

### CATHOLIC TEENAGERS

So appalled were Catholic teenagers at the results of the teenage poll on Sex, Drugs, etc., in the "Daily Mail" a few months ago, that the "Catholic Herald" analysed the opinions of over 1,350 of them. The results were interesting—77 per cent. disagreed with sex before marriage; 93 per cent. were against legalising soft drugs. They were liberal in their attitude to coloured people—48 per cent. thinking they should be allowed into Britain, 17 per cent. not and 34 per cent. felt they should be, with certain restrictions. Eighty-one per cent. said they got on with their parents and only five per cent. said they did not — (this hardly supports Dr. Leach's contentions in his recent Reith Lectures that the family unit is breaking up).

A surprise was that 40 per cent. answered "Yes" (59 per cent. "No") to the question, "Do you agree with abortion under any circumstances?" Another surprise in the poll was that 51 per cent. were in favour of capital punishment, (40 per cent. against). One 14-year-old confused capital and corporal punishment, and said, "I agree with capital punishment but not in schools."

During the Autumn besides the usual test work, scrapbooks were made for Dr. Barnardo's Homes and Christmas parcel tags were punched and packeted. The Leaders helped deliver the church gift parcels just before Christmas. About £4 was raised from the sale of tags and this was used as the Company's contribution to Home and Overseas Missions.

We are pleased to record that Janet Allen, Norma Prior and Jennifer Watson have gained their First Class Badges.

## Caversham Bridge Scheme of Social Service

At a large gathering of helpers and interested friends of the Bridge Scheme of Social Service at St. Anne's Hall on the evening of January 22, a brief outline of the service given to people in Caversham this year was reported by Mrs. Besley, Central Organiser.

Well over 150 calls for assistance in one way or another were met during the year. One item figuring largely was transport — taking patients or friends to visit in hospital, optician, errands etc., and another major item was calls to visit the sick and lonely. Many of our visitors continued to visit once a week—and what a valuable service this was.

To give some instances of what is done: an active 90-year-old lady has an escort once a week to the P.O. to collect her pension. Another 90-year-old has her library book changed for her. A 73-year-old widow, needed advice, and help was given her, a 70-year-old lady, after a long stay in hospital had lost the use of her arms, needed someone to clean her house once a week. (An appeal here is made to anyone who is willing to undertake paid work occasionally for assistance such as this to let the organisers have their names). A lonely elderly man needed a social contact. From time to time requests for accommodation (paid) are made to the organisation and it would help if the organisers were told if people have this to offer.

In addition the Scheme was able to offer more than ten drivers to transport

people who were blind to their Christmas party in Reading and take them home. This was very much appreciated.

The main help though is visiting the elderly and sick regularly. It was agreed that although names have been given from time to time there must be many more lonely people who would welcome a friendly visitor

and an appeal was made for people to notice and let the organisers know of those in their neighbourhood who live alone or are unable to get around much. It was felt that much of the work goes unreported and unsung but the service was given and that was the important thing.

K. P. Besley.

# SOS

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38, Priest Hill, Caversham, 72374

### AREA ORGANISERS

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1, Brooklyn Drive  
Emmer Green, 71644.

Mr. F. C. Moore (South Caversham),  
52, Highmoor Road  
Caversham, 72694.

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

Mr. W. A. Vincent (West Caversham),  
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## MORE THOUGHTS OF A ROVING REPORTER

I have just met my first example of racial discrimination in Caversham; it shook me, the more so since it was entirely unasked for. An elderly gentleman approached me in Prospect Street and made some derogatory remarks about some coloured schoolchildren across the road. I give that man, and others like him, fair warning that on another occasion he won't get away with just the terse comment which he got from me on this occasion.

And while on the subject, could I say something to coloured people who find themselves in Caversham. Please don't be so much on the defensive. Most of us are friendly people; we want to get to know you. But do give us a chance. We can't make special attempts to approach you, for that would be as discriminatory as to avoid you. But please take a chance on us. You won't meet with many rebuffs.

I called to see our new Youth Centre in Emmer Green recently; it is to be opened shortly and by the time this reaches you we hope it will be a flourishing

organisation. It is a splendid building and the young lady in charge has all the right ideas. In a later edition we hope to give you a full report of the Centre and its activities. But in the meantime, we have been asked to mention the very real co-operation which has gone on between the builders, the architects, the youth service authorities and all who have had a hand in the work.

We often hear the expression "following in father's footsteps," but here we have something different. Len Richardson, a senior commissioner with the BBC at Caversham Park, has just been awarded the M.B.E. Two years ago his son, who went to Yugoslavia with other British soldiers to help clear up after the Skopje earthquake, was also awarded the M.B.E. This surely must be a record, and we would like to congratulate both of them.

I called to see Mr. Williams the owner of the Glendale Cinema, recently. It is unfortunate that the time factor in our printing dates makes it difficult to advertise his programmes. But he

assures me that he has a very varied programme mapped out for the future. His is the only independent cinema for miles around, which is why he is able to show many films not ordinarily available to the public in Reading. His spare time is spent poring over catalogues and reviews, because he is determined to give us only the best, in whatever category. Naturally he is looking forward to the opening of a new restaurant in the locality, which will save his customers a long trek back to Reading to eat. I do hope everyone will keep an eye open for future programmes; it will be well worthwhile.

Few people in Caversham can have borne the scars of the Nazi regime like Bernard Mossberg, who died suddenly in January; his family disappeared in Auschwitz nearly a quarter of a century ago. Yet, bitter though he undoubtedly was, Mossie, as he was affectionately known to his colleagues at the BBC, was one of the kindest men one could wish to meet. His quiet helpful presence will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and we would like to assure his widow and young son of our sincere sympathy at this time. Mossie will never be forgotten and we have been fortunate to have had him living among us in Caversham.

My friend who has multiple sclerosis, on whom I reported in a previous issue, has asked me to say that the boot is on the other foot. She says it is other people who are kind to her, and that the trades people who call are particularly helpful. Well, I suppose it all depends which way you look at it, but it seems to me there is a great deal of mutual co-operation in the Emmer Green district which is often unrecognised.

## Postbag

### CRANKY

Dear Sir,  
Place: Prospect Street, Caversham  
Time: 11.15 a.m., Saturday, December 2

The street had been crowded for half an hour at least with cars in both directions, and both pavements were thronged with pedestrians of both sexes. As I left the launderette I saw a hold-up in the traffic, and looking to see the cause saw a stationary car, and the driver, a woman, struggling with a handle to crank same, with no success. I walked up Prospect Street, into the Post Office, came out of there some little time later and still the woman was trying to crank her car and still no one came to help her (had it not been that I've never cranked a car in my life I would have offered to try).

Until recently were a woman to so much as appear with a starting handle, and even if she was not blocking the street any passing male went out of his way to help her, but things seem to have changed. Has the age of chivalry completely gone?

Yours etc.,  
Kathrene Solly

## ROUND THE CLUBS

### CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the January meeting Miss E. Baker, the chairman, presided and welcomed one new member.

The speaker was Dr. Alexander Gatherer, Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Reading.

He gave a most interesting talk on the Social Services stressing the change that has taken place in the attitude of the community towards those in need and dependent, often through no fault of their own.

We were once an agricultural society with life centred round the village. Now, with the change to life in large towns, in such different environments there is a greater need for help.

The Social Services are acknowledged to be a matter of Social Justice.

Criticism and suggestions from the public and such bodies as T.G.'s are welcomed as being of great help in the efficient running of the services.

A vote of thanks was given by Miss H. Allwood.

The informal half-hour was given up to the popular game of "Twenty Questions" the panel winning by 6-1. Question Master was Mrs. Starkey.

### Arts and Crafts

The pottery classes started on January 10 and 12 members have enrolled.

### Social Studies

Owing to the inclement weather the meeting to dis-

cuss the new decimal currency was poorly attended and will be held again at a future date.

New members will be warmly welcomed and full particulars can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. P. N. Tiffen, 37, Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading. Telephone: Reading 73030.

### CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

INTERNATIONAL: A coffee evening was held at 65, St. Peter's Avenue, and members were addressed by Mr. Brow on "Round The World." During the month, an informal evening held by Mrs. Zuanic at 20, Kidmore Road, was a great success. The four special guests were Miss Whitehill, Secretary of the United Nations in Reading; Mr. and Mrs. Chandhi who spoke on a trip to the West Indies, and Miss Howell, Miss Kathleen Lott, a daughter of one of the members, sang beautifully Swedish, Russian and German songs, and expertly accompanied herself on a guitar. Refreshments and raffle prizes were provided by the Committee.

The International Group met on January 10 and the speaker was Mrs. D. Shiffrin, a committee member of the Reading Association for Racial Harmony. It proved to be a very interesting evening.

ARTS AND CRAFTS: Members were asked to put their names down for a number of courses it is hoped to hold shortly. Depending upon support from members

it is hoped to hold courses on some of the following: Cane - making; Collage; Dressmaking; Cake Icing; Lampshade making; Millinery and Tatting.

SOCIAL STUDIES: The Group had met on January 2 and had been addressed by Mrs. Ayre on—most topically—"How to be Cosier in Winter." The 22 members had been shown slides on heating with solid fuel, and had been told that during the next two years there was every possibility that Reading would be classified as a smokeless zone.

### BLAGRAVE W.I.

Owing to the 'flu epidemic the attendance was lower than usual. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Sholl. Members enjoyed a talk on "The Care of the Feet" by Mr. Fisher of Scholls and a demonstration of exercising sandals by his assistant Janice.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs. Plumridge with Mrs. Yates second.

### EMMER GREEN

#### TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The snow and ice of Britain were soon forgotten on Tuesday, January 9 when Mr. G. C. Jones, ex Borough Treasurer, took us on "A Journey in Africa." Members enjoyed the many slides shown to them.

The Social Studies Group will be discussing National Council Motions at their next meeting on January 17.

## Caversham Residents' Association

### Triumph

It was something of a triumph for Caversham Residents' Association to have succeeded in putting their case about the shopping precinct to the "Ombudsman," as normally development appeals do not come within his orbit. We did, however, establish that he can consider certain aspects of inquiry cases. Perhaps it was too much to hope that judgement would be given in our favour also. The "Ombudsman" decided that the report gave sufficient space to objectors' cases compared with that given to the developer's and the local authority's. He also ruled that because a third bridge might at some time be built over the Thames, the Inspector was justified in saying that this would eventually relieve resultant traffic congestion. Although we cannot agree with the "Ombudsman's" conclusions, we were impressed by the careful considerations given to our case.

### Going ahead

It now appears that in spite of squeeze, freeze, devaluation and a frigid welcome from its intended customers, the project will now be going ahead and we are left to derive what com-

fort we may from the possibility that in 30 years or so our increased traffic problems may be solved if a bridge should be built between the two existing ones.

### Smell

Meanwhile, the Residents' Association continues with its efforts to find a solution to the problem of the smell from the peanut factory.

### Pylons

In support of the Town Council's holding objection to the lines of electrical pylons from Earley Power Station to King's Meadow, we have asked for more information, as only the barest details have been given. I'll sited pylons in King's Meadow could spoil one of the relatively pleasant spots on the Reading bank. It is the Reading bank that we in Caversham have to look at whilst the inhabitants of Reading can gaze across at the beauties of Caversham.

### Ideas

The Town Council is asking for ideas about the future of View Island. Let us know and we will pass them on.

### Annual meeting

We are old enough to be holding our first annual general meeting. It will be on Monday, March 25 at 8 p.m. at Church House. The usual business of an A.G.M. will have to be transacted

but most important it will be an opportunity to assess what the association has achieved and its role for the future.

M.C.

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# On the move:

## The Wood Family

Moving to Drayton St. Peter, near Abingdon, are the Vicar of Mapledurham, the Rev. Eric Wood, his wife Pat and their three children, Alban (7), Giles and Patrick (18 months).

Eric Wood has been Vicar of Mapledurham since July, 1962. He and his family will take with them memories of steady progress and activity in the parish and also the peace and quiet of the lovely countryside around the village of Mapledurham. In the last five and a half years St. Margaret's Church has been improved and made more beautiful, and the vicarage has been decorated and modernised. More important than improvements to buildings has been the steady advance in the life of the people of God. Before Eric Wood became Vicar of Mapledurham and John Grimwade became Rector of Caversham — there was hardly any contact between the two parishes. Looking back over the past five years, Mr. Wood says that what he has valued most has been the close co-operation Mapledurham has had with Caversham. "By ourselves, such ventures as stewardship campaigns would not have been possible. The 'Key Fortnight' last autumn is a good example of the way we have been able to benefit from co-operation with Caversham."

### In the R.A.F.

After serving in the R.A.F. from 1943-47, Eric Wood graduated from St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1949, and then after two further years at Cuddesdon Theological College, was ordained to the title of Cheshunt Parish Church in December, 1951. He served his second curacy at St. Pancras from 1954-57. It was there that he met Pat, who was studying pharmacy at London University. They were married in 1956 and the following year they moved down to Leatherhead, where Eric was Priest-in-Charge of All Saints', until the family came to Mapledurham.



Photo: Fred Walker

Sewing the curtains for the new Vicarage

### New parish

His new parish, another rural one, is much larger than Mapledurham. Those living in the old village of Drayton are, for the most part, born and bred there, but those living in the many new houses built around the old village are a quick-changing population. Many work at Harwell and Didcot Power Station.

Gardening has taken a lot of spare time, but Eric has managed to keep up his bell ringing. He is very keen and even instructed Pat on their honeymoon! His position as Librarian of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers means that he is an authority on the subject in the Oxford Diocese, and he hopes to continue this interest at Drayton.

### Our loss

Mapledurham and Caversham will miss the Woods, but our loss is Drayton's gain and we wish them every blessing in all that lies ahead.

## The Harrison Family

Moving to West Sussex and looking forward to living in the unspoilt country of the Chichester area are Bill and Nancy Harrison. Bill is to become County Surveyor for West Sussex, after being Berkshire's County Surveyor since the beginning of 1965.

The Harrisons have been regular members of St. Peter's congregation since their arrival in Reading in 1962. They have certainly been very active. Bill admits that he was a "pressed man," persuaded by the Rector to become Distribution Manager of "The Caversham Bridge." Now he feels able to say: "It has been very worthwhile. Both our local pages, and the outside pages of the 'National Christian News' are just what we need today, and I count it a great privilege to have acted as Distribution Manager." He feels that with increased production costs the future will be difficult, and that perhaps we shall have to combine with some of the "go-ahead" Reading parishes in order to increase our circulation.

"Precisely what its value is ecumenically and pastorally is hard to judge, but it must make some impact. Division between Christians is sheer nonsense and 'The Bridge' is at least working in the right direction."

### Royal Engineers

Readers may remember that another big interest has been Bill's "spare time" work as Deputy Commander of the Central Volunteer H.Q. of the Royal Engineers, for which he was awarded the C.B.E. in 1967. Bill will be continuing this job, which over the last two years has taken him overseas to many trouble spots. Contrary to popular opinion, the 15 days' army training done by reservists each year are hard work. The role of the reserve is to support the regular Army in doing jobs for which their civilian expertise equips them to do (e.g. reservists from Shell recently laid a pipe-line in Singapore). Bill doesn't agree with January's defence cuts: "There's no need for our troops to be in the politically mature Europe of today. They are needed to help keep the peace in the volatile areas of the Middle and Far East. In discarding our commitments we have devalued our word. People throughout the world now realise we can't be trusted. The British forces, whose self-discipline and patience in provocative situations have been exemplary, have been let down by the politicians."

### Voluntary work

In Reading, Nancy Harrison has enjoyed gardening, home-making, time with friends and voluntary work. Bill's interest in music has been stimulated by their son Charles' work as a keen organist. Father and son look forward to sailing together in Charles' "Mirror dinghy" when they move to the coast. Their move is very popular with Charles, who goes to Southampton College of Technology next autumn to do a diploma in boat building and boat yard management.



Mr. W. C. S. Harrison

Photo: Fred Walker

## Nurse Margery

It is my sad fate, as roving reporter, to meet some of the nicest people in Caversham only when they are about to leave for pastures new.

So too, with Nurse Margery Puddy who is leaving the Chiltern Nursery Train-

ing College after fifteen and a half years for a Home Office course in residential child care at the North-Western Polytechnic.

A lively lass and a pleasure to talk to is Nurse Margery whose job as Matron in charge of family groups was, as she puts it herself, to oil the wheels. There was no knowing where she would be at any time — her province was anywhere and everywhere, solving any problem that cropped up. For this she needed to understand not only the very young children at the college, but the needs of the young students in her care. For, as she says, life is not always easy for young student nurses.

### Happy youngsters

All the same, as Caversham residents know, they are a happy group of youngsters and form a pleasant feature of our life as they shepherd their young charges around the village. And this is due, in no small measure, to Nurse Margery who is going to be missed very much.

Coming from a village in Somerset, which she visits frequently, she says she has been very happy at the Chiltern, where she did her

initial training. At the moment she is uncertain of her future plans, but she promises to keep in touch and says she is sure she will be trotting backwards and forwards to Caversham for a long while yet.

May we wish her all the very best and thank her for all she has contributed to Caversham life in the past 15 years.



Photo: Fred Walker

Nurse Margery

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# NEWS FROM THE

## ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

**NEW CONFIRMATION SERVICE.** At its January meeting the Church Council unanimously decided to adopt the use of the new confirmation service, and this will be used at the next parish confirmation on May 21. A debate took place about the proposals for the division of the diocese. While there was general agreement about the need to divide the diocese members were very critical of the present plans for doing so, and a

resolution criticising them in a number of ways was passed, and this has been sent to the rural dean's conference for consideration.

**MOTHERS' UNION SERVICE.** The annual Lady Day festival service for the four branches of the Mothers' Union takes place on Monday, March 25 in St. John's Church, at 2.45 p.m.

**YOUTH WORK.** In addition to the Scout and Guide movement and the Sunday schools there

are many different youth groups throughout the parish. In one way or another several hundred young people are linked with the life of the Church of England in Caversham. A meeting of all the youth leaders of the parish is to take place on Wednesday, March 27, at 8 p.m. in Church House so that we can review our work together and see in particular what needs are at present not being met. It is hoped that someone from each of our many different youth groups will be present.

### St. Peter's News

#### The Church in action

In place of a sermon during Sunday nights in Lent we shall be hearing from various speakers about different aspects of the work of the Church, and there will be a chance for questions and discussion with them. One of our own congregation who is just back from two years nursing with Dr. Grenfell's Mission in Labrador, Miss Jennifer Besley, starts the series on March 3. On March 10 our own hospital chaplain in Reading, the Rev John Markham will tell us more about the healing mission of the Church. Then Miss Lambert, the Church's own social worker in Reading follows a week later. The Rev. John Crowe on March 24 will give us some idea of the problems of the Church on the copper belt of Zambia; we shall then turn on March 31 to a review of our own varied work among young people through the Sunday School, Scout and Guide Movement and different youth groups, and the series will end on Palm Sunday when Miss Turner who is in charge of women's work in our diocese will describe the valuable contribution made to the ministry by the trained woman worker. Apart from the hospital chaplaincy we do in fact support all these other aspects of the Church's work financially, and this series should help us to a clearer understanding of some of the ways in which the Church seeks to help

those in need in different ways.

#### Churchyard improvements

The willing co-operation of members of the Parks Department of the Corporation has made it possible for the western end of the churchyard to be much improved: a number of trees, given by members of the congregation have been planted, and their blossom will give pleasure in years to come and serve as a reminder of Key Fortnight. Further gifts are making possible the planting of large numbers of crocuses though we cannot expect to see these blooming until next year.

#### St. Peter's Wives

The next meeting is on March 21 at 8 p.m. in Church House when Dr. J. Williams will be giving a general talk on drugs. New members are welcome. Further details from Mrs. B. L. Lightowler. Telephone 74420.

#### Special days

There will be a family service at 3 p.m. on Mothering Sunday, March 24 at 3 p.m. The following day, March 25 is Lady Day—Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. On Ash Wednesday, February 28 Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. and the Parish Communion will be sung at 8 p.m. Because of the Lenten coffee groups in which it is hoped all members of the congregation will be taking part it is not planned this year to have any special mid-week Lenten service.

### St. John's News

The new working party on the Christian Layman in Commerce and Industry met for the first time on January 30 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ray Turner. It has been asked to report to the District Committee in a year's time with some suggestions as to how Church members can help each other to worship God better through their work, and through their relationships at work.

#### POST-CONFIRMATION

The St. John's Group has now become a very lively and enthusiastic group.

In the autumn many of the members helped with refreshments on St. John's Day and also at the Bazaar. The rain put a damper on our bonfire party though the spirits were as high as ever.

Sister Elizabeth very kindly gave up some of her time in order to give us a very interesting talk, which led to some lively discussions in the next few weeks.

We have had various discussions on racial discrimination, the new Holy Communion Service and even vivisection. Members of the group have given good talks on their hobbies, for example, aircraft and astronomy.

We have delivered Christmas parcels to some elderly people in the neighbourhood. And during the Christmas holidays, the Post-Confirmation Group has been very busy painting the upper Vestry, which is going to be converted into a long awaited "club room" in which we hope to start a social evening in the early spring.

I would like to thank the Rev. J. Stevenson and the Rev. J. Crowe for all their help and ideas, and Mr. Fowler for his help and encouragement during our first year.

Valerie House,  
Chairman.

#### WILLING VOLUNTEERS

The walls of the aisles, then the main doors, the upper Vestry and now the gates re-decorated by members of the Men's Fellowship and Post-Confirmation Group: smart new hassocks provided by past and present members of the Mothers' Union and Wednesday Group, two new alms plates given by the Women's Fellowship, the list goes on and on. The lookers-on, who benefit from all these unsolicited contributions to St. John's are most grateful, one can't help wondering who is going to do what next!

February 27: Shrove Tuesday. A Social in St. John's Hall with dancing, games and refreshments. Admission 1s. 6d. Opening and closing times: 7.30 and 10.30 p.m.

February 28: Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion 8 p.m.

March 24: Mothering Sunday Family Service 3.15 p.m.

March 25: "Lady Day." We have the privilege of being hosts to the other branches of the Mothers' Union in this parish.

#### ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

at 8 p.m.  
MONDAY, MARCH 4  
ST. BARNABAS' DISTRICT

in  
ST. BARNABAS' HALL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 5

ST. PETER'S DISTRICT  
in  
BALMORE HALL  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

ST. JOHN'S DISTRICT  
in  
ST. JOHN'S HALL  
THURSDAY, MARCH 7

ST. ANDREW'S DISTRICT  
in  
ST. ANDREW'S HALL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING  
of  
THE PARISH OF  
CAVERSHAM

THURSDAY, MARCH 14  
at 7.30 p.m.  
in  
BALMORE HALL

### St. Barnabas' News

The mild weather during January enabled us to complete the job of clearing a large part of the churchyard of the scrub vegetation which thrived there, and replanting with an interesting array of ornamental shrubs and trees. We trust that these, once they are established, will greatly enhance the appearance of the church.

The job was done by eager groups of volunteers who made short work of the task. As the trees and bushes fell victim to the saw and axe they were quickly consumed on the bonfire which proved to be an irresistible attraction to many children of the neighbourhood.

#### The Mothers' Union

At the A.G.M. of the Mothers' Union, held in January, Mrs. Earley relinquished the position of enrolling member which she has held for nine years. We all thank her for the wonderful service she has given to this group, and for accepting the responsibility of leading it for so long. It is significant that a much larger number of members than usual attended her final meeting in office.

Mrs. Bradbury, of 26, Tredegar Road, who is very

much looking forward to her term of office, was duly elected in Mrs. Earley's place. Mrs. Bradbury has said that she intends to continue the tradition of holding monthly meetings and hopes to maintain an interesting programme. She thinks that the question of holding some meetings in the evening is one which should be seriously considered.

At a time when there is such need for someone to give a lead in meeting the problems of marriage, parenthood and family life which beset our society, let us hope that we can look to our Mothers' Union group to continue and increase its work in these spheres.

#### Parish Parliament

The Parish Parliament on the subject of worship, held on January 30, proved to be a stimulating evening. It was certainly not concerned solely with our own domestic arrangements for church services. The subject was introduced by the Rev. John Stevenson who made us stretch our minds and consider some of the principles of Christian worship. He asked that if worship is an activity of any community or natural group of people why did the Church, with its parochial system, only cater for Christians where they live and not where they work and recreate? Moreover, in what sense was a congregation a community of people? Many members of our congregations do not meet one another naturally except on Sundays.

Somewhat exhausted the meeting then turned to consider the present arrangements for worship at St. Barnabas. There were many heart-felt comments but one sole conclusion; namely that the children of the Sunday Club should be with their parents in church on the first Sunday of each month instead of in the Hall on their own. After all, it was apparent that the family should worship together where possible and the Church should encourage this attitude and accept children at its worship.

### St. Andrew's News

#### The Sunday School

In mid-January Norman Kent resigned as Superintendent of our Sunday School, after four years in office. Norman will long be remembered for the joy he brought to the children through the social side of the Sunday School — the Punch and Judy, the summer outings, the firework parties and the visits to the Ice Show. On his last Sunday the children gave him what must have been the loudest three cheers St. Andrew's Hall has ever heard. Book tokens from the congregations of St. Andrew's and Mapledurham and from the teachers were also presented to him. Norman has been succeeded by Mrs. Steer.

#### Mothering Sunday

This year Mothering Sunday falls on March 24. The customary service in place of Sunday School will be held in St.

Andrew's, at 3.15 p.m.

#### The Summer Fair

The 1968 Summer Fair will be on Saturday, July 6. It is hoped to raise at least £300 for OXFAM.

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Mr. HUMPHREY BERKELEY

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# CAVERSHAM CHURCHES

## Baptist News

### Diaconate

In the Baptist Church the office of Deacon is filled from the laity rather than from the ordained ministry as is the practice in the Anglican Church. The Diaconate is the "Cabinet" which, under the chairmanship of the minister, steers the policy and actions of the local church. At Caversham the Diaconate is composed of nine persons who are over the age of 21 and are members of the Church. They may be of either sex, thus there is an equal opportunity for "petticoat government."

Deacons are elected by secret ballot at the November business meeting of the church and take office in the New Year. They are elected to serve for three years and in order to ensure continuity, one third of the Diaconate retires each year, the retiring Deacons being eligible for re-election.

### Elections

With this brief glimpse into the machinations of the local Baptist Church we have pleasure in reporting that Messrs. G. W. Miles and P. Ousley were recently re-elected, together with Mr. N. Ide who is a "new boy" to our Diaconate, although not without experience in that he has served in the Church at Twickenham. Mr. Ide fills the vacancy created by Mrs. E. Evans who, having served for a number of years, decided not to seek re-election.

### Sunday School

The Sunday School and Junior Church continue to flourish and it was good to see the children enjoying their winter parties recently. The speed with which rolls, cakes, jelly and ice cream disappeared had to be seen to be believed. A favourite game to which the West Memorial Hall lends itself

admirably is 'crazy post' and at the junior's party enthusiasm knew no bounds, with youngsters chasing in all directions and it was with their lives in their hands that the helpers dared to venture from the tranquillity of the kitchen.

### Attendance

Attendance at worship has been somewhat depleted of late in that sickness has taken its toll, especially amongst the older members and friends. Sick visiting has made a considerable in-road into our minister's time and we are glad that he has not succumbed to the season's ills and chills. It was, however, good to see so many, including a number of strangers, at evening service on the last Sunday in January, when two friends, Mrs. Yvonne Smith and Miss Ann Shield were baptised. We salute them for boldly professing their faith and pray that they will continue to grow in things of the Spirit and will be loyal servants of their Master, Jesus Christ.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

MAY 13—18

A second competitive Art Exhibition

in the

Methodist Church Hall, Ardler Road

Thursday, May 9

Watch for full details in next month's  
"Caversham Bridge"

### FATHER FORD LEAVES SONNING COMMON

Many people will feel sorry that Father Ford has left St. Michael's, Sonning Common. Those who have lived in Caversham for a number of years will remember him as curate at St. Anne's when Father Williams was Parish Priest. He continued as curate there under Father O'Malley, and then left to start up a new R.C. parish at Sonning Common. His congregation there multiplied so rapidly that it became possible to replace the old Army-type hut by a modern church. Here the modern Mass in the modern setting came into its own, and quite often people from St. Anne's used to go out there to enjoy it.

Father Ford was a man of ideas, and as he was a good preacher and conversationalist he was able to make no small contribution to the cause of ecumenism in this district. He was also a charming man with ready sympathy. Many of us feel sad that a good friend has left the neighbourhood.

## New life at Gallows Tree

One of the fastest-growing parts of the Reading area has one of the tiniest Methodist chapels. Gallows Tree Common, itself a small village, is surrounded by growing communities at Kidmore End, Peppard, and especially Sonning Common. For many years there has been a small Methodist Society worshipping at Gallows Tree Common, but recently the congregation has dwindled to three elderly ladies, of whom Mrs. Ward is the Society Steward, Mrs. Bartlett is the caretaker and Miss Dewhurst has been organist and in charge of the small but thriving Sunday School.

Crisis overtook the small Society last autumn when the organist, Sunday School Superintendent and one third of the congregation announced that she was moving away. There had to be a positive decision, either to close the chapel or to strengthen it with some new life.

Although Gallows Tree Common itself is no more than a few houses, the fast-growing estates of car-owning families all around made closing the chapel seem a short-sighted step.

### A scheme

The Rev. Ewart Wright, who is minister of the chapel, called some meetings of people who live in the area to review the situation. As a result, a scheme is to be put to the Reading Circuit's quarterly meeting in March, to give a new start to the little Society.

Some Methodist families living in Sonning Common, who at present are worshipping in Caversham or Reading, will be joining the Gallows Tree Common Society in March for a trial period

of six months, with the aim of building a thriving community there again, and of strengthening the Sunday School. Instead of the present afternoon services, Sunday worship will be at 11 a.m. and the Sunday School will continue to meet at 10.15 a.m.

Among the newcomers to Gallows Tree will be Mr. and Mrs. Carter, from Caversham Methodist, who will be very actively involved in the new Society, with Mr. Carter joining Mrs. Ward as a society steward and Mrs. Carter taking charge of the Sunday School.

Mr. Harry Jones, who with his wife had been deeply involved in the life of the Cumberland Road church in Reading, told "Caversham Bridge" about some of the hopes of the new community.

### Experiment

"We are going to treat this

### No illusions

Nobody has any illusions about the size of the task. Neither the building itself nor its location are ideal for the purpose — though there are lots of exciting ideas being tossed around — and there is the magnetic attraction of Reading (unaccountably) to be overcome. The six-month experimental period will be long enough to tell whether there is scope for a new church in the area.

If enthusiasm and determination count for anything it certainly deserves to flourish.

May we just make one suggestion though, about that name? "Gallows Tree Common" is not the happiest of links with the past. Something with more cheerful associations would surely improve the image of the church? Even "Cherry Tree" would be better — and would be reminiscent of those magnificent cherry teas for which the Gallows Tree Common people used to be famous.

## St. Paul's

£33

## Presbyterian News

### Moderator's Visits

Free Church people are now looking forward to the visit of the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, the Rev. Hubert Janisch, M.A. Mr. Janisch has been Minister of Worthing Baptist Church since 1944. During his year of office he has travelled thousands of miles through England and Wales visiting local councils, and has represented the Free Churches on many civic occasions — at the Cenotaph at Earl Attlee's Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey, at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in the Guildhall, and at the Royal Garden Party, to mention but a few.

Mr. Janisch visits Reading on March 14, and will preach the sermon at the Annual Service held in Wycliffe Baptist Church (near Cemetery Junction) at 7.30 p.m. Many people will wish to hear this well-known broadcaster on sound and television, so please make a note of the date.

### Cubmaster needed

The present Cubmaster of St. Paul's Cub Pack will soon be leaving the district and a new Cubmaster or Lady Cubmaster is needed. The minister would be very glad to hear of anyone willing to undertake this important piece of work.

St. Peter's Church was packed to the door when members of the Anglican, Baptist Methodist and Roman Catholics congregations of Caversham worshipped together at Evening song on the Sunday night within the Church Unity Octave. "Why only once a year?" was the most frequent comment heard at the Church door as people came out. The four Anglican choirs of the parish turned out in strength, but the singing was certainly shared in most fully by the congregation. The collection was given to the Reading Hospitals Broadcasting Service and amounted to £33. It is hoped that the service will, among other things, have encouraged many people to meet their friends of another Christian tradition in one of the many Lenten coffee groups that are being arranged.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The services arranged in connection with the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held this year on March 1 in St. Laurence's Church, Reading, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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## TALKING POINT

Harvey Cox, the American theologian suggests that two images characteristic of modern society are the switchboard and the highway cloverleaf. The switchboard enables us to get quickly into communication with our neighbour and the cloverleaf highway enables us to get quickly away from our neighbour. In a way this means we lose something that we used to value—we listen to a voice on the telephone instead of having a good talk as Dr. Samuel Johnson used to enjoy. The result — personal friendship is impoverished. People who live in flats, so I am told, hardly know their neighbours whereas people who live in terrace houses or cottages know their neighbours. In some ways in spite of the achievements of modern science, living is not made any richer. We use the benefits to escape from our neighbour — to our own spiritual detriment.

In this de-personalised world the Church is set to proclaim the sanctity of the individual in the sight of God and man. It is easy enough to say this but it does not prove to be easy in practice. The President of Princeton Seminary, U.S.A., Dr. I. McCord reminds us that theologically and structurally Protestantism is ill-equipped for ministry and mission in our age. There are signs that Protestantism is guilt ridden by its economic affluence — the rich nations are for instance poles apart from the poor nations and we wonder what can be done during the last third of this century. The Church, in other words, is so involved in the world as it is that it has no word for the poor and the out-

by  
**GEORGE  
SHEARER**

cast. Our giving to Christian Aid and Oxfam is sometimes the modern equivalent of "slumming." It is not soup kitchens that are required but a new understanding of what Jesus had to say.

We are, however, in the situation as it is. In some ways the Parish Approach has its advantages — the Church is there, come wind, come weather. In other ways the Gathered Community, as all Free

Churches are, has the advantage — the people meet and so form a worshipping community. What matters in this case is the faithful witness of the believers. But neither the witness of believers nor the unshakeable rock of the Church seem to cut much ice with the world today. Perhaps in the end the Church as well as the world needs a change of heart. The Bible word for this is REPENTANCE, a good word for 1968. On this point, at least, all denominations are at one.

### METHODIST CHURCHES

#### MARCH PREACHING

##### APPOINTMENTS

###### Caversham

- 3 Mr. M. Winch  
Rev. E. B. Wright (S)  
10 Rev. E. B. Wright  
Rev. A. E. Ward  
17 Rev. W. A. A. Tutt  
Mr. P. Davies  
24 Rev. E. B. Wright  
Miss G. Blandford  
31 Mr. K. Haines  
Rev. E. B. Wright

###### Caversham Heights

- 3 11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright (S)  
6.50 Mr. D. Moffat  
10 11.00 Mr. P. W. Button  
6.50 Rev. E. B. Wright  
17 11.00 Rev. V. Parry  
6.50 Rev. C. D. Phippen  
24 11.00 Mr. J. S. Marsh  
6.50 Rev. E. B. Wright  
31 11.00 Rev. E. B. Wright  
6.50 Rev. J. O. Cochran  
Note: (S) Holy Communion

## They bring your 'Bridge'

Mrs. Criswick, of 94, Kidmore Road, has lived in Caversham for 16 years. Throughout that period she has been — and still is — a very active member of the local community. Her interests include the Women's Institute, the Conservative Association (of which she is an ex-treasurer) and the League of Friends of the Reading Hospitals. She also belongs to the Mothers' Union and is a regular worshipper at St. Andrew's.



Photo: Fred Walker

MRS. VERA CRISWICK

Miss Phyllis Fisher has lived in 239, Peppard Road for the past 54 years and many visitors, young and old, come to hear about the Emmer Green of 50 years ago. Miss Fisher was brought up in a large family, four brothers and a sister — all married and living in Emmer Green; when her parents were alive the complete family numbered 24. She remembers horse-drawn carriers travelling through Emmer Green to Reading from Peppard and Sonning Common, and the first motor bus which came once a week from Henley to Reading.

A keen member of the Townswomen's Guild and the Red Cross, Miss Fisher finds time to deliver 60 copies of "The Bridge," and she is a regular helper at the "coffee time" after the 9.15 service at St. Barnabas', the church where she has been an active member since she was five years of age.

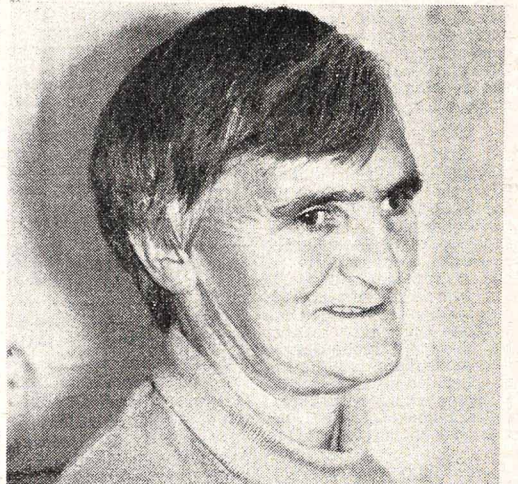


Photo: Fred Walker

MISS PHYLLIS FISHER

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## We Record...

### BAPTISED St. Peter's

Dec.  
31 Jeremy Lever

Feb.  
4 Nigel Woodley

St. John's

Dec.  
3 Andrew Simmonds

Simon West

Jan.  
7 Wayne Barnes

Helen Mandell

Caversham Methodist Church

Jan.  
28 Alan Clark

Sharon Aston

Ruth Manning

### Caversham Baptist Free Church

Jan.  
28 Y. Smith

A. Shield

### MARRIED St. Peter's

Jan.  
6 Michael Clements

Betty Grundy

### Caversham Baptist Free Church

Dec.  
30 Ruth Peering and Robin Gilliatt

Caversham Methodist Church

Dec.  
16 Stuart Weekes and Jane Martin

Jan.  
26 Keith Noyes and Ruth Sylvester

BURIED  
St. Peter's

Dec.  
15 Annie Dranfield

Daisy Terry

Jan.  
18 Rosina Barber

Jan.  
3 Ellen Eves

19 Winifred Holloway

Feb.  
2 Joan Beech

St. John's

Jan.  
25 Sydney Green

St. Barnabas'

Dec.  
Reginald Leadley

Matilda Boden

Caversham Heights

Methodist Church

Jan.  
17 Gertrude Bentall.

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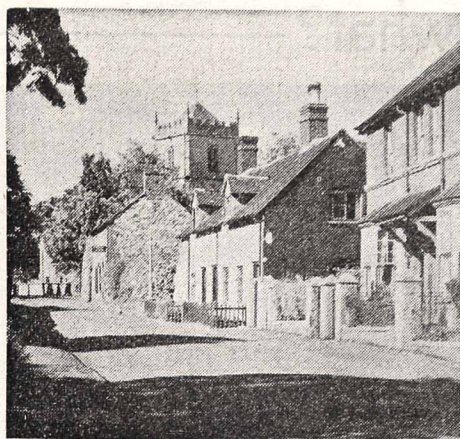
# Sorting and bundling serve the Strettons

AN ENTRY IN THE DOMESDAY Book of 1087 tells us that Roger de Montgomery held Stretton "... Here are eight hides. In demesne are three teams, and six serfs and two maid-servants; and eighteen villeins and eight bordars with a Priest have twelve teams. Here is a Mill and a Church..." The church that gave its name to the largest of the three Strettons in the Shropshire valley was Saxon and the building that stands in the heart of the town

## Stretton Focus, by Laurence Williams

today has a Norman nave. Local patriotism and strong feelings for tradition are deeply rooted in Church Stretton and the villages that stand at each side of the market town — All Stretton and Little Stretton. Lord Roger's handful of villeins and serfs have become a population of more than 3,000, but local pride remains. One of the happiest features of modern life in this valley is the close co-

operation between all the churches. "Focus" is the newspaper of the Methodist church, the two Congregational churches, the parish church of St. Lawrence and the daughter churches of St. Michael, All Stretton, and All Saints', Little Stretton. The paper, now completing its first year, has to cater for a tremendous breadth of opinion, if not for an enormous population. The churches, under the Church Stretton Council of Churches, have abandoned their own particular magazines and have thrown all their efforts into making "Focus" an ever increasing success. To this day they realise that the Strettonians outside church life must buy and enjoy the publication, so the



A street in Church Stretton

Editorial Board gives plenty of space for local news and views. These are varied and include items that will appeal to the occupants of lonely farms and cottages in the hills; to the self-contained village communities; to the town dwellers, the young families on the new estates and the many retired people.

### WARY EYE

Like all country districts with inherited customs and firm opinions, Church Stretton views change with a wary eye. It is the strong core of Christian people who have given up their individual church rapers (not always without a pang!) who have made "Focus" possible. They plan, write and lay out the material.

They sort, stamp and bundle up the copies and deliver them from house-to-house, up hill and down dale.

THEY DO IT IN THE BELIEF THAT "FOCUS" CAN SERVE THE STRETTONS.

# WHEN PARENTS REFUSE TO ALLOW THEM TO MARRY

THE CHURCH of England favours a reduction of the age at which young people might marry without their parents' consent from 21 to 18.

The announcement was made by the Bishop of Leicester (Dr. Ronald Williams) during a debate on the report of the Committee on the Age of Majority.

Dr. Williams, chairman of the Church Assembly's Board for Social Responsibility, said evidence showed that the parental veto was not working any more, and in an enormous number of cases was not exercised at all. During 1965, 40 per cent. of the brides in this country had been under 21.

The bishop tended to stress not so much the earlier maturity of young people but the completely changed social patterns in the country. In cases where parental permission was refused, he said, young couples frequently lived together although not married.

### REFUSED

The bishop also referred to 215 case histories which had come to the attention of church social workers, showing that after parental consent had been refused 77 had resulted in appeals to magistrates for permission to marry, and 54 of these had been granted.

Such cases, Dr. Williams

remarked, suggested that, when looked at objectively, "refusal is often not based on a really wise and complete picture of the situation."

## Churches may share new premises

Churches will spend more than £150 million on buildings in the next 30 years and if resources are to be used effectively centres shared by all denominations should be built, says the Rev. Peter Bridges.

Mr. Bridges, of the Institute for the Study of Religious Architecture, Birmingham University, says in a survey that churches in cities will become part of office and supermarket buildings. They will not have spires.

To find room for combined centres, churches must plan ahead. In towns of 50,000 people centres will have a chapel, counselling rooms, coffee-bar, crèches and exhibition space.

Under an agreed timetable, churches would use the chapel for separate worship. Running costs would be shared.

In the 50 towns to be built by the year 2,000, space would be allocated to the church as a whole, not to separate denominations. The Anglicans had already agreed to the principle of "sharing churches," said a C. of E. spokesman.

## ROBIRCH

FAMOUS OVER A CENTURY

for

PIES, SAUSAGES AND COOKED MEATS

## NEW LOOK FOR MISSION

HOCKERILL NEWS is wearing a new look this month. Usually this Bishop's Stortford paper carries a two-page inset inside Christian News, but as part of a parish mission called Contact 68 it is this month expanding to a four-page "wrap around."

Contact 68 will last for the fortnight March 10-24. It will involve 16 visiting missionaries drawn from Anglican religious orders as well as a number of other individuals, who will be backed by a large "home team" of missionaries from the parish.

### Peter's views

We regret that in last month's edition we omitted to mention that the article "Putting the Crunch in the Right Place," a review of "Exploration into God" by the Bishop of Woolwich, was written by our regular book reviewer, Peter Croft.

## HELP FOR SPINE VICTIMS

A charity campaign for victims of Spina Bifida will be launched this month. Spina Bifida is a deformity of the bones of the spine at birth with often complete paralysis of the lower regions of the body.

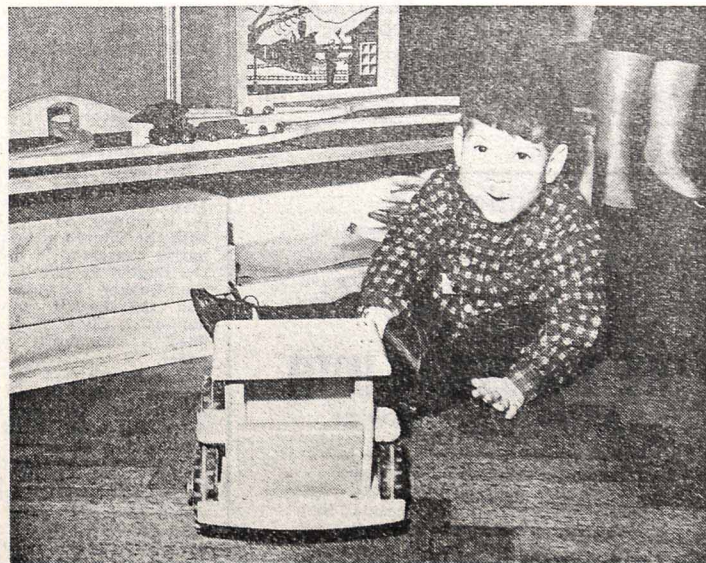
It is in fact more

prevalent than many conditions which are better known and therefore better supported.

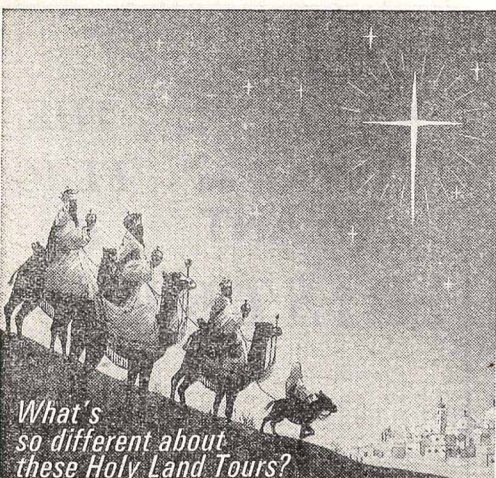
Dr. Horace King, Speaker of the House of Commons has already sponsored a preliminary appeal letter. Spina Bifida is a crippling condition and the parents of such children

need every possible help.

If you are holding some event and would like to hold it in support of a really worthy cause why not drop a note to ASBAH (Association of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus), 112, City Road, E.C.1.



Ian Pointer, who has Spina Bifida, is four. He is seen here playing in a toy shop just before Christmas.



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# Workers, or what?

THE WORLD  
OF INDUSTRY



## Backing Britain (1)

I WANT to know who the workers are and what industry is.

This is an urgent question for a man who is supposed to be writing an industrial column. If I write about merchant bankers am I talking about industry? Many would say "No"; I would tend to say "Yes." They work long and hard with their brains and their entry in the balance sheet of our earnings abroad is no mean one.

If I write about myself am I writing about a "worker?" As a parson the majority would find this question ludicrous. But on the very lowest level I can point to quite a few folk I have helped who are now valuable "productive units" rather than a charge on our pockets in various institutions. The doctor who gets his patient back to the factory could say the same thing.

Who are the workers? This is an urgent question not only for me but for this nation. It is time we did away with this strange, inverted class snobbery which considers that the only ones leading "useful" lives are those who actually MANUFACTURE something while the rest are artful column dodgers.

There are many limbs in a body, there are many members in society, and each, if he plays his part with zeal, can lay claim to the proud title of "worker" and make his contribution to the country's effort.

I, as a parson, feel no sense of shame or absurdity by displaying on my car the badge "I'm backing Britain." Neither should the managing director, the school teacher, the psychiatrist, the musician, the steel worker or the barmaid.

RAYMOND EFEMEY.

## Backing Britain (2)

WITHOUT WISHING in any way to knock the five typists who triggered off the "I'm backing Britain" campaign, I can't help but feel that they've led many well-intentioned people up a blind alley.

Of course, the spirit of those who are pre-

pared to work extra hours for no money is to be admired. It is good to see that the majority of people are concerned to see this country back on its economic feet.

But let's face it, the answer to our economic ills is not to be found in

extra hours for no pay, but in working flat out in the hours for which we are paid.

It is common knowledge that increased productivity does not necessarily come with increased hours. It comes with greater industrial efficiency,

better relationships between management and labour and fewer restrictive practices.

These are the things we must look to if we genuinely want to back Britain.

Geoffrey Brown

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## WELCOME TO NEWTOWN NEWS

A new paper to illustrate our 1968 trend

A COUPLE of months ago we told you that "Christian News" is changing — and now we have proof!

For the first time in Birmingham a new edition is being launched which will involve five — and possibly six — different Churches.

St. Chad's — the cathedral of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Birmingham — is joining in Newtown with the Church of England parish church of St. George the Baptist Peoples' Chapel, the Quaker Friends' Hall and the Lozells Street Methodist Church.

This month sees the first edition. By next month it is hoped that the Salvation Army will have joined the venture as well.

Newtown is one of the five major redevelopment areas of inner-ring Birmingham, which in recent years has been dominated by the bulldozer and the crane. At last the new factories and flats, the green open spaces and

the neat houses and maisonettes seem to be winning over the mean streets and small, sub-standard back-to-back houses that used to lie alongside the old, grim Victorian factory buildings.

The trouble is that the tempo of human lives can't be changed as quickly as putting up new buildings. People find a new area, a new style of living, hard to get used to, and for the first few years a new estate can be a beautiful body that has no heart.

The churches of Newtown believe that a community newspaper that reflects the life of the neighbourhood and opens its columns to particular problems and grievances can be of great service in this situation, and that's why "Newtown News" was born.

WE WISH ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN WRITING, PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING THE PAPER THE BEST OF LUCK.

**THE WAR on WANT**

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## Junior Magazine



# Hi, March!

## WIN SOME MARKS

March 21 is an important date in the calendar. If you don't know why, try to find out. Then check with the answer below. Give yourself five marks if you knew the answer; three marks if you had to find out; one mark if you GUESSED right.

## A JINGLE ABOUT MARCH

March winds and April showers  
Bring forth May flowers

## SINGING GROUPS OLD & NEW

The Monkees and the Bee Gees are 1968's raves. Here's a song about the weather that is thousands of years old.

The Lord gives snow like wool;  
He scatters frost like ashes.  
He casts forth his ice like morsels;  
Who can stand before his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them.  
He makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
Praise the Lord!

Try making up a tune to these words that a modern pop group could sing. When the song was first written it would be sung by two groups of singers. The first group sang the first line and the second group answered by singing the second line, and so on all through the song. You could try singing it this way with your friends.

## SOMETHING ELSE TO DO

March is a very windy month. Make a chart and check how true this is of March 1968. Write the dates 1-31 in big figures in columns on a large sheet of paper, with plenty of space between each number. These are the dates in March. On days when there are gales put a red ring round the date, a blue ring round the date for moderate winds, and a green ring for light winds.

There's an old saying that if March comes in like a lamb (only very light winds) it goes out like a lion (with roaring gales) and if it comes in like a lion (with gales) it goes out like a lamb (with quiet playful winds). So watch the beginning and end of the month especially carefully, and draw a lion and a lamb in the right places at the beginning and end of your chart.

## MAD AS A MARCH HARE

Have you ever heard these words used about people who behave in an odd way? Spring seems to go to the hare's head in March! The male hares are called JACK HARES, and they often behave as if they'd gone mad. Standing on their hind legs, two Jacks will box each other like kangaroos. Then suddenly one will jump clean over another and at the same time lash out at his opponent with his powerful hind legs.

## COME DANCING

Some people can explain things more easily by dancing than by using words. Make up a dance telling how the wind rages against trees and houses and then skips lightly through the trees and round corners. If you can dance with a group of friends, you could have the trees swaying and bending before the wind and march hares playing in mock fights.

**Answer to win some marks:** It is the first day of spring.

### Results of Christmas Carol Competition:

The winner is Josephine Spooner (age 14) of Eastleigh, Hants., who sent an excellent carol "The Christmas Babe."

BRENDA HOLLOWAY



David Coleman (chairman) with Simon Dee and three viewers discussing "Dee time" in the programme "Talkback."

Picture: B.B.C.

# COLEMAN'S MUSTARD, BUT HIS PROGRAMME'S NOT SO HOT!

## Television, by Harold Jeffries

TELEVISION is a hard taskmaster. It shows up the tiniest weakness in anyone who dares to appear before the unbending and merciless camera. Few people can be said to have mastered the medium, and of those many would crack if they were parted from a set script and a hand-holding producer.

The person who rises to the top in the realm of Outside Broadcasting does it without props. He has to be fluent, quick witted and resourceful, while always appearing to the viewer relaxed and charming. There is one man who in the world of sport has shown his particular talent for television, and that man is David Coleman.

Those whose Saturday afternoon sports viewing from the cushioned depths of their armchairs has been made doubly pleasant by the presence of this unflappable, friendly link-man have long felt that here was a talent not fully exploited, and recently it has been obvious that David Coleman himself has agreed with them.

We have seen less of the link-man during the past few months, and more of the man-on-the-spot, and of course in being given his own programme "Talkback" it was plain that Auntie B.B.C. herself had re-

cognised an ability worth cultivating.

The trouble is that "Talkback" — which must be B.B.C.'s answer to "The Frost Programme" — has never really got off the ground.

It's a great idea and it should produce good television. Unfortunately, simply because television is so demanding, the man-in-the-street who comes to argue his case in the studio too often appears dull and lumpish.

His unprofessional tongue is incapable of expressing his point of view with the logic and the composure, let alone the wit, of those standing in the dock — so however just the criticism by Mr. Man-in-the-Street, he is always made to appear slightly hair-splitting and narrow minded by the programme planners playwrights and personalities whom he opposes.

So David Coleman is left trying to make a fire with damp wood, and has little chance to show his real capabilities. One longs for the kind of brilliance that came from his pre-World Cup match discussions with Joe Mercer, Jimmy Hill and company, where all

were equal in their knowledge and ability to express it.

Please B.B.C., give David Coleman something else worthy of his talent, and please put it on at a time when we are not too tired to watch. Meanwhile, back to "Grandstand."

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## QUIZ

### TREES

- 1 In what kind of tree did Charles I hide from the Roundheads?
- 2 What is the largest kind of tree in the world?
- 3 Which tree provides the national emblem of Canada?
- 4 Where was the Tree of Life?
- 5 Which wood is most commonly used in the making of:
  - (a) cricket bats
  - (b) archers' bows?
- 6 What is another name for the mountain ash?

### ANSWERS

- 1 An oak
- 2 Giant redwood, California
- 3 Maple
- 4 In the Garden of Eden
- 5 (a) Yew, (b) Willow
- 6 Rowan

### CONTINENTAL

HOLLAND. Inexpensive family holiday. Several teachers let or exchange their homes in holidays. Some take guests. C. N. Hinlopen. English master, 35, Stetweg, Castricum, Holland.

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## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

**THE RAGS TO RICHES** story of a Cinderella or Dick Whittington is always good for a large dollop of warm-hearted approval. We admire success — but only success where the newly rich keep a level head, an unspoilt charm and a real sympathy for the friends of their childhood.

Unfortunately, real life throws up very few examples. Success has a habit of transforming human nature — and very rarely for the better — and our Cinders becomes a snob, our Dick a big-headed tycoon.

### Fills the bill

Now and again, however, there walks into the hearts of the British public a person who manages to fill the bill — and Tommy Steele is one of them.

In a way he would have every excuse to be a flashy

fast-living, big-spender, because in one short lifetime he has built two success stories.

In 1956 this young Bermondsey born ex-seaman broke into the world of rock and roll at Soho's "Two I's Coffee Bar" and swept to the top.

When the waves of popularity in this kind of music receded he could well have been stranded with many others of his contemporaries, but personality and talent carved out a new career for him in the realm of musical comedy.

Today with his flash bang wallop performance in "Half a Sixpence" he has once again put himself right at the top of the tree.

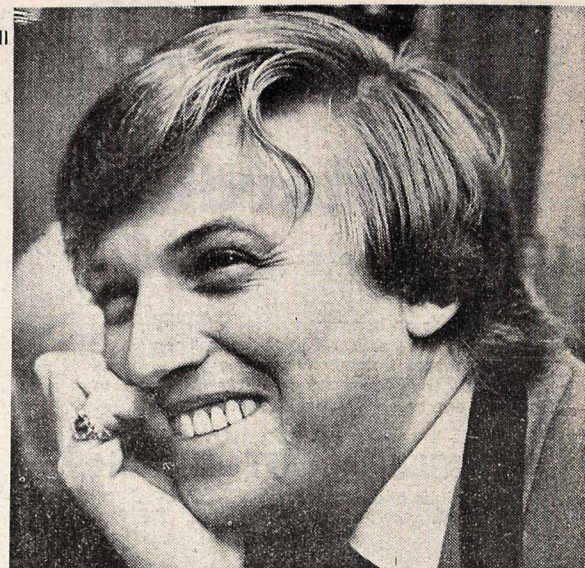
But somehow the youthful Cockney charm of Tommy Steele has managed to survive undam-

aged. There is still no trace of conceit — no suggestion of putting on an act. Perhaps his secret lies in the fact that he has clung on to the things that really matter, and not let stardom rob him of his family life.

### Most important

Ann, his wife, whom he married eight years ago, travels everywhere she can with him, and for both of them their marriage is the most important thing there is. Tommy tells the story of a dream he had while crossing the Atlantic in one of the Queens.

He dosed off on his bed and dreamed that he was back in his Merchant Navy days. When he awoke he was in a cold sweat. He thought that his years in show business had all been in his imagination. But he wasn't worried about his



stardom — only the possibility that his marriage to Ann wasn't real either.

That's real greatness — to be at the top with your roots solidly in the ground.

**TOMMY STEELE**

# High time for the Referee to assert himself

REFEREES are by nature, inclination and tradition an anonymous sect. Obscurity is the hallmark of their success, and recognition is the finger of failure.

Try and put a face to the name of any referee whose name you can think of, and you'll find it hard. Referees don't make utterances in public; they slink for ever in the shadows.

The time has come for the referee to change his image in this age of the £100 a week player.

The £10 a game official needs to project himself.

The one referee who, in my experience, didn't require a publicity manager was an Egyptian who officiated in inter-Service games in the Middle East. He was very tall and very bald and hence was known only as "Curly." He controlled the game in the manner of a regimental sergeant-major.

His big moment came in a match between the Coldstream Guards and the Royal Engineers. A member of the Guards team was pancaked in the penalty area. Curly, hands on hips and feet astride the penalty spot indicated quite clearly that in his

## Ernest Adkins on sport

view the incident called for a penalty.

### LEFT FIELD

The Engineers were at variance with him, and remonstrated with some force. Unperturbed, Curly gave one long blast on his whistle, collected the ball, and with great dignity left the field, followed by 22 very sheepish footballers.

In a recent football league game between Blackburn Rovers and Birmingham City that very excellent referee Kevin Howley asked Trevor Hockey, of Birmingham to leave the field. This request the player was very reluctant to obey. Howley resolved the situation in a unique fashion.

"Either you go or I go," he said. No doubt out of consideration for the spectators, Hockey, not anxious to establish a precedent, finally departed.

How I wished that Hockey had stayed, and

that Mr. Howley had emulated Curly. It is a matter of conjecture what would have happened. Would a linesman have taken over, or would they also have backed up the referee and withdrawn their services?

The game needs a gesture of this sort to establish the position of the referee in relation to the players.

### RIGHT HOOK

I have to confess to a secret desire personally to witness a referee, being abused by a player, render him horizontal with a fast right hook.

The flashpoint for much of the bad behaviour at football matches is not so much violence on the field — there is far less of this now than there was ten years ago — but players openly expressing disagreement with decisions that have gone against them.

The game's legislators need to look at this situation very closely. It is all

very well to talk about civil liberties, and treating footballers like human beings, but if they insist on behaving like spoilt children then that is the way they must expect to be treated.

Comparison between rugby and soccer are irrelevant as both are played in different emotional situations. Yet one must admire the rugged player for the way he always accepts the verdict of the referee.

### WITHDRAWN

If footballers cannot be trusted to behave in the same fashion then the laws of the game must be amended. For instance the right of players to appeal to the referee must be withdrawn.

UNTIL SUCH TIMES ARE WITH US, AND PLAYERS BEHAVE WITH INSTINCTIVE DIGNITY, IT WILL TAKE A MAN LIKE CURLY TO BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES.



**37/6**

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